
Guide to the Pan-American Exposition Photograph Collection

Special Collections Department

Robert E. Kennedy Library
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San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Pan-American Exposition Photograph Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1901

Collection number: MS 159

Creator: Unknown

Extent: 1 box

Language: English

Repository: Special Collections, Robert E. Kennedy Library

California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, California 93407

Abstract: Contains 36 photographs of the Pan-American Exposition, including candid snapshots of the Midway and various concessionaires, street views of the Exposition, and prominent buildings, including the Electric Tower. The photographer is unknown. Also included are two souvenir books: *One Hundred Views of the Pan-American Exposition*, *Buffalo and Niagara Falls: An Up-to-Date Souvenir Booklet for the Visitor, the Resident and for Universal Transmission to Show Something of the Great Exposition and of the Queen City of the Lakes; With a Brief Descriptive Guide to these Great Attractions; with Suggestions for Pleasure Trip by Lake and Land* and *Pan-American and Niagara Falls Views*, both published in 1901.

Selected digitized images from this collection:

Provenance

Purchased in 1999.

Restrictions on Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], Pan-American Exposition Photograph Collection, Special Collections, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Biography

The Pan-American Exposition was held in Buffalo, New York, from May 1 through November 2, 1901. Informally known as the Buffalo World's Fair, the Exposition's purpose was to create a place where the Americas could exhibit and share their cultures. Exhibition participation was limited to countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Manhattan architect John Mervyn Carrère (1858—1911) chaired the Board of Architects charged with creating the Exposition's master plan. Born in Rio de Janeiro and trained at the École de Beaux-Arts in Paris, Carrère was an influential Beaux-Arts practitioner at his New York firm, Carrère & Hastings. For the Exposition, the favored style was Spanish Renaissance, the traditional architecture of the former Spanish colonies in the Americas. The Pan-American Exposition site covered 350 acres.

Carrère hired a "director of color," Charles Turner, to oversee multiple hues for the buildings, in contrast to the "White City" of the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Marketing for the Exposition stressed the "Rainbow City," which was transformed each evening into the "City of Lights," a breathtaking display of incandescent light reinforcing the fact that Buffalo, with its plentiful hydroelectric power, was the most extensively lighted city of its time.

A contemporary review of the Exposition noted: "Upon entering the Exposition's Esplanade, visitors are surrounded by buildings dealing with arts and politics, such as the U.S. Government building, the Ethnology Building, the Temple of Music, and the Manufactures and Liberal Arts Building. Further along the major axis are buildings with a more contemporary and scientific theme, like the Machinery and Transportation Building, the Electricity Building, the Electric Tower, and the Railroad Exhibit at the top."

Today the Buffalo World's Fair is largely remembered as the setting for the assassination of President William McKinley. On the second day of his visit, McKinley was at the Temple of Music greeting the public, when anarchist Leon Frank Czolgosz fired twice at the president. McKinley died of gangrene eight days later in Buffalo.

Sources

Brush, Edward Hale. "The Artistic Side of the Pan-American Exposition." *Architectural Review* v. 9, 1901: 99-107.

Linkswiler, Matt. "Buffalo 1901: Pan-American Exposition Bird's Eye View of Grounds and Map of Exposition." <http://hdl.handle.net/http://library.buffalo.edu/libraries/exhibits/panam/art/architecture.html>

Scope and Content Note

The Pan-American Exposition Photograph Collection contains 36 photographs of the 1901 Buffalo World's Fair, including candid snapshots of the Midway and various concessionaires, street views of the Exposition, and prominent buildings, including the Electric Tower. The photographer is unknown.

The photographs have been removed from the original photo album and rehoused, preserving the original organization and order of the collection; additionally, each photo has a sequential number on the back reflecting the original order of two images per album page. The collection is housed in one box and has one series and one subseries:

Series 1. Photographs.

Subseries: A. Photographs of the Pan-American Exposition.

Also included are two monographs: *One Hundred Views of the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo and Niagara Falls: An Up-to-Date Souvenir Booklet for the Visitor, the Resident and for Universal Transmission to Show Something of the Great Exposition and of the Queen City of the Lakes; With a Brief Descriptive Guide to these Great Attractions; with Suggestions for Pleasure Trip by Lake and Land* and *Pan-American and Niagara Falls Views*, both published in 1901.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Pan-American Exposition (1901 : Buffalo, N.Y.) -- Pictorial works

Pan-American Exposition (1901 : Buffalo, N.Y.) -- Archives

Fairs -- New York (State) -- Buffalo

Genre and Forms of Materials

Photographs

Related Material**Materials Cataloged Separately:**

One Hundred Views of the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo and Niagara Falls: An Up-to-Date Souvenir Booklet for the Visitor, the Resident and for Universal Transmission to Show Something of the Great Exposition and of the Queen City of the Lakes; With a Brief Descriptive Guide to these Great Attractions; with Suggestions for Pleasure Trip by Lake and Land . Buffalo, N.Y.: Robert Allan Reid Publisher, 1901.

Pan-American and Niagara Falls Views, 1901. [Buffalo, N.Y.?]: Niagara Envelope Manufactory, 1901.

Related Collections:

California Fairs Collection, 1856-1997 (MS 009)

1. Photographs, 1901

Scope and Content Note

Contains one subseries: A. Photographs of the Pan-American Exposition.

A. Photographs of the Pan-American Exposition

Scope and Content Note

Contains 36 candid black-and-white snapshots in folders with headers based on landmark buildings at the fair, arranged in original order, 1901. 1 box.

Box 1, Folder 1	12-inch rifle, Ordnance Exhibit, in front of Government Building
Box 1, Folder 2	Cannons, War Department Exhibit, in front of Government Building
Box 1, Folder 3	Native American man, Electricity Building
Box 1, Folder 4	Woman with umbrella, Court of Lilies pond, Machinery and Transportation Building
Box 1, Folder 5	Electric Tower, front view from Esplanade
Box 1, Folder 6	Triumphal Bridge, side view
Box 1, Folder 7	Esplanade, view of Electric Tower
Box 1, Folder 8	Fountain of Abundance in front of Ethnology Building
Box 1, Folder 9	Canal, Venice in America exhibit
Box 1, Folder 10	Jinrickshaws, Fair Japan exhibit (Japanese Village), close view
Box 1, Folder 11	The Feature of the Midway: Akoun's Beautiful Orient, front view
Box 1, Folder 12	Darkest Africa exhibit (African Village) on the Midway, side view
Box 1, Folder 13	Entrance to Trip to the Moon ride
Box 1, Folder 14	Entrance to Midway attraction (Esau?)
Box 1, Folder 15	On the Midway, Bostock's Trained Wild Animals in distance
Box 1, Folder 16	Old Nuremberg/Alt Nurnberg, on the Midway
Box 1, Folder 17	Lions at Bostock's Trained Wild Animals
Box 1, Folder 18	Entrance to Bostock's Trained Wild Animals
Box 1, Folder 19	Man with banjo, Midway exhibit
Box 1, Folder 20	Press Headquarters, on the Midway
Box 1, Folder 21	Midway attractions: Lubin's Cineograph, Buffalo Café, Streets of Cairo
Box 1, Folder 22	Dreamland attraction, on the Midway
Box 1, Folder 23	Philippine Village, on the Midway
Box 1, Folder 24	Darkest Africa exhibit (African Village) on the Midway, front view
Box 1, Folder 25	Streets of Cairo exhibit, on the Midway
Box 1, Folder 26	Esquimaux Village, on the Midway
Box 1, Folder 27	Esquimaux Village, on the Midway
Box 1, Folder 28	Souvenir sculptures (Tower of Pisa and others)
Box 1, Folder 29	Drill of U.S. Life Saving Crew, lakeside (1 of 2)
Box 1, Folder 30	Drill of U.S. Life Saving Crew, lakeside (2 of 2)
Box 1, Folder 31	Six Native Americans on horseback
Box 1, Folder 32	The Great Northwestern R.R.; on verso: "Mrs. Bliss wasn't sure this was in Fair—Engine is to [sic] early"
Box 1, Folder 33	The Feature of the Midway: Akoun's Beautiful Orient, side view
Box 1, Folder 34	Jinrickshaws, Fair Japan exhibit (Japanese Village), side view
Box 1, Folder 35	Gondola on canal by Manufacturer's and Liberal Arts Building
Box 1, Folder 36	Chiquita the Doll Lady; signed: "Mite" fully yours, Chiquita
Box 1, Folder 37	Photo album