Guide to the Collections of The Explorers Club

Archives, Personal Papers and Manuscripts

As of March 1, 2010
What follows is a preliminary guide to the archives and manuscripts held within the Research Collections of The Explorers Club in New York, New York. It is a document that will be subject to revision, and most probably heavy revision, given that many of our collections have not yet been processed. Indeed, several items are currently not connected to a collection at all.

One might well ask, given this state of affairs, why produce a guide at all? The answer is very simple: though far from final, and even farther from perfect, it is the only way to tell people about the wonderful things hidden within our collections. Within it you will find explorers of all stripes – filmmakers, surveyors, businessmen and soldiers. Some traveled to Africa, others to the Orient; some explored the Arctic, others the Wild West. And finally you will find evidence of various organizations where explorers have gathered together and found support, including The Explorers Club itself.

As more information is gathered, descriptions will change and the Guide will evolve. In what I have produced, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the previous archivist of The Explorers Club, Clare Flemming, and to her assistant Ryan Haley. The description appearing here for the Lady Franklin Bay records is Clare Flemming’s work, when it is not exactly her words, while that for Louis G. Beers has been taken almost word-for-word from Ryan Haley’s document. Haley’s box and folder list also formed the foundation for the description of the Peary Arctic Club Archives. And those are just the most obvious examples!

I am also significantly in debt to Morgan Stevens-Garmon, who worked here for three months and contributed numerous corrections and additions to an assortment of out-of-date, partially finished finding aids, in the process helping me to gain a much better understanding of many of our collections.

The remaining descriptions rely heavily upon one or two sources and quite brief perusals of the collection in each case. All resulting errors, omissions and downright blunders are my own. As processing continues in the years to come, there is every hope that this situation will be rectified – description by description.

Dorthea Sartain
Curator of Archives, Collections and Books
The Explorers Club, New York, NY
January 13, 2010
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Archives and Archival Collections

The Explorers Club (call letters TEC)

Creator(s): The Explorers Club
Inclusive Dates: 1881-present
Bulk Dates: 1904-present
Extent: approximately 434.5 lf
Restrictions: Items created during the last twenty-five years are closed to general research. Those wishing to consult documents created in this time frame must apply to the Curator of Research Collections and the Club Secretary.

Founded in 1904 by a group of leading explorers, The Explorers Club is a multidisciplinary, professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research, scientific exploration, and the ideal that it is vital to preserve the instinct to explore. The Club encourages scientific exploration of land, sea, air, and space, with particular emphasis on the physical and biological sciences.

With its headquarters in New York, the Club has over 30 chapters around the world comprising approximately 3,000 members from every continent and more than 60 countries. Membership is open to qualified individuals and to those corporations that support the Club’s goals by undertaking a significant role in the fields of exploration and science.

The Club promotes exploration and field science in a variety of ways. It invites returning explorers to share the fruits of their experience in public lectures and members-only events, and in its quarterly periodical The Explorers Journal. It recognizes exceptional accomplishments through the yearly Lowell Thomas Awards and the awards given at the Club’s annual dinner. It encourages youth interested in the field sciences through an extensive grants program including the Youth Activities Fund, which is aimed at high school and college students, and the Exploration Fund, which offers aid to graduate students whose field research leads toward an advanced degree. And finally, it provides research support by making its library, archives and other research collections available both to members and to the general public.

A history of the Club has yet to be written. Further processing of the Club’s Archives, along with greater knowledge and use, should help to fill some of the gaps in future.

Scope and Content:

The archives includes legal and administrative records for the club stretching back to its founding, including the club's foundation documents and records of the Board of
Directors from 1911 to present. Some of the correspondence kept by early Club officers is also housed in the archives, as are a few caches of records pertaining to special projects and the work of the Club’s committees. Survival of the club’s financial records has been spotty over the long term, although much can be found in treasurers’ reports filed with the records of the board.

Of all the documents in the Club’s archives, the most valuable to researchers have been the Club’s membership files, which provide basic documentation on the lives and accomplishments of over 6,000 people who were or have been members. Almost all files include membership applications and supporting documentation that provide the birthplace of the member, a list of accomplishments and hints as to connections between the member and other explorers. The files may also include correspondence with the Club, photographs and magazine or newspaper articles.

Next in importance are the Flag Reports. In 1918, the Board of Directors received its first request to carry the Club’s flag on expedition and the process of request, approval and return soon became a tradition. The requests had become numerous enough that by 1923 the Club had formed its first flag committee to review the requests and make recommendations to the Board. The submission of a report at the end of the expedition also became part of the tradition, although not consistently until about the mid-1980s. The reports may include the application to carry the flag, correspondence, reports of varying lengths, photographs and other materials.

The Club’s public service program is documented in the files pertaining to its lectures, events, grants and research collections. Records concerning the club’s lecture series are better for some periods than others, but records concerning the Annual Dinner and the Lowell Thomas Awards are more complete. Files concerning the Club’s grants programs – which began in 1952 - are not yet processed, and therefore not open for general research. The acquisition and appraisal of the Club's research collections is also relatively well documented, but there is little information concerning use.

A number of photographs - currently uncataloged - round out the collection. The subject of most photographs is either a member or members’ event, although there are also some expedition photographs.

Further information concerning the club’s activities can be found in its publications, the *Explorers Journal* and the *Explorers Newsletter* (later the *Explorers Log*). Research Collections have an unbroken run of the first dating back to 1921, and newsletters from approximately 1960 to the present.

**Further Guidance:**

A finding aid for the collection as a whole does not exist, although there are detailed finding aids for certain series. These include folder level lists for the membership files,
flag reports and *Explorers Journal*. The *Explorers Journal* has also been partially indexed. Further information can be found in the Interim Finding Aid to the Archives of the Explorers Club.

**Related Collections Note**

With approximately 3000 current members from all over the world, and over 6000 former members, it should not be surprising that there are a large number of related manuscript collections documenting the lives and careers of our members in other institutions. As information becomes available about specific collections documenting the lives of individual members, this information will be linked to individual membership folders within the Club’s Membership Records Series.

