



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Division of Mechanical and Civil
Engineering Panama Canal Collection

NMAH.AC.1569

Alison Oswald

2023

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Panama Canal Collection
Date:	1904-1971 (bulk 1904-1924)
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1569
Source:	Brewer, Jack (Donor) Buchalter, Lloyd A. (Donor) Dallimore, Georgie (Donor) Fogelmann, Edgar L. (Donor) Schurmann, Audrey Stoner (Donor) Wheeler, David (Donor)
Extent:	1.75 Cubic feet (4 boxes, 1 map folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents the construction of the Panama Canal and life in the Panama Canal Zone.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection assembled from several accessions that were purchased and donated. In some instances, the immediate source of acquisition is unknown. Known provenance includes: David Wheeler (1983.0630); Lloyd A. Buchalter (1987.0854); Audrey Stoner Schurmann (1999.0334); Edgar L. Fogelmann (2001.0302); Jack Brewer (1999); and Georgie Dallimore (1980).

Provenance

Collections transferred to the Archives Center from the Division of Work and Industry in February 2022.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, archivist, 2023.

Preferred Citation

Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Panama Canal Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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.

Historical

The Panama Canal Zone was established with the signing of the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty as an unincorporated and organized territory of the United States in 1903. The treaty allowed for the construction of the Panama Canal, a strip of land 10 miles wide extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, by the United States. Panama granted exclusive canal rights to the United States in exchange for financial reimbursement and protection of the newly established republic in Panama. The Canal Zone had two administrative subdivisions, the Balboa (Pacific) and Cristobal (Atlantic) districts. Balboa Heights was the administrative headquarters for both the Canal Zone government and the Panama Canal Company. The Canal Zone existed until 1979. Full control over the Canal Zone and the operation of the canal was transferred to Panama in 2000.

Content Description

Collection consists primarily of photographs--both loose and in albums--documenting the construction of the Panama Canal and life in the Panama Canal Zone from individuals who worked there. Materials also include scrapbooks, postcards, letters, envelopes, a patent (US Patent 1,299,318 for a drill), railroad tickets, vehicle licenses, certificates, newspaper clippings, and telegrams.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into one series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Canals -- Panama
- Cuna Indians
- Drivers' licenses
- Guna (Kuna)
- Railroads

Cultures:

- Guna (Kuna)

Types of Materials:

- Articles -- 20th century
- Certificates -- 20th century
- Envelopes

Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century.
Negatives -- 20th century
Newspaper clippings
Panoramic photographs
Patents -- 20th century
Photographs
Picture postcards
Telegrams
Tickets

Names:

Brewer, Jack
Buchalter, Lloyd A.
Dallimore, Georgie
Fogelmann, Edgar L.
Ray, Edward A. , 1867-1934
Schurmann, Audrey Stoner
Wheeler, David

Places:

Costa Rica
Gatun Locks (Panama)
Panama Canal (Panama)
San Blas Islands (Panama)

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Arthur Norman Dallimore, Panama Canal Zone, construction prints, circa 1908
Box 1, Folder 2	John E. Dierkes, Panama Canal Zone negatives , 1909
Box 1, Folder 3	Edgar L. Fogelman, US Patent 1,299,318. Drill and related patent materials, 1918-1921 Notes: See museum accession 2001.0302.
Box 1, Folder 4	Victor J. Evans. What to Invent. The Evolution of Invention and Suggestions as to Active and Profitable Fields of Inventions in Which Improvements Are Desired, 1916 Notes: See accession 2001.0302.
Box 1, Folder 5	Victor J. Evans & Company. U.S. and Foreign Patents, 1917 Notes: See accession 2001.0302.
Box 1, Folder 6	Edgar L. Fogelman, Photographs, 1911-1919, 1971 Notes: See accession 2001.0302.
Box 1, Folder 7	Edgar L. Fogelman, Ephemera, 1919-1920 Notes: File consists of bicycle and motorcycle licenses, a photograph of Fogelman on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, (1919), a Panama Canal Railroad Company I.C.C. Employee Twenty-Four Trip Ticket booklet (1914), and a Century Club privilege pass (1919). See accession 2001.0302.
Box 1, Folder 8	E.L. Fogelman, Expert Cylinder grinder , circa 1930s-1940s Notes: See museum accession 2001.0302.
Box 1, Folder 9	Edgar L. Fogelman, Canal Zone employment-related materials, 1920-1956 Notes: See museum accession 2001.0302.
Box 1, Folder 10	Edgar L. Fogelman, Loose photographs from photographs albums, undated Notes: See museum accession 2001.0302.
Box 3, Folder 2	Edgar L. Fogelman, Scrapbook, [1921?] Notes: Scrapbook is felt covered (7 in. x 11.75 in.) and contains one newspaper clipping documenting Ruth Fogelman's swimming abilities in the Balboa Canal Zone. Attached to the scrapbook is a medal for third prize won by Ruth Fogelman for a 10 mile swim in the Balboa Canal Zone, 1919. See museum accession 2001.0302.
Box 3, Folder 3	Edgar L. Fogelman, Photograph Album #1, 1921

Notes: Album consists of black-and-white photographs and postcards that are 3.5 in. x 5.5 in. and assembled by Edgar L. Fogelman documenting life in the Panama Canal Zone.

