

Canal Zone Library-Museum

A Register of Its Panama Collection in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of
Kathleen Kelly and Scott McLemee**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2006

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Collection Summary

Title: Panama Collection of the Canal Zone Library-Museum

Span Dates: 1804-1977

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1850-1950)

ID No.: MSS81178

Creator: Canal Zone Library-Museum

Extent: 12,700 items; 38 containers plus 18 oversize; 18.4 linear feet; 8 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English, French, and Spanish

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Canal Zone Library-Museum in Balboa Heights. Correspondence, diaries, memoirs, financial and legal papers, technical drawings of canal plans, photoprints, and other papers collected by the library-museum concerning the planning and construction of the Panama Canal and business and cultural aspects of the Canal Zone.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Canal Zone Library-Museum

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969

Lesseps, Ferdinand de, 1805-1894

De Sablá family

De Sablá family--Trials, litigation, etc.

Canal Zone Baseball League

Compagnie nouvelle du canal de Panama

Compagnie universelle du canal interocéanique de Panama

Isthmian Canal Commission (U.S.)

Isthmian Historical Society

Natural History Society (Canal Zone)

Panama Canal Company

Panama Railroad Co.

Panama Water Works

Sidell, William Henry, 1810-1873. Papers of William Henry Sidell (1849)

Subjects:

Canals--Panama

Canal Zone--History

Canal Zone--Social life and customs

Panama--Commerce

Panama--History

Panama Canal (Panama)

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The Panama Collection of the Canal Zone Library-Museum was transferred from the Panama Canal Commission to the Library of Congress in 1978.

Processing History:

The Panama Collection of the Canal Zone Library-Museum was arranged and described in 1993. The oversize series was reorganized and the register revised in 2006.

Transfers:

Some materials from the collections were sent to the Library's Prints and Photographs, Geography and Map, and Hispanic divisions.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the Panama Collection of the Canal Zone Library-Museum is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on eight reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number or reel number, Panama Collection of the Canal Zone Library-Museum, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Panama Collection of the Canal Zone Library-Museum spans the years 1804-1977. The bulk of the material dates from the second half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. Documents are in French, Spanish, and English. The collection was gathered in Panama by the Canal Zone Library-Museum, which is associated with the United States Panama Canal Commission. Due to the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 with the Republic of Panama, which transferred the canal from the United States to Panama at the end of the twentieth century, the commission decided to transfer the special collections of the Library-Museum to the Library of Congress. As the manuscript collection of another institution, the material from the Library-Museum is a diverse set of papers generated by many individuals and organizations. Most of the files relate to the involvement of foreign individuals and organizations in the planning and eventual construction of a Panamanian interoceanic canal. Also included is material on the Panama Railroad, various business and real estate interests in Panama, and the social and cultural life of the Canal Zone. There is a tremendous range in the types of documents in the collection, including correspondence, diaries, memoirs, mementos, legal files, property deeds and titles, contracts, financial ledgers, technical drawings, and ephemera relating to social clubs.

The collection has been arranged into four series. The first series, [Personal Papers](#), contains mostly diaries, memoirs, and correspondence, with the largest part consisting of the papers of the de Sablá family. The first member of this French family to reside in Panama arrived in the 1840s from the French Caribbean colony of Guadeloupe. The family owned a bakery and a large tract of land called Bernardino in Panama, and members became involved in many business interests: the Panama Railroad Company, Panama Water Works, canal ventures, a telegraph company, and mining. In 1932 heirs of the family, who were United States citizens, sued the government of Panama for damages done to family property. Most of the de Sablá family papers consist of legal papers and supporting documents for *United States ex rel de Sablá v. Panama*. A set of maps from the de Sablá family papers has been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Other highlights of the Personal Papers series include a diary by William Henry Sidell, the principal engineer of the Panama survey of 1849, and memoirs and correspondence by several canal construction workers.

The [Organizations File](#), the second series in the collection, contains records of social clubs, institutions, and businesses in Panama and in the Canal Zone. Included are materials from the Isthmian Canal Commission and two nineteenth-century French canal companies, the Compagnie nouvelle du canal de Panama and the Compagnie universelle du canal interocéanique. Many technical drawings and reports are among the records of the French companies. Records of the Canal Zone Baseball League, Isthmian Historical Society, and Natural History Society may also be found in this series.

The Canal Zone Library-Museum had organized some of its manuscript material at the item level. These items have been placed with other disparate materials in a series of [Miscellaneous Manuscripts](#). Included are individual pieces of correspondence, writings, printed matter, ephemera from cultural events, mementos, and congressional testimonies of eleven officers of the Isthmian Canal Commission. Mounted in a memorial volume dedicated to George W. Goethals, the chief

engineer of the Panama Canal, are many fine photoprints of the canal's construction. Notable correspondents include Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ferdinand de Lesseps.

The final series in the collection consists of a set of [booklets](#) concerning legal and legislative matters in Panama and the Canal Zone. Copies of the title pages have been arranged alphabetically for use as an index.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- [Personal Papers, 1804-1977, n.d.](#)
- [Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1806-1976, n.d.](#)
- [Booklets, ca. 1900-1976](#)
- [Oversize, 1814-1970, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-11

Personal Papers, 1804-1977, n.d.

Diaries, memoirs, correspondence, writings, and legal and business papers.
Arranged alphabetically by name of the person or family.
Diary of William Henry Sidell available on microfilm. Shelf no. 12,191

BOX 12-32

Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.

Correspondence, minutes of meetings, financial material, contracts, printed matter, advertisements, canal plans, technical drawings and reports, posters, newspaper clippings, menus, scrapbooks, photographs, and ephemera.
Arranged alphabetically by type or name of club, business, institution, or organization.
Containers 14-21 have been microfilmed, but the film consists of a negative copy and is not available for reader use. Shelf no. 20, 869-7N.

BOX 32-35

Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1806-1976, n.d.

Correspondence, printed matter, autograph collections, bibliographies, mementos, ephemera, writings, photographs, passports, and congressional testimony.
Arranged alphabetically by topic, name of person, or type of material.

BOX 36-38

Booklets, ca. 1900-1976

Booklets concerning legislative and legal matters in the Republic of Panama and the Canal Zone.
Arranged in alphabetical groupings by Container and preceded by an index comprised of photocopied title pages.

BOX OV 1-OV 18

Oversize, 1814-1970, n.d.

Oversize real estate documents, printed matter, books, posters, technical papers, financial material, and scrapbooks.
Organized and described according to the series, folders, and containers from which the items were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-11	Personal Papers, 1804-1977, n.d. Diaries, memoirs, correspondence, writings, and legal and business papers. Arranged alphabetically by name of the person or family. Diary of William Henry Sidell available on microfilm. Shelf no. 12,191
BOX 1	Clark, James, diary, 1851-1852 Cole, Harry O., memoir, 1947 Crystal, Thomas Bibliographies, 1967-1968 Book draft, 1967 (4 folders) Dissertation Draft, 1967-1968 (2 folders) Working papers 1967 (1 folder)
BOX 2	1968, n.d. (4 folders) Library projects, 1967-1968, n.d. Miscellany, 1967 De Sablá family Aug. Salomon & Cie, 1841-1853 Canal proposals, 1880-1884, 1895 Certificates of birth, marriage, and death, 1804-1914 Chauffeur's license, 1912 Compagnie universelle du canal interocéanique, sales of company stock, 1881
BOX 3	Consul of Ecuador at Panama, 1861-1864 Correspondence Bound 1837-1844, 1869-1876 (4 folders)
BOX 4	1882-1887 (2 folders) Unbound, 1837-1912 (6 folders) Estate papers, 1865-1929, n.d.
BOX 5	Financial material, 1856, 1869, 1901, 1913, 1926-1929, n.d. Mining, 1868, n.d. Miranda, Pedro David, partnerships with Teodoro Joly de Sablá, 1877, 1884 Mortgage Guadeloupe, 1846

Personal Papers, 1804-1977, n.d.

Container

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Engleheart to Moore, 1814 *See Oversize*
Panama Water Works, 1882-1884
Power of attorney, 1873-1874, 1912-1920
Printed matter, 1863-1871, 1880-1890, n.d. *See also Oversize*
Property
Lists, 1876, 1905 *See Oversize*
Miscellany, 1842, 1850-1876, 1916, n.d.
Tax records, 1854-1856
Taxes and miscellany packet, 1839-1868, 1904-1910, n.d.
Titles packet
Part 1, 1840-1868
Part 2, 1869-1899, n.d.
Transactions, 1850-1856, 1872, 1910-1912, n.d.
Proposal for forming a commercial and banking company in Panama, 1850
Quintana, Martín, Río Congo, 1862-1866, n.d.
Railroad and canal proposals, 1847-1848, n.d.
Telegraph, 1867-1868, 1880

BOX 6

United States ex rel de Sablá v. Panama
Affidavits
Bound
De Sablá, Theodore J., Jr., with exhibits, 1932
(3 folders)
General, 1932
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Unbound, 1931-1932
Boundaries of Bernardino and Aguacate, ca. 1814, n.d.
Briefs
Answer of Panama, 1932
Of the United States, 1933
(5 folders)
Reply of Panama, 1933
Cervera v. Canavaggio, 1919

BOX 7

Correspondence
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(4 folders)
Unbound, 1916-1935
Edictos and certificates, 1932
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Edictos and permits to cultivate, 1910-1931
Forest resources of Panama, 1931
Licenses for agricultural purposes, 1917-1922, 1932
Lists
Documents, n.d.
Occupants of Bernardino and collective table, 1878, 1912-1932, n.d. *See also Oversize*
Maps, 1931, n.d.
Memoranda, 1922-1928, n.d.

Personal Papers, 1804-1977, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Memorial of the United States, 1932 (2 folders)
BOX 8	(4 folders) Miscellaneous land sales and <i>edictos</i> , ca. 1910-1920 Notes, 1924-1925 Panamanian land laws, decrees, resolutions, etc. Miscellany, 1931 References to brief of the United States, ca. 1931 Volume 1, ca. 1931 (4 folders) Volume 2, ca. 1931 (3 folders)
BOX 9	(1 folder) Photographs, n.d. Press, 1932-1936 Printed record of court proceedings, 1934 Property Deeds for Bernardino, 1822, n.d. (2 folders) Miscellany, 1920-1937, n.d. Summary of facts, draft, n.d. Taxes, 1905-1908, 1931 Venado Plantation Co. claim before the Joint Land Commission, ca. 1915 Lindsay, Courtenay Correspondence 1907-1909 (3 folders)
BOX 10	1910-1920 (3 folders) Record of correspondence, 1907-1920 Matthews, Mrs. Jackson, family history, 1976-1977 Moore, Alice D., memoir, n.d. O'Connor, Christopher, copy of 1810-1819 shipmaster's book, n.d. <i>See Oversize</i> Richards, Arthur Miscellany, 1964 "Retrospect of the Panama Canal: My Five Years in the Canal Zone," 1964 Rose, Frank, memoir, n.d.
BOX 11	Sidell, William Henry, diary, 1849 (2 folders) <i>Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 12,191</i> Stevens, John Frank, "A Momentous Hour at Panama," 1930 Whitehead, Richard, 1943, 1954, n.d. Wilson, Charles Autobiography, 1933-1934 Letters about Wilson, 1945 Logbooks, 1908-1935, n.d. (2 folders)

Personal Papers, 1804-1977, n.d.

Container

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Wright, Mrs. Daniel E.
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Mementoes, 1907-1922, 1930-1961, n.d.
(2 folders)
Newspaper clippings, 1917-1962, n.d.
Photographs, 1904-1929, n.d.

BOX 12-32

Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.

Correspondence, minutes of meetings, financial material, contracts, printed matter, advertisements, canal plans, technical drawings and reports, posters, newspaper clippings, menus, scrapbooks, photographs, and ephemera.
Arranged alphabetically by type or name of club, business, institution, or organization.
Containers 14-21 have been microfilmed, but the film consists of a negative copy and is not available for reader use. Shelf no. 20, 869-7N.

BOX 12
not filmed

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, 1925

Boyd Brothers Steamship Agencies, 1959
Canal Zone Baseball League
Constitutions, bylaws, and related material, 1940-1947, n.d.
Correspondence, 1943-1949, n.d.
(5 folders)
Financial material, 1943-1950, n.d.
(4 folders)
Minutes, 1943-1950
(2 folders)
Miscellany, 1910, 1940-1949, n.d.
(3 folders)
Notices of meetings, 1944-1948
Press releases, 1944-1949, n.d.

BOX 13

BOX 14
REEL 1

Century Club, 1925

Churches, 1943, 1964-1969, n.d.
Club de Leones, 1948, 1967
Compagnie nouvelle du canal de Panama
Canal plans, ca. 1899

BOX 15
REEL 2
BOX 16
REEL 2-3

Dossier C
Index
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BOX 17
REEL 3-4

Dossier D
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Vol. 2-4

Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.

Container

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BOX 19 REEL 4-5	Report of the Technical Committee, 1899 <u>See Oversize</u> General accounting diagram, 1901 Humphreys, J., proprietor of the Colon <i>Telegram</i> , 1889-1890 International Commission of Engineers, report, 1898 Inventory, 1898 <u>See Oversize</u> Labor Emigrant labourers protection laws, 1897 "Notice to the Jamaican Labourers," 1898 <u>See Oversize</u> Numbers and types of workers, 1894 Recruiting Jamaicans, 1896-1899, n.d. (5 folders) Repatriation of Jamaican laborers, 1898 Legal papers, 1889-1894 <i>Notes Techniques</i> , Louis Choron, 1899 1895-1899
BOX 20 REEL 6	Compagnie universelle du canal interocéanique Construction equipment, n.d. Correspondence Circulars English, 1884-1887 French, 1884-1887 Copies of cablegrams, letters, and telegrams, 1890-1891 Telegram, 1880 To the chef du domaine, 1883 To the director, 1894 (3 folders) Extension of canal construction rights, 1890 Financial material, 1882-1889, n.d. <u>See also Oversize</u> Medical service, 1883-1889, n.d. (2 folders) Newspaper clippings, 1886-1890 (3 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 7	Personnel Garner, Donald James, 1886-1893 <u>See Oversize</u>

Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.

Container

Contents

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- Property documents and titles from 1881-1889, English translation, 1905
- Technical papers
 - Borings
 - Blanchet, 1881 *See Oversize*
 - Culebra, 1881-1886 *See also Oversize*
 - Emperador, 1881-1884 *See Oversize*
 - Grand Pont, 1882
 - Obispo and Emperador, 1884
 - Verbrugge and De Lesseps, 1881-1882
 - Borings and geological profiles of test pits in Culebra cut, 1889-1890 *See Oversize*
 - Chart, n.d.
 - Geological drawings
 - Cross-section, Culebra, n.d.
 - Profiles
 - K53-K55 Culebra, n.d.
 - K53-K57, n.d.
 - Locks, 1887
- BOX 22**
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 - Congrès International D'Études du Canal Interocéanique, 1879
 - Congreso Panamericanos de Carreteras, 1957
 - Coudert Bros., transfer of French Canal Co., 1899-1902, 1967
 - Hospitals
 - Ancon, essay by Mary Eugenia Hibbard, 1904
 - Colon, first chart, 1907
 - Palo Seco, 1967, n.d.
 - Hotel Washington, Colon
 - Menus
 - 1929-1933
 - (3 folders)
 - 1937-1940
 - (2 folders)
 - Register, 1913 *See Oversize*
 - The Incas
 - Annual dinner programs, 1916-1922
 - Correspondence, 1917, 1926
 - Financial material, 1926
 - Isthmian Canal Commission
 - Accounting system devised by Public Accountants Corp., 1905
- BOX 23**
 - Band and orchestra, 1909, 1913
 - Circular of information, 1906
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- BOX 24**
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 - Chart, tentative, 1912

Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.

Container

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- Payroll voucher for police, 1904
- Technical papers
 - Drawings for electrical locomotives, 1975, n.d.
 - Engineering memorandum, 1905
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- BOX 25** Isthmian Historical Society
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 - Construction days competition
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 - Life stories
 - Copies and instructions, 1963
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 - Originals, 1963
 - (5 folders)
 - Miscellany, 1963
 - Correspondence, 1956-1967, n.d.
 - (2 folders)
- BOX 26** Ehrman family
 - Correspondence, 1850-1854, 1903-1905, 1958
 - Miscellany, 1849, 1872-1889, 1917-1918, 1967, n.d.
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 - Financial material, 1958-1960
 - Geographical reports, 1958-1963
 - Membership lists, 1958-1965
 - Minutes and reports, 1954-1967
 - (2 folders)
 - Miscellany, 1910, 1954-1965, n.d.
 - (2 folders)
 - Newspaper clippings, 1955-1968
 - Notices of meetings, 1958-1967
 - Old Timers guest book, 1958
 - Scrapbooks, 1954-1976 *See Oversize*
 - (7 vols.)
 - Speeches and writings, 1908, 1958-1962, n.d.
- BOX 27** Knights of Pythias
 - Canal Zone Pythian* (newsletter), 1910-1912
 - Correspondence and certificates, 1910-1919, n.d.
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 - Cashbook, 1909-1915
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Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.

Container

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	American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, 1966
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	Asociacion Panameña de Bibliotecarios, 1957
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BOX 30	Minutes and reports
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	Panama Canal Club of Southern California, ca. 1938
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	Report, 1884
	Stocks and bonds, 1870-1897
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Organizations File, 1849-1976, n.d.

Container

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Miscellany, 1912, n.d.
West India & Pacific Steam-Ship Co., 1898

BOX 32-35

Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1806-1976, n.d.

Correspondence, printed matter, autograph collections, bibliographies, mementos, ephemera, writings, photographs, passports, and congressional testimony.
Arranged alphabetically by topic, name of person, or type of material.

BOX 32

Anniversary celebrations, 1939, 1944, 1952, 1958-1965, 1976 *See also Oversize*
Art shows, 1952-1956, 1962-1973, n.d.
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Aspinwall, William H., correspondence, 1849, 1947
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Bank ledger, 1849-1862 *See Oversize*
Bates, Lindon W., letter, 1905
Bath mosquito trap, 1912, 1960, n.d. *See Oversize*
Baxter, John Kirkman, *Goulash and Caviar*, 1925
Beau, M., letter re French canal, 1889
Bibliographies, 1926-1927, 1935-1977, n.d.
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Bingaman, John R., correspondence re swimming canal, 1914
Boating safety, n.d.
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Canal proposal of 1826 by Aaron H. Palmer, copy, n.d. *See Oversize*
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Colon International Exposition, 1954 *See Oversize*
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Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1806-1976, n.d.