The lists below comprise related collections known to contain materials that document The Explorers Club itself or its predecessors.

**Related Collections at the Explorers Club**

Arctic Club of America Archives

Peary Arctic Club Archives

**Related Collections elsewhere**

*Alexander Wetmore Papers*, Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C.

*Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary Family Collection, 1798 – 1976* [Reference XP]; Archives II Reference Section (Civilian), Textual Archives Services Division; National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.
Arctic Club of America (call letters ACA)

Creator(s): Arctic Club of America
Inclusive Dates: 1894-1912
Bulk Dates: 1898-1900, 1905-1912
Extent: 5 boxes, 2.5 lf

The Arctic Club of America was originally formed in September 1894 to recognize and strengthen the ties formed between survivors of Frederick Cook’s ill-fated Arctic expedition earlier that summer. The expedition had foundered when the Miranda, which had left port in New York with over fifty passengers, ran aground upon an uncharted reef and was forced to turn back to Greenland. Cook and a small party set sail across the open sea to obtain rescue.

The survivors were soon joined by other Arctic explorers at dinners, reunions and other social events so that the Club became a source not only of companionship but of shared knowledge. In its 1906 yearbook, the Club noted that it brought together explorers "who otherwise might simply know of each other, without actually knowing each other". It continued to serve this function until late 1912, when it merged with The Explorers Club.

Scope and Content

This collection contains legal papers, correspondence, membership lists, and documentation of Club sponsored events such as its Annual Dinner. Books published by the Club and an uninterrupted run of the Arctic Club of America Bulletin are incorporated into this collection, as well as press clippings about Club functions. Of particular interest are the Club's 1906 yearbook, which contains short biographies of members, and files related to the Cook-Peary controversy of 1909-1911.

Further Guidance

This collection has a complete finding aid that lists contents to the folder level.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of the Peary Arctic Club
Archives of The Explorers Club
Albert J. Operti Collection (and related Operti items in The Explorers Club Museum)
Alexander Parker Rogers Collection
Related Collections Elsewhere

Edward Guild Wyckoff papers, 1899-1910, Kroch Library Rare Books and Manuscripts, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Henry G. Bryant Letterbooks, American Philosophical Society Library, Philadelphia, PA.

William Henry Brewer Papers, 1830-1927, Manuscripts and Archives, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT.
Peary Arctic Club (call letters PAC)

Creator(s): Peary Arctic Club
Inclusive Dates: 1876-1968
Bulk Dates: 1899-1911
Extent: 14 boxes, approx. 7 lf

The Peary Arctic Club was organized in 1899 "to reach the farthest northern point on the Western Hemisphere" and "to promote and maintain explorations of the Polar Regions". The membership was comprised largely of men prominent in business and New York high society, as well as Arctic explorers, although membership was not restricted to those groups. Its primary goal and achievement was to fund Lt. Robert Edwin Peary's three expeditions to the North Pole between 1898 and 1909. The Club appears to have gradually disintegrated after the pole was attained, although there is no known date of official dissolution.

Scope and Content

This collection contains minutes, legal papers, financial records, membership information, correspondence, news clippings and ephemera related to the formation and organization of the Peary Arctic Club, as well as expedition documentation and photographic materials related to Peary's Arctic journeys including his trip to Cape York in Greenland, the 1905-1906 expedition to establish a new Farthest North, and the expedition to the North Pole. In addition to the expedition photographs – which are substantial – of particular note are a phonographic recording that features speeches by both Peary and Antarctic explorer, as well as files dedicated controversies surrounding Frederick A. Cook, including the Peary-Cook controversy of 1909-1911 in which the Peary Arctic Club did much to discredit Cook's claim to have reached the North Pole.

Further Guidance

This collection has a complete finding aid that lists contents to the folder level.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of The Explorers Club
Albert J. Operti Collection (and related Operti items in The Explorers Club Museum)
Collection Fragments and Individual Items-LS-2005-006, Peary Lantern Slides
Admiral Peary Bust on Stand, not dated, #0244, Explorers Club Museum Collection.
Letter from R.E.Peary to Julius Wile Brothers & Co. in Dr. Cook’s envelope, 1901, #0210, Explorers Club Museum Collection.

Photo of Admiral Peary in White Uniform, not dated, #710, Explorers Club Museum Collection.

Plaque with image of Robert E. Peary, by C. Mayer, 1908, #0503, Explorers Club Museum Collection.

Portrait of Robert E. Peary in Naval Uniform, by Harris and Ewing, not dated, #901, Explorers Club Museum Collections.

Sledge used by R.E. Peary during his 1908-1909 North Pole expedition, #0238, Explorers Club Museum Collection.

**Related Collections elsewhere**

*Edward Guild Wyckoff papers, 1899-1910*, Kroch Library Rare Books and Manuscripts, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.


*Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary Family Collection, 1798 – 1976*, National Archives, College Park, MD.

*Robert Edwin Peary Collection*, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, ME.

*Robert Abram Bartlett papers*, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, ME.
Personal Papers and Manuscript Collections

Clara Adams Collection (call letters CA)

Creator(s): Clara Adams
Inclusive Dates: c. 1920s-1940s
Bulk Dates: c. 1920s-1940s
Extent: 1 box

Clara Adams is known primarily for being one of the world's first "frequent fliers". She was present on many of the most important inaugural flights in aviation history, including the first flight of the Graf Zeppelin in 1928. She was the first woman to fly as a passenger across the Atlantic and the first woman to circle the world as a passenger. She wrote a number of books that helped to popularize flight during its infancy.

Scope and Content
This collection consists of photographs, newspaper clippings and ephemera related to the flights of Clara Adams, including a few photographs with Amelia Earhart.

Further Guidance
There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club
No known collections at this time.

Related Collections elsewhere
Clara Adams Collection, History of Aviation Collection, University of Texas at Dallas
Solomon Andrée Collection (call letters SA)

Creator(s): Solomon Andrée
Inclusive Dates: c. 1930
Bulk Dates: c. 1930
Extent: 1 box

Solomon Andrée was a Sweedish engineer, balloonist and polar explorer. In addition to several flights across the Baltic Sea, he is best known for his attempts in 1896 and 1897 to cross the Arctic in a hydrogen balloon. Both attempts failed, and on the 1897 expedition the crew was lost. The records of the final expedition – including exposed film - were later recovered.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of ephemera and reproductions of photographs taken during Andrée's ill-fated 1897 expedition and during the 1930 expedition upon which Andrée's final camp was found.

Further Guidance

A partial item list is part of the collection.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

No known collections at this time.

Related Collections elsewhere

Salomon A. Andree 1896 Polar Expedition Collection, 1896; National Air and Space Museum, Archives Division; Smithsonian Institution; Washington, D.C.
Edward Pierrepont Beckwith graduated from MIT in 1901. He soon went to work for General Electric, conducting some of the first experiments with tungsten as a filament for electric lamps.

Exploration and travel were both part of his work and one of his passions. An avid mountaineer, Beckwith spent two seasons climbing in the Swiss Alps in 1904-5 and in the Austrian Dolomites in 1906. He also had an interest in aviation, obtaining his pilot’s license in 1915.

When Beckwith applied for membership in The Explorers Club in 1930, he had already retired. In the next decade, he was an observer, navigator and photographer on a number of further expeditions, including the Carnegie Institute’s Mount McKinley Cosmic Ray Expedition in 1932, the Rainbow Bridge-Monument Valley Expedition of 1937 (which mapped 2000 square miles in southern Utah and northern Arizona), and the 1939-40 Fairchild Tropical Expedition in the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. Beckwith died in 1966 at the age of 89.

Scope and Content

This collection contains several diaries and photographs related to the expeditions of Edward Pierrepont Beckwith. The majority of the collection documents Beckwith’s expeditions in Alaska during the 1930s.

Further Guidance

An item level list of the Lantern Slides series in this collection has been created and can be found in the interim finding aid to the Edward Pierrepont Beckwith Collection, along with further information. A list of items delivered to the Club in 1967 (some now apparently missing) is in Edward Beckwith’s Club Membership File.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of The Explorers Club
Related Collections elsewhere

Rainbow Bridge/Monument Valley Expedition Archives; Fowler Museum of Cultural History, Archaeology Collections Facility; UCLA, Los Angeles, CA.
Louis Beers was born in 1862, in Fairfield, CT. He was educated at Wilton Academy in Wilton, CT, and later Williston Academy in Easthampton, MA. In 1900, Beers joined the New Jersey Wire Cloth Company (later purchased by the John A. Roebling’s Sons Co.) as a Sales Manager and worked for them in Trenton, NJ, until 1928. After retirement, Beers devoted himself to a few select Trenton-area associations. He died on 31 January 1935, leaving a son, Yardley, and his widow, Sarah Yardley Beers.

Louis Beers’ son, Linn Yardley Beers, was a member of The Explorers Club from 1986 until his death in 2005.

Scope and Content

The collection is comprised of 7 albums and 319 negatives documenting Beers’ travels around the world, particularly in Europe and the Far East.

Further Guidance

This collection has a complete finding aid that lists contents to the folder and/or item level. Also available are a draft finding aid for the collection created by Ryan Haley in 2005 (with the folder and item listings). The biographical note above has been taken from Haley’s finding aid.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

No known collections at this time.

Related Collections elsewhere

Trentoniana Collection, Trenton History & Genealogy Collection, Trenton Public Library, Trenton, NJ.
Flora Jo Bergstrom collection (call letters FJB)

Creator(s): Flora Jo Bergstrom
Inclusive Dates: 1892-1987
Bulk Dates: 1936-1939, 1960s
Extent: 2 folders

Flora Jo Bergstrom appears to have trained with Eleanor Bartlett at New York Hospital and remained a lifelong friend. She wrote regularly to Eleanor and Robert Bartlett, as well as collecting articles about Bob Bartlett from a variety of sources.

Scope and Content

This collection contains one folder of correspondence between Flora Jo Bergstrom and the Bartletts, as well as a book of published letters by Charles Alfred Graeff, who Bergstrom also met at New York Hospital.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

No known collections at this time.

Related Collections elsewhere

*Papers of Flora Jo Bergstrom*, Medical Center Archives, New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, NY

*Robert Abram Bartlett papers*, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, Brunswick, ME
Carl Akeley Research Collection (Call letters: CARC)

Creator(s): Penelope Bodry-Sanders
Inclusive Dates: c. 1995
Bulk Dates: c. 1995
Extent: 8 boxes, approximately 4 lf

Penelope Bodry-Sanders was at one time Manager of Special Collections at the American Museum of Natural History and later their Education Coordinator. While at the museum, Bodry-Sanders became particularly interested in the life of Carl Akeley and wrote two books: *Carl Akeley: Africa’s Collector, Africa’s Savior* and *African Obsession, The Life and Legacy of Carl Akeley*.

Carl Akeley grew-up in New York, where he learned the art of taxidermy. In 1886, he moved to Milwaukee where he joined the staff of the Milwaukee Public Museum and completed the first museum habitat diorama. While working there and at the Field Museum of Chicago, he developed what would become the standard for such dioramas – the portrayal of animals in lifelike groups in their natural habitat. He also developed a number of technological innovations that enabled him to perfect his work and is now known as the father of modern taxidermy.

Akeley specialized in African mammals, particularly elephants and gorillas, and went to Africa several times to collect specimens, including once with Theodore Roosevelt in 1909. Killing animals for display in museums was common practice at the time, but Akeley’s attitude changed fundamentally after an expedition to the Congo in 1921. The purpose of the expedition was to kill gorillas for display, a common practice at the time. But on this exhibition, Akeley determined that the animals should be protected and for the remainder of his life he worked for the establishment of a gorilla preserve in Rwanda, the first national park in Africa. Opposed to hunting them for sport or trophies, he remained an advocate of collection for scientific and educational purposes.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises research materials gathered by Penelope Bodry-Sanders while writing her book *Carl Akeley: Africa’s Collector, Africa’s Savior*. In addition to her own notes, the collection includes photocopies of correspondence, newspaper clippings, inventories and other materials held by the American Museum of Natural History, the Field Museum and other repositories.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.
Related Collections at The Explorers Club
Archives of The Explorers Club

Related Collections elsewhere

*Carl Ethan Akeley Papers*, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, River Campus Libraries, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.

