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Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
P.O. Box 208240
New Haven, CT 06520-8240
mssa.assist@yale.edu
http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 205

**CREATOR:** Farquhar, Percival, 1864-1953

**TITLE:** Percival Farquhar papers

**DATES:** 1893–1967

**BULK DATES:** 1919–1945

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** The papers are in English and Portuguese.

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of the business files and correspondence of Percival Farquhar. They document his role in the economic development of Brazil, in particular the Itabira Iron Ore Company. Correspondents include mining engineer Alexander Malozemoff, businessmen J. F. Trippet and Alexander MacKenzie, and aide J. Armstrong Read. Also included in the papers are the research materials used by Charles Gauld, Farquhar’s biographer, in the writing of *The Last Titan: Percival Farquhar, American Entrepreneur in Latin America.*

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**Requesting Instructions**
To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at [http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0205](http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0205).

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation
Percival Farquhar Papers (MS 205). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Percival Farquhar was born in York, Pennsylvania on October 19, 1864. He graduated from Sheffield Scientific School in 1884 and joined his father’s New York based export company, which shipped machinery to Latin America. In 1885, Farquhar studied law briefly at Columbia Law School. After serving as an assemblyman in the New York state legislature from 1890 to 1892, he joined a friend’s company developing electric railroads and real estate in New Jersey. In 1898, Farquhar began a long career of financial operations in Latin America to modernize tramways. From 1907 to 1914, he directed his attention and resources to the improvement of the ports and railroads of Brazil, in particular, the Madeira-Mamoré Railway and the Port of Para. He also established the Brazil Railway Company. From 1919 to 1941, Farquhar managed the Itabira project, designed to revive the Itabira Iron Ore Company and to build a railway to a new port near Vitória. Thwarted by nationalistic opposition and financial losses, the Itabira project did not succeed in his lifetime. Farquhar died in New York City on August 4, 1953.

Scope and Contents
The papers consist of the business files and correspondence of Percival Farquhar. They document his role in the economic development of Brazil, in particular the Itabira Iron Ore Company. Correspondents include mining engineer Alexander Malozemoff, businessmen J. