



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Quebec Bridge Photograph Collection, 1905-1986, bulk 1905-1916

NMAH.AC.1026

Leslie Booth (intern); supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

March 2010

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Quebec Bridge Photograph Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1026
Date:	1905-1986 (bulk 1905-1916)
Extent:	0.5 Cubic feet (3 boxes, 1 oversized folder)
Creator:	Enterline, Stevenson National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry Eney, William J. Quebec Bridge Company. National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Engineering and Industry
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents the construction of the first and second Quebec Bridges over the St. Lawrence River. Construction on the first bridge began in 1900 and the bridge collapsed before completion in 1907. Construction on the second Quebec Bridge, which is the longest cantilever bridge in the world, was completed in 1917.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Originally collected for the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering's reference collections; exact date and source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, now known as the Division of Work and Industry, 2007.

Processing Information

Processed by Leslie Booth (intern), March, 2010; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

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Collection processed by Leslie Booth (intern), supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist, March 2010.

Preferred Citation

Quebec Bridge Photograph Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: reproduction fees may apply.

Biographical / Historical

The first Quebec Bridge was built over the St. Lawrence River in order to connect important railroad lines.^[1] This bridge collapsed on August 29, 1907, killing 79 men.^[2] The engineers for the second bridge were Maurice Fitzmaurice, H.E. Vautelet, and Ralph Modjeska.^[3]

Notes: ^[1] ["Bridge of 1,800-FT. Span Across the St. Lawrence."](#) Popular Mechanics Vol. 8, No. 12 December 1906

^[2] ["Wrecked Quebec Bridge to be Recommended"](#) ^[3] "Wrecked Quebec Bridge to be Recommended"

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the construction of the first and second Quebec Bridges over the St. Lawrence River primarily through photographs. The collection is arranged into two series: Series 1, Photographic Materials, 1905-1965 and Series 2, Other Materials, 1916-1986.

Series 1, Photographic Materials, 1905-1965, is divided into two subseries: Subseries 1.1, Photographs, 1907-1965 and Subseries 1.2, Photograph Album, 1905. The black-and-white photographs primarily document the construction of the second Quebec Bridge, 1907-1917. Many of these photographs were taken in a workshop where the production of the bridge parts and building materials occurred. One picture, marked number 24, is of the Prime Minister of Canada, Robert Borden, attending the construction site in October 1913. This series also contains photographs of the 1907 bridge collapse and pictures taken in 1965 of the current second bridge. Subseries 2, Photograph Album, 1905, documents the construction of the first Quebec cantilever bridge. The album contains mounted black-and-white photographs taken between May 12 and November 23, 1905.

Series 2, Other Materials, 1916-1986, consists of newspaper articles and postcards. The newspaper articles detail the 1916 construction accident on the second Quebec bridge; one 1917 article about the bridge; and one 1986 article about the 1907 collapse of the first bridge. There are three postcards, both black-and-white and color, of the Quebec Bridge.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1, Photographic Materials, 1905-1965

Subseries 1, Photographs, 1907-1965

Subseries 2, Photograph Album, 1905

Series 2, Other Materials, 1916-1986

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Bridge failures
- Bridges -- Canada
- Bridges -- Design and construction
- Bridges -- Quebec
- Rivers -- Quebec

Types of Materials:

- Photograph albums -- 20th century
- Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin -- 1900-1950
- Postcards -- 1900-1920

Names:

- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Engineering and Industry
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of History of Technology
- National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Work and Industry

Geographic Names:

- Canada
- Quebec

Container Listing

Series 1: Photographic Materials, 1905-1965

Subseries 1.1: Photographs, 1907-1965

Box 1 Photographs, 1907-1965
[Image\(s\)](#)

Box 2 Photographs, 1913 October-1915 June 8

Subseries 1.2: Photograph Album , 1905

Box 3 Photograph Album, 1905
[Image\(s\)](#)

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Series 2: Other Materials, 1916-1986

Box 1 Newspaper Articles, 1916-1986

Box 3 Postcards, 1932-1967

Box 3, Oversize Folder 1 Newspaper Article, 1916

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