*Papers of Mary L. Jobe Akeley and Carl Ethan Akeley*, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY.

*Mary Jobe Akeley Collection*, Jasper Yellowhead Museum and Archives, Jasper, AB, Canada


*Film Collection*, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY (includes film #24, #209, #276).
George Miller Dyott Collection (call letters GMD)

Creator(s): George Miller Dyott
Inclusive Dates: 1931
Bulk Dates: 1930-1934
Extent: 2 folders

George Miller Dyott was a famous English explorer, writer and filmmaker, best known for his expeditions in the Amazon. Born February 6, 1882 in New York City, he was educated in England and continued to live there into his adulthood. An avid and accomplished pilot, he served in the Royal Naval Air Service during World War I.

Dyott became a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society after the war and embarked upon a series of expeditions that would make his name. In 1922-1923 he joined the Faunthorpe-Vernay expedition to India, Nepal, and Burma, sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History. He then turned to South America with an expedition to Ecuador and Brazil in 1924-1925, one down the Rio Roosevelt in 1926-1927, and an expedition to try and find the missing British explorer Percy Fawcett in the Amazon in 1928.

Dyott was elected a member of The Explorers Club in 1926 and resigned in 1933. He died on Long Island in 1972.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises correspondence, press clippings and reports related to a proposed expedition to Brazil in 1931.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of The Explorers Club

Related Collections elsewhere


Film Collection, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY (includes film #198, #284).

Faunthorpe-Vernay Expedition Of The American Museum Of Natural History (1922-1923), Asian Field Photographs, American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY.
Nathan Hilu Collection (call letters NH)

Creator(s): Nathan Hilu
Inclusive Dates: 1990s
Bulk Dates: 1990s-2000s
Extent: 2 linear feet

Nathan Hilu was born in 1926 in New York, NY. At the age of 19, he joined the Army and spent years traveling in Europe, Israel and Asia. During the Nuremberg trials he was assigned to guard Nazi war criminals including Hermann Goring.

Artwork by Hilu has been shown at a number of venues in recent decades.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises memoirs by Nathan Hilu, including descriptions of his experiences in Japan and a record of his trip to The Explorers Club. Memoirs consist of roughly equal parts drawing and text.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

No known collections at this time.

Related Collections elsewhere

Howgate Preliminary Expedition Collection (call letters HPE)

Creator(s): Members of the Howgate Expedition
Inclusive Dates: 1878-1879
Bulk Dates: 1878-1879
Extent: 2 boxes, 1 lf

Henry W. Howgate was born in Britain in 1834, later migrating to the United States. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War and, after a brief attempt at civilian life, rejoined the Army in 1867. He eventually attained the rank of Captain and became the Chief Disbursing Officer for the Army Signal Corps. He was also given the responsibility of planning all polar expeditions.

Howgate was a vocal advocate of polar colonization, wishing to establish a permanent U.S. base in the Arctic from which to conduct scientific and geological expeditions. He obtained funding from Congress to conduct a preliminary expedition to Baffin Island and sent the crew of the *Florence* north in 1877. Their goal: to establish relationships with the Inuit, promote scientific experiments, and investigate the possibility of using whaling as a source of revenue.

He sought funding for another expedition in 1880 to be conducted in conjunction with the first International Polar Year. The expeditionary force was to explore Greenland and prepare for Arctic colonization. When Congress denied funding, Howgate immediately set out to obtain it from private sources, but despite his success the expedition never got off the ground.

In the meantime, Howgate had resigned his commission. He had long been the trusted assistant to Chief Signal Officer Albert J. Myer, and had taken advantage of that trust to embezzle over $100,000, which he had used largely to support his mistress. When Myer died in August 1880, Howgate attempted to obtain the Chief Signal Office for himself, but failed. In the following December, he left the army fearing exposure.

In 1882, Howgate was indicted for embezzlement and apprehended, but he soon escaped from the authorities. He evaded capture for the next 13 years, working as a reporter and running an antiquarian book shop in New York, while eluding the Secret service and Pinkerton Detectives. Finally captured in 1894, Howgate spent several years in the Albany Penitentiary before being released in 1900. He died of a cerebral hemorrhage on June 2, 1901.

Scope and Content
This collection comprises several ledgers containing meteorological observations and one ledger of anthropological notes from the Howgate Expedition.
**Further Guidance**

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

**Related Collections at The Explorers Club**

Lady Franklin Bay Collection

Nares Expedition Collection

**Related Collections elsewhere**

*Fort Ellis and Gustavus C. Doane Collection*, Montana State University Libraries, Bozeman, MT.
William Henry Jackson Collection (call letters WHJ)

Creator(s): William Henry Jackson
Inclusive Dates: c. 1870
Bulk Dates: c. 1870
Extent: 1 box

William Henry Jackson was a painter, photographer and explorer famous for his images of the American West. He was born in Keeseville, New York in 1843 and spent his boyhood in New York and Vermont. During the Civil War he served in the 12th Vermont Infantry and fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. After the war Jackson headed west. Originally trained as a painter, he took up photography and opened a studio with his brother in Omaha, Nebraska.

In the decades following, Jackson became one of the foremost photographers of the American West, primarily as a result of his participation in the government expeditions led by Ferdinand Hayden. The Hayden expeditions provided the first documentation of flora, fauna and geology through several previously unmapped parts of the American West including the Yellowstone River and parts of the Rocky Mountains. The Hayden expedition of 1871 – and the photographs taken thereon by Jackson – laid the groundwork for the creation of nation’s first national park in 1872, Yellowstone National Park.

In 1879, Jackson and his family moved to Denver and Jackson opened a photography studio. He remained there for the next 15 years, making his living as a landscape photographer traveling the American West and Mexico. In 1894, he accepted a commission to take photographs for a new museum in Chicago, visiting Northern Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Far East. As part of the expedition, he also spent part of the winter crossing Siberia on a sledge, "photographing native tribes and convicts". Photos of this expedition were later published in Harper’s Bizarre.

Jackson began the next phase of his life in 1897 when he sold his entire stock of negatives to the Detroit Photographic Company and began work there as a Director. He remained in this position for almost 30 years, only retiring in 1924 when the company went into receivership. Jackson became a member of The Explorers Club in 1923 and remained so until his death in 1942. In the interim, he lived and worked in Washington, D.C., where he painted and wrote, and New York, where he became the research director of the Oregon Trail Memorial Association. Jackson died of complications following a hip fracture and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
Scope and Content

The William Henry Jackson collection comprises 1 box of photographic prints, taken during the 1870s and having the Western United States as their subjects.

Further Guidance

This collection has a complete finding aid that lists contents to the item level.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of The Explorers Club

Painting of William Henry Jackson by Irwin D. Hoffman. #0115, Explorers Club Museum Collection.

Bayonet used by William Henry Jackson at the Battle of Gettysburg, 1863. #1082, Explorers Club Museum Collection.

Photograph by William Henry Jackson, Lone Scotsman Hayden Valley Yellowstone, 1872. #0065, Explorers Club Museum Collection.

Related Collections elsewhere

William Henry Jackson Papers, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Manuscripts and Archives Division, New York Public Library, New York, NY.

Photography Collection, Miriam & Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Manuscripts and Archives Division, New York Public Library, New York, NY.

William Henry Jackson Collection, Photograph Collections, Colorado Historical Society, Denver, CO.

Theodore R. Iserman Collection (call letters TRI)

Creator(s): Theodore R. Iserman
Inclusive Dates: 1951-1963
Bulk Dates: 1951-1963
Extent: 3 lf

Theodore R. Iserman was a noted lawyer of the mid-20th century. He was employed by Kelley, Drye, Newhall, Maginnes and Warren in 1928, and soon became the lawyer for Chrysler Motor Corporation, specializing in labor law. As Chrysler’s lawyer, he represented the company against the United Automobile Workers’ Union in 1944. In 1947, he helped draft the House version of the Taft-Hartley Act, which amended the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 by adding a list of unfair labor practices on the part of unions to the previous list of unfair labor practices committed by employers.

Although a lawyer by trade, Iserman was a photographer at heart, and went on several photographic expeditions around the world. He became a member of The Explorers Club in 1961 (notably being sponsored by Barry Goldwater), and remained a member until his death in 1974.

Scope and Content

This collection contains several boxes of stereoscopic slides taken by Iserman on trips to Peru, New Guinea, the Belgian Congo, Kenya and Sudan between 1950 and 1961.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

The Explorers Club Archives

Related Collections elsewhere

No known collections at this time.
Lady Franklin Bay Collection (call letters LFB)

Creator(s): Primarily members of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, with small contributions from members of the Nares Expedition and the Peary Arctic Club (see other collection descriptions for further details)

Inclusive Dates: 1866-1902

Bulk Dates: 1881-1884

Extent: approximately 5 lf, including 4 vols.

The Lady Franklin Bay Expedition of 1881 was a military expedition that served as the United States government’s contribution to the International Polar Year (IPY) of 1882. The IPY was to be a year-long international effort to study and document conditions above the arctic circle by taking simultaneous meteorological and other scientific observations at multiple stations across the Arctic Sea basin.

In July of that year, 25 men led by Adolphus Greely – including soldiers of the United States Army, several civilians and two Inuit from Greenland – established expeditionary headquarters near the 82nd parallel at Lady Franklin Bay in Canada. They spent the next two years collecting data and exploring their surroundings.

By the end of the second year, not one but two resupply ships had failed to materialize and with rations quickly running out Greely determined to strike camp and head south. The goal was to reach Cape Sabine, where caches of food were supposed to already be stored.

The members of the expedition arrived at Cape Sabine in January 1893, but soon began to die of scurvy, starvation and exhaustion among other ills. By the time that they were rescued in the following June, only seven were alive, and one died on the way home.

The records of the expedition were left behind, to be retrieved later by Robert Peary during his attempt to reach the North Pole in 1899.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the scientific and administrative records from the Lady Franklin Bay expedition, as well as material documenting the daily lives of expedition members at their original camp. It includes correspondence, journals, logs, self-published newsletters and ephemera. The collection also includes: four manuscript items pertaining to the Nares expedition, found and rescued by members of the Greely expedition; correspondence and inventories generated by members of the Peary Arctic Club during their rescue of the Greely and Nares papers; and a series of press clippings pertaining to the rescue of the Greely expedition survivors.
Further Guidance

A complete finding aid to this collection was prepared by Clare Flemming, Curator of Research Collections at The Explorers Club, in 2007. The material above is a significantly condensed version of what appears in her finding aid.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Collage From Greely Artic Expedition, The Explorers Club Museum, Item #1135.

Howgate Preliminary Expedition Collection.

Peary Arctic Club Archives.

Related Collections elsewhere

*Records of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, 1881-84; Records of Signal Corps Meteorological Work 1859-97; Records of the Weather Bureau. 1735-1979 [Reference 27.4.5]; Archives II Reference Section (Civilian), Textual Archives Services Division; National Archives and Records Administration; College Park, MD.*

*Papers of A.W. Greely, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.*

*A.W. Greely Papers, 1753-1959, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*

*Brainard Collection of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition, [Reference DLB-LFB]; Still Picture Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives and Records Administration; College Park, MD.*
Walter Pickett Lewisohn Collection (call letters WPL)

Creator(s): Walter Lewisohn
Inclusive Dates: c. 1930s-1950s
Bulk Dates: c. 1930s-1950s
Extent: approximately 5 lf

Walter Lewisohn was born in 1910 in Eatontown, New Jersey and began going out on expedition in 1931. When he applied to become a member of The Explorers Club in 1933, he had already been part of the noted Arctic Explorer Donald MacMillan’s expedition to Baffin Island, worked on two archaeological digs in the southwest, and had accompanied George M. Dyott to Southern Ecuador. By the time he was accepted, he had already set sail as a photographer on Richard Byrd's second Antarctic expedition.

