



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Katherine Kingsford Panama Canal Photograph Album, circa 1904-1914

NMAH.AC.1040

Kiley Orchard (intern); supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

2008

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
archivescenter@si.edu
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Arrangement.....	3
Names and Subjects	3
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Photograph Album, circa 1904-1914.....	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Katherine Kingsford Panama Canal Photograph Album
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1040
Date:	circa 1904-1914
Extent:	0.15 Cubic feet (1 box)
Source:	Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of [former name], NMAH, SI. Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI Kingsford, Katherine
Language:	English Collection is in English.
Summary:	An album of photographs of Panama and the Panama Canal, circa 1904-1914.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the National Museum of American History's Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering (now Division of Work and Industry) by Katherine Kingsford in 1982. It was transferred to the Archives Center in 2007.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

- William Currie Photograph Album (AC1043)
- John Frances Little Panama Canal Scrapbook (AC0708)
- Roland A. McCrady Photograph Collection (AC0710)
- Robert Dearborn Panama Canal Photonegatives (AC1111)
- W.A. Fishbaugh Panama Canal Photograph Album (AC1021)
- Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection (AC0143)
- W.P. Stine Panama Canal Papers (AC1039)

Processing Information

Processed by Kiley Orchard (intern), 2008; supervised by Vanessa Broussard Simmons, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Katherine Kingsford Panama Canal Photograph Album, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

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. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: fees for commercial use. All duplication requests must be reviewed and approved by Archives Center staff.

Biographical / Historical

On November 18, 1903, the United States and Panama negotiated the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, which granted the United States permission to construct a canal that would join the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Construction for the Panama Canal began on May 4, 1904. The large workforce -- at its highest population in 1913 it numbered 44,733 men, not including those sick, on leave, or otherwise absent -- had a great impact on Panama. As there were not enough amenities to accommodate them when they arrived, the workers built entire communities, paved streets, improved communication systems, and installed water and sewage systems. Likewise, the railroad was improved for more efficient transportation of supplies, labor, food, and equipment. Much to the credit of Chief Sanitary Officer Dr. William Crawford Gorgas, yellow fever was completely eradicated on the isthmus and malaria cases greatly reduced. Native villages and towns along the planned construction route were required to relocate.

The first self-propelled, ocean-bound vessel traveled on the canal on January 7, 1914, and the canal was formally opened in August of that year. The Panama Canal construction project was the most expensive construction project in United States history to that date, costing \$375,000,000.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a disbound album of photographs relating to the Panama Canal, including a few construction scenes, vessels traveling through the Canal, urban and rural street scenes, housing, hospital scenes, historic buildings, and people. The three inch by three inch photographic prints are mounted on black album paper and most are badly faded and unidentified. Most of the photographs are informal and have the feel of snapshots taken by an amateur photographer. There are a few larger format photographs. Also included is the *Official Handbook of the Panama Council*, 1913.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series.

Series 1, Photograph Album, circa 1904-1914

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Canals -- Panama

Types of Materials:

Photograph albums -- 20th century

Names:

Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Division of [former name], NMAH, SI.
Work and Industry, Division of, NMAH, SI

Geographic Names:

Panama
Panama Canal (Panama)

Container Listing

Series 1: Photograph Album, circa 1904-1914

Box 1, Folder 1	Pages 1-20
Box 1, Folder 2	Pages 21-40
Box 1, Folder 3	Pages 41-62
Box 1, Folder 4	Cover of photograph album
Box 1, Folder 5	Photograph, 1914
Box 1, Folder 6	Official handbook, 1913

[Return to Table of Contents](#)