Images depict Ft. Amador and General Mangin, the Tivoli Hotel, the police station, a commissary, Ancon Restaurant, Century Club, National Catholic Welfare Council, school children, General Kennedy of the US Forces, Prince Fernando Da Vierra of Spain, Abou Saad Temple, street scenes, landscape scenes, USS North Dakota, USS New Mexico, USS Delaware, USS Kansas, USS Mississippi, USS Arkansas, USS Arizona, a naval plane in canal, carnival and parade float scenes, and Panama Railroad Station.

See museum accession 2001.0302.

Box 3, Folder 4

[Edgar L. Fogelman, Photograph Album #2, 1919-1920](#)

Notes: Album consists of black-and-white photographs and postcards that are 3.5 in x 5.5 in and assembled by Edgar L. Fogelman. The album documents life in the Panama Canal Zone.

Images depict the Chokoi Indians of Darien, Republic of Panama, buildings, the British battle cruiser New Zealand at docks, Ancon Hospital, Balboa School, Hotel Aspinwall, Army-Navy Y, street scenes, landscape scenes, Masonic Temple, Administration Building, market scene, Dry Dock Shop, USS Texas, SS Advance, St. Luke's Chapel, Panama Hospital, USS New York, Board of Health Laboratory, USS New Mexico, submarine in locks, bull fighters, USS Wyoming, carnival scenes, Hydroelectric Plant, pigs, fishing scenes, scenes in Aguadulce, Panama, scenes from Isthmus of Darien, Governors Residence, Theatre, Post Office, Prince of Wales (1920), Yacht Club, Union Church, Pershing's Ceremonial Shriners, General Pershing, Panama Railroad Station, and bull fighting scenes.

See museum accession 2001.0302.

Box 4, Folder 1

[Edgar L. Fogelman, Photograph Album #3, 1917-1919](#)

Notes: Album consists of black-and-white photographs and postcards assembled by Edgar L. Fogelman. Images depict friends and family in Nevada, Missouri, but primarily document life in the Canal Zone. Images include SS Colon, SS Cristobol, SS Luxor, USS Texas, USS New Mexico, a surrendered German U Boat (UB88), the Hotel Tivoli, Colon Hospital, Ancon Hospital, the Gatun Locks, various buildings (e.g., clubhouse, commissary, school, post office, administration), outings and picnics, views of the Chorges River, Ruins of Castle San Jerome, Coal Station at Balboa Harbor, Locks at Pedro Miguel, parade celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Panama, streetscapes, landscapes, alligator hunting, carnival scenes, and the Kuna Indians of San Blas Island.

See museum accession 2001.0302.

Map-folder 1

Edgar L. Fogelman, International Association of Machinists, Rochester, New York , 1920

	1 Panoramic print (8.75 in. x 58 in.)
Box 1, Folder 11	Harry A. Hunt, Panama Canal Zone negatives, circa 1904-1914
Box 1, Folder 12	D. F. H. Macy, Photographs, 1915
Box 2, Folder 1	D. F. H. Macy, Copy prints, 1915
Box 2, Folder 2	Edward A. Ray, Biographical and employment materials, 1908 Notes: File consists of application form and character certificate for Navy Yard, an Iron Molder's Union No. 131 dues receipt book (1908), correspondence, and the <i>Canal Record</i> , Volume 1, July 29, 1908. A Postal Telegraph-Commercial Cables telegram incorrectly communicated that Edward Ray died in Panama. A man in Panama robbed Ray of his wallet. The thief later died in the hospital. Finding Ray's wallet among the dead man's possessions, the authorities incorrectly identified the body as Edward Ray. See museum accession 1999.0334.
Box 2, Folder 3	Wheeling Mold and Foundry Company (Charles E. Blue), Copy prints , Pre-1911 Notes: The photographs document industrial contributions of Wheeling Mold & Foundry Company to lock operations at the Panama Canal. The images belong to Charles Edwin Blue, founder and manager of the Wheeling Mold & Foundry Company. Also included are photocopies of articles about Wheeling Mold & Foundry, an obituary for Charles E. Blue, and the "Memoirs of C.E. Blue" (undated).
Box 2, Folder 4	View along centerline of unidentified Panama Canal lock Notes: See museum accession 1983.0630.05.
Box 3, Folder 1	Looking south through gates at the bottom of the Gatun Locks, Panama Canal, circa 1912-1913 Notes: See museum accession 1987.0854.
Map-folder 1	Panoramic view from the Panama Canal, 1913 1 Panoramic print (6 in. x 37.5 in.) Notes: See museum accession 1983.0630.01.
Map-folder 1	Panoramic view of Gatun Lock, Panama Canal, 1913 1 Panoramic print (6 in. x 37 in.) Notes: See museum accession 1983.0630.02
Map-folder 1	Panoramic view of Gatun Lock, Panama Canal, shows work-in-progress, undated Notes: See museum accession 1983.0630.03.
Map-folder 1	Panoramic view from the side of an unidentified Panama Canal Lock, shows work-in-progress

1 Panoramic print (8 in. x 36 in.)

Map-folder 1	Gatun Locks and Lake of the Panama Canal , 1927 1 Panoramic print (7.75 in. x 49 in.) Notes: Name Johnny [Konualiu?] is marked on the reverse.
Map-folder 1	Gatun Locks, 1936 1 Panoramic print (10 in. x 59.5 in.)
Box 91 (Addenda)	Addenda
Box 92 (Addenda)	Addenda
Box 94 (Addenda)	Addenda
Box 95 (Addenda)	Addenda
Box 96 (Addenda)	Addenda
Box 97 (Addenda)	Addenda
Box 98 (Addenda)	Addenda
Box 99 (Addenda)	Addenda