After he returned Lewisohn traveled around the world, eventually returning to the United States where he attended Yale Drama school. He later moved to New York, where he produced a play starring Eli Wallach, and began filming museum exhibitions all over the country.

After World War II, he married and the couple spent much of the rest of their lives filming, writing and collecting objects from different parts of the world.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises photographs, slides and negatives, some mounted in scrapbooks, taken or collected by Walter P. Lewisohn. They document his travels in China, Mexico and the Southwest, as well as life at his home in Lake Placid, New York.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of The Explorers Club
George Miller Dyott Collection

Related Collections elsewhere

Walter & Florence Lewisohn Collection, Department of Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi, University, MS.
Francis Joseph Long Collection (call letters FJL)

Creator(s): Francis Joseph Long  
Inclusive Dates: c. 1880-1936  
Bulk Dates: c. 1880-1936  
Extent: 1 box

Francis Joseph Long was born in Wurtemberg, Germany in 1852. As an enlisted man in the U.S. Cavalry, he was one of the last to see Lt. Col. G.A. Custer alive at the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876. Five years later, he joined the Lady Franklin Bay expedition under the command of Lt. Adolphus Washington Greely, and with Greely was one of only six of twenty-five men rescued alive in 1884 after a disastrous three year expedition. Two of the other survivors, Henry Biederbick, and David L. Brainard later became prominent in the Arctic Club of America.

Long served as meteorologist to the Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition to Franz Josef Land in 1901-1902 under the command of Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, and in a similar capacity during the Ziegler Polar Expedition of 1903-1905 under the command of Anthony Fiala.

Scope and Content

This collection contains a few photographs and clippings pertaining to arctic expeditions – particularly the Ziegler expeditions - and some ephemera.

Further Guidance

This collection has a complete finding aid that lists contents to the folder level. An earlier finding aid for this collection, created by P.J. Capelotti of Penn State University, is also available, which includes several items that are no longer part of the collection. The biographical note above is a slightly condensed version of that found in the Capelotti finding aid.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Lady Franklin Bay Collection  
Spencer W. Stewart Collection

Related Collections elsewhere

Papers of Ernest deKoven Leffingwell, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.  

Papers of Charles L. Seitz, 1901-1905, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
Papers of George Shorkley, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

Papers of Anton Marius Vedoe, 1895-1963, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
George W. Melville Collection (call letters GWM)

Creator(s): George Wallace Melville
Inclusive Dates: 1890-1934
Bulk Dates: 1890-1901, 1931-34
Extent: 5 folders

George Wallace Melville entered the U.S. Navy in 1861 and in 1879 joined George Washington De Long’s Jeannette Expedition. He led the only party to survive the expedition, as well as the expedition to find De Long’s remains the following spring. (For a full account of this expedition see the entry for the Jeannette Clippings above.) He later served as chief engineer aboard the “Thetis” which rescued the survivors of Greely’s Lady Franklin Bay Expedition in 1884. (For a full account of the Greely expedition, see the description for the Lady Franklin Bay Collection.) In 1887 Melville became engineer in chief of the U.S. Navy and would preside over the modernization both of its ships and the department. During his tenure, he supervised the design of 120 ships that included innovations such as the triple screw (a propeller system) and the vertical boiler.

Scope and Content
This collection dates from the period during which Melville was engineer in chief of the U.S. Navy. It contains correspondence between George Melville and other arctic explorers, as well as copies of lectures given by Melville and press clippings. It does not contain any material related to the Jeannette expedition or to Melville's activities as part of the Lady Franklin Bay rescue.

Further Guidance
There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club
Jeannette Clippings Collection.

Related Collections elsewhere
Papers of George W. Melville, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
Frank B. Notestein Collection (call letters FBN)

Creator(s): Frank B. Notestein

Inclusive Dates: 1919-c.1941

Bulk Dates: 1919-c.1941

Extent: approx. 1450 negatives

Frank Notestein was born in Wooster, Ohio in 1885, the son of one of the town’s best known families. He spent his youth in Wooster, later obtaining degrees from the College of Wooster and Yale.

Trained as a forester and geologist, Notestein went west after graduation and began working for Texaco. Soon he was traveling the world, leading an expedition to Peru in 1919, followed by trips to the Middle East, India, and Latin America before joining the armed forces during World War II. After the war, he worked in China, bringing back the first set of color photographs ever taken of the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas. He retired in 1950, although he continued to do consulting work for the company.

Notestein was an avid photographer, capturing images wherever he went. He joined The Explorers Club in 1931 and remained a member until his death in 1973.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises fifteen books of negatives, individual cataloged, of photographs taken by Frank Notestein on his travels in the Middle East, India and South America between the start of his career and World War II.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of The Explorers Club

Related Collections Elsewhere

Papers of Ada Louise Comstock, Schlesinger Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
Albert J. Operti Collection (call letters AJO)

Creator(s): Albert Operti  
Inclusive Dates: c. 1900  
Bulk Dates: c. 1900  
Extent: 14 boxes, approx. 7 lf

Albert J. Operti was born in Turin, Italy in 1852. He spent most of his early childhood in Ireland and Scotland, enrolling as a cadet in the British Naval School at the age of 12. When he finished his training at the age of 18, he promptly left the Navy and enrolled at the Glasgow Institute of Art, later studying in Paris. In 1875, Operti moved to New York where his father had recently established himself as a musical director, and continued his studies.

Operti began his professional career as an artist in New York, painting scenes for the Metropolitan Opera in the 1880s and 1890s. He also developed a strong interest in the Arctic and began to paint scenes depicting previous expeditions. Among these is his most famous painting, Rescue of Lieutenant A.W. Greely and Party, one of two commissioned by a Congressional Committee in 1885 (and for which Operti, incidentally, was never paid). Both hung in the U.S. Capitol for 50 years, being removed in 1934.