Container

Contents

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- Ehrman family contracts re *Hotel Central* of Panama City, and miscellany, 1806, 1844, 1853-1857, 1867-1880, 1883-1894, 1916
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- Eisenhower, Dwight D., correspondence, 1922, 1954
- Gasoline/diesel oil purchase card, 1964
- Goethals, George W.
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- "Gorgas and Goethals at Panama," play by Samuel S. Ullman, 1939
- Grier, Charles, mementos, 1909-1913, 1972, n.d.
- Holiday celebrations, 1908-1913, 1960
- Hunsecker, F. S., Taca-Arica Plebiscitary Commission, 1926
- Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee Testimony, United States House of Representatives, 1909
- Bishop, Joseph Bucklin
- Cooke, Col. Tom M.
- Devol, Maj. C. A.
- Gaillard, Maj. D. D.
- Goethals, Col. George W.
- Gudger, H. A.
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- Hodges, Lt.-Col. H. F.
- Rousseau, H. H.
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- BOX 35** Irwin, Ralph B., letter, n.d.
- Labor (canal workers), 1964, 1970, n.d.
- "Last Saturday's Launching," *Fore and Aft*, 1919
- Latchford, Stephen, diary excerpt from 16 March 1907, n.d.
- Lesseps, Ferdinand de, letter, 1866
- Lupfer, C. M., correspondence, 1964
- Magoon, Charles E., letter, 1906
- Marks, David, commission and passport, 1913-1914 *See Oversize*
- Mohl, Charles, passport, 1921
- Moore, Amanda, *Around the Years in Panama*, 1926
- Musical concerts and lectures, 1906-1913, 1941-1953, 1963-1972, n.d.
(2 folders)
- Navy bill, 1892
- Núñez, Ramos Rafael, death of, 1894 *See Oversize*
- Owens, John, mementos, 1910-1914, 1966
- Panama Mail*, 1905
- Payne, Harry Moore, mementos, 1905-1910, n.d.
- Poem, "Tropical Tramp," n.d.
- "Rapport de la Mission Chargée D'Étudier les Conséquences de L'Ouverture du Canal de Panama . . .," 1913
- Robertson, Thornton K., mementos, 1905, 1913, 1924, 1966

Miscellaneous Manuscripts, 1806-1976, n.d.

Container

Contents

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Russell, Anna B., letter, 1951
Sachs, Joseph (UPW-CIO), speech, 1948
Searles, Joseph, correspondence to Gaillard & Wright, 1912
Selfridge, T. O., correspondence, 1870?, n.d.
Sheet music, 1945, 1959, n.d.
Social events, 1908, 1917, 1945, 1954-1970, n.d.
Stamp News, 1916
Theater, 1916, 1923, 1939-1940, 1949-1952, 1959, 1966, ca. 1971-1974, n.d.
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Totten, G. M., bill for lumber, 1842
Unidentified letter, "Frances" to "Irene," with cover letter, 1913, 1971
United Nations Security Council meeting in Panama, 1973
United States military, 1955, 1971, n.d.
Wang, F. H., letter to Eugene C. Stevens, 1943
War savings bonds, 1942-1944, n.d.

BOX 36-38

Booklets, ca. 1900-1976

Booklets concerning legislative and legal matters in the Republic of Panama and the Canal Zone. Arranged in alphabetical groupings by Container and preceded by an index comprised of photocopied title pages.

BOX 36

Index

A-G

BOX 37

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BOX 38

L-Z

BOX OV 1-OV 18

Oversize, 1814-1970, n.d.

Oversize real estate documents, printed matter, books, posters, technical papers, financial material, and scrapbooks.

Organized and described according to the series, folders, and containers from which the items were removed.

BOX OV 1

Personal Papers

De Sablá family

Mortgage

Engleheart to Moore, 1814 (Container 5)

Printed matter, 1863-1887 ([Container 5](#))

Property

Lists, 1876, 1905 (Container 5)

United States ex rel de Sablá v. Panama

Lists

Occupants of Bernardino and collective table, n.d. ([Container 7](#))

BOX OV 2

O'Connor, Christopher, copy of 1810-1819 shipmaster's book, n.d. (Container 10)

Organizations File

Compagnie nouvelle du canal de Panama

Canal plans

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