



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the W.P. Stine Panama Canal Papers

NMAH.AC.1039

NMAH Staff

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Collection Overview

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| Repository: | Archives Center, National Museum of American History |
| Title: | W.P. Stine Panama Canal Papers |
| Identifier: | NMAH.AC.1039 |
| Date: | 1904-1911. |
| Extent: | 0.15 Cubic feet (1 box) |
| Source: | Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI Stine, W.P. LaBrose, Susan Stine |
| Language: | Spanish; Castilian |
| Summary: | W. P. Stine was an engineer involved in the building of the Panama Canal. He also worked on road building projects in Panama. The collection consists of blueprints, letters, and a letterpress book pertaining to the Panama Canal. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Susan Stine LaBrose in 1996.

Ownership and Custodial History

Collection transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work & Industry in 2007.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

John Frances Little Panama Canal Scrapbook Photograph Albums (NMAH.AC.0708)

Katherine Kingsford Panama Canal Photograph Album (NMAH.AC.1040)

A.R. Van Tassell Photograph Albums (NMAH.AC.1015)

Processing Information

Collection processed by Stacey Kniatt (intern), supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist, 2010.

Preferred Citation

W.P. Stine Panama Canal Papers, 1904-1911, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research and access on site by appointment. Materials in poor condition. Consult staff prior to handling.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical Note

Born in Grand Haven, Michigan on April 2, 1883, Walter Pearce Stine graduated from the University of Michigan in 1904 as an engineer. Upon graduation, he and several classmates traveled south to Panama to help the Canal Commission construct the Panama Canal. He directed the building of a network of roads along Panama's Pacific coast and later became Panama's Director of Public Works. Upon his return to the United States, Stine joined Gulf Oil Corporation and retired to Beaumont, Texas. He was prominent in professional engineering societies, including the Texas Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He passed away on January 23, 1957 after a brief illness.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of bound letters and documents dated 1905-1909, a blueprint plan of Santiago dated June 10, 1911, a postcard, and several miscellaneous letters and documents pertaining to Walter Stine's involvement in the completion of the Panama Canal. It also includes a copy of the Commission's standard contract. The loose papers were found stashed in the front of the letterpress book. The letterpress book and several documents are written in Spanish; the ink is fading and bleeding, which has caused some of the fragile pages to disintegrate.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series.

Series 1, Panama Canal Papers, 1904-1911

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Canals -- Panama
Roads -- Panama

Types of Materials:

Blueprints -- 1900-1950
Correspondence -- 1900-1950
Letterpress copybooks -- 20th century

Names:

Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI

Geographic Names:

Panama
Panama Canal (Panama)

Container Listing

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Loose papers, 1904-1911 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Letterpress copybook, 1904-1911 |