In 1896, Robert Peary asked Operti to join him on his next expedition to Greenland as official artist. Operti accepted and went north, the first of two trips he would take with Peary in succeeding years. During these trips he made the first plaster casts ever taken of the North Greenland Eskimos, as well as several sketches.

Operti never again went north, but continued to depict the Arctic in numerous sketches, drawings and paintings. His work was well received: Operti was chosen as one of the official artists for the Chicago Exposition in 1901, and in 1912, he joined the staff at the American Museum of Natural History as general artist and cartographer. Here he painted the backdrops for many of the exhibits in the Hall of Mammals.

Operti was a member of Kane Lodge and the National Geographic Society, a fellow of the American Geographical Society and a long-time member of both the Arctic and Explorers Clubs. He died at the Explorers' Club, where he had been living for many years, in 1927.

Scope and Content

This collection includes several albums of photographs taken during Operti’s trips to the Arctic with Peary in 1896-7, as well as several scrapbooks that combine sketches and essays by the artist with newspaper clippings and other published items of interest. It
also includes several folders of photographs collected by Operti, taken by Charles Harlow during the expedition to rescue the survivors of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition in 1884.

**Further Guidance**

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

**Related Collections at The Explorers Club**

*Albert Operti* by Stanislav Rembsky (1924), The Explorers Club Museum, item #764.
*Cape York Greenland Eskimos* by Albert Operti (1896), The Explorers Club Museum, item #301.
*Farewell* by Albert Operti (n.d.), The Explorers Club Museum, item #867.
*Farewell Old Sol* by Albert Operti (1896-1897), The Explorers Club Museum, item #294.
*Finding De Long and his Companions* by Albert Operti (n.d.), The Explorers Club Museum, item #862.

Flag of the Arctic Club by Albert Operti (n.d.), The Explorers Club Museum, item #701.
Plaster Head from the 6th Peary Expedition by Albert Operti (n.d.), The Explorers Club Museum, item #509.

*Pressure Ridge* by Albert Operti (n.d.), The Explorers Club Museum, item #861.
*Rescue of Lieutenant A.W. Greely and Party* by Albert Operti (1885), The Explorers Club Museum, item #117.
*S.S. America, Night Time* by Albert Operti (n.d.), The Explorers Club Museum, item #811.
*S.S. Roosevelt, Wintering Cape Sheridan* by Albert Operti (1908), The Explorers Club Museum, item #296.

Set of 49 exploration cards published by Hassan cigarettes, images by Albert Operti (n.d.), The Explorers Club Museum, item #752.

*Sled Dog* by Albert Operti (1904), The Explorers Club Museum, item #866.
*Sledging on Polar Ice* by Albert Operti (1886), The Explorers Club Museum, item #148.

Archives of the Explorers Club
Archives of the Peary Arctic Club
Archives of the Arctic Club of America
Lady Franklin Bay Collection

Related Collections elsewhere

*Papers of Albert Operti*, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

Drawings and Sketches by Robert E. Peary and Albert Operti Relating to Polar Explorations, 1880-1912; *Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary Family Collection, 1798 – 1976* [Reference XP-XP/AR]; Still Picture Records Section, Special Media Archives Services Division, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

*Townsend Thorndike Collection*, Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Wellcome Library, London
George Palmer Putnam Collection (call letters GPP)

Creator(s): George Palmer Putnam
Inclusive Dates: 1926
Bulk Dates: 1926
Extent: 3 folders

George Palmer Putnam was born in September 1887, grandson of the man who founded publisher G.P. Putnam’ Sons. He became Amelia Earhart's promoter in the year she made her historic transatlantic flight, and remained her manager until her disappearance in 1937. They had been married in 1931, Putnam having earlier divorced his first wife.

Putnam made his living as a newspaper publisher, but he was also an avid explorer. He joined The Explorers Club in 1924 having already traveled through Central America and Egypt and "climbed most of the peaks [of the] Pacific Coast". He led two further expeditions to Greenland and Baffin Bay in 1926 and 1927, respectively. Club member Robert Bartlett served as ship's captain on both expeditions.

Scope and Content
This collection consists of a small number of Putnam’s records concerning the American Greenland Expedition of 1926.

Further Guidance
There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club
Archives of The Explorers Club

Related Collections elsewhere
No known collections at this time.
Alexander Parker Rogers Collection (call letters APR)

Creator(s): Alexander Parker Rogers
Inclusive Dates: 1894
Bulk Dates: 1894
Extent: 2 vols.

Alexander Parker Rogers was born in New Canaan, Connecticut in 1874, the son of John Rogers, the sculptor. He was educated at Yale, graduating in 1894, and soon thereafter joined the ill-fated Miranda Expedition to Greenland led by Frederick Cook.

Rogers later returned to school and trained to become a mining engineer, graduating from Columbia in 1898. In his subsequent career, he served as an assayer, engineer and consultant for mining concerns all over the world.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises two items related to the Miranda Expedition: a diary kept by Rogers during the expedition, and a scrapbook consisting of commercial photographs taken on the expedition. The items, as well as the Rogers painting in our Museum Collection, were a gift to the Club from Miss Mary Hamilton in March 1965.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

The Sinking of the Miranda Aug. 23rd 1894 (painting by AP Rogers), The Explorers Club Museum, item #318. On the back side is a two page, handwritten description of the event by Rogers.

Related Collections elsewhere

Alexander Parker Rogers papers regarding John Rogers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Henry Morton Stanley, the famous African explorer, was born in Denbigh, Wales on January 28, 1841. He had a rough childhood, spending many years in a workhouse, before leaving England at the age of 18 and settling in the United States. During the Civil War, he fought for the confederate and union armies, successively.

At the end of the war, Stanley began a career as an explorer and journalist. His writing soon caught the attention of James Gordon Bennett, who retained him exclusively as a world correspondent for the *New York Herald*. It was as a reporter for the *Herald* that Stanley went to find the Scottish missionary and explorer David Livingstone, who was known to be in Africa but had not been heard from for some time. In November 1871, Stanley succeeded, encountering Livingstone near Lake Tanganyika, purportedly greeting him with the now famous question, "Dr Livingstone, I presume?" Together, the two continued their exploration of Central Africa, establishing that there was no connection between the Lake and the Nile River.

Stanley returned to Africa in 1874 on an expedition sponsored by both the *New York Herald* and *The Daily Telegraph* of London. The goal was to traverse the Congo River, and when the expedition was competed, Stanley had solved many questions on central Africa geography, including the discovery that the Lualala River flowed into the Congo rather than the Nile. It was an arduous journey: only 114 of the 356 who had set out survived, and Stanley was the only European among them.

Stanley returned to the Congo once again in 1879, this time as an agent of the Belgian king Leopold II. He was partially responsible for the establishment of The Congo Free State, a corporation privately controlled by Leopold which came to be known for its brutal exploitation of local labor in the pursuit of profit from rubber, copper and other minerals.

By 1890, Stanley had returned to England, where he married and later became a Member of Parliament. He died in London in 1904.

**Scope and Content**

This collection comprises ten dispatches written from Africa by Henry Morton Stanley as correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* on his 1874-7 expedition to the Congo.
Further Guidance
There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club
No known collections at this time.

Related Collections elsewhere
Spencer W. Stewart Collection (call letters SWS)

Creator(s): Spencer W. Stewart  
Inclusive Dates: c. 1900-1905  
Bulk Dates: c. 1900-1905  
Extent: .5 linear foot

Spencer W. Stewart was born in Philadelphia and grew-up in Brooklyn, New York. As a young man, he was a member of the *New York Herald*'s relief expedition to Mt. Pelee in Martinique. He joined the Zeigler Polar Expedition in 1903, where he served as assistant steward and meteorologist. When he returned he trained in Europe, becoming a civil engineer. He would have a long and illustrious career in that field, joining Ambursen Engineering in 1912. He remained with the company for fifty-two years, and was president of the Corporation when he died in 1964.

Mr. Stewart became a member of The Explorers Club in 1908 and remained a member until his death.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises a scrapbook, correspondence, logs, and diaries created by Spencer W. Stewart, some during the Ziegler Polar Expedition of 1904-1905.

Further Guidance

There are no other guides to this collection at this time.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Francis Joseph Long Collection

Related Collections elsewhere

*Papers of Charles L. Seitz, 1901-1905*, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

*Papers of George Shorkley in the Dartmouth College Library*, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

*Papers of Anton Marius Vedoe, 1895-1963*, Rauner Special Collections Library, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
Arthur Frederick Torrance Collection (call letters AFT)

Creator(s): Arthur Frederick Torrance
Inclusive Dates: c.1916-c. 1941
Bulk Dates: 1929-30
Extent: .5 linear foot

Arthur Frederick Torrance – army captain, navy chaplain, explorer and scientist – was born in Blackpool, England in 1887 and was educated at Rugby. He then came to America, arriving in San Francisco just after the 1906 earthquake. He later attended U.S.C., earning an A.B. in 1914. He then took an A.M. at California University in 1915 and a Ph.D. at New York University in 1916.

During World War II, he served as a captain in the British Army, and later as a U.S. Navy chaplain, spending some time in Arabia in the company of T.E. Lawrence. He was also the minister of congregations in Los Angeles and Long Beach, California between 1916 and 1921, when he divorced his first wife.

He had already begun a series of expeditions that would stretch for over a decade and would make him a noted authority on Tropical Medicine. These included several trips to Africa, as well as visits to China, Southeast Asia, the South Pacific and South America. Not long after he left California, he moved his base of operations to Britain, earning an M.D at London University and a diploma in Tropical Medicine in 1923. Torrance's later life was marred by scandal. In 1941, while on a wedding trip to Mexico with his new wife, Torrance got into a car crash in which his wife died. A murder investigation followed, in which Torrance was absolved, but lingering doubts remained and at his death it was reported that he had been "convicted of gross negligence in her death". He was facing trial on charges of mail fraud when he died in 1944.

Torrance was elected a member of The Explorers Club in 1929 and resigned in 1932.

Scope and Content
This collection comprises materials created by and documenting the life of Arthur Frederick Torrance. It includes drafts of stories and poems written by Torrance, records of speaking engagements and other business arrangements, correspondence and a journal that includes information about his expeditions between November 1924 and 1927. The latter also includes entries without complete dates.

Further Guidance
There are no other guides to this collection at this time.
Related Collections at The Explorers Club

Archives of The Explorers Club

Related Collections elsewhere

No known collections at this time.
Artificial Collections

Collection Fragments and Individual Items (call letters CFI)

Creator(s): The Explorers Club
Inclusive Dates: 1818-2005
Bulk Dates: c. 1870-2005
Extent: approximately 23 linear feet

Since its founding, The Explorers Club has occasionally purchased, and often received, single items or small groups of items divorced from the overall context in which they were created. These items cannot be said to constitute collections in and of themselves, but collectively they provide us with a significant amount of information about about the history of exploration. Individually, they provide a unique perspective upon the lives of donors and the events in which they took part.

Scope and Content

This collection comprises a wide variety of materials documenting over two centuries of exploration. Its greatest strength is the selection of images available – whether as photographs, lantern slides or scrapbook items. But the collection also includes diaries, logs, manuscripts and published materials. There are some real gems hidden here, including one of twelve known copies of the Nares photo album, the diary of Henry G. Radcliffe, and spectacular photos of Antarctica.

The collection has been arranged into series based on record type.

Further Guidance

An interim finding aid to this collection is available that provides series descriptions, as well as item level descriptions for the lantern slides series. A separate finding aid for the Henry Morton Merriman photo album, one of the items in the photographs and photograph albums series, is also available.

Related Collections at The Explorers Club

There are too many authors and subjects to provide a full list of related collections here.

Related Collections elsewhere

There are too many authors and subjects to provide a full list of related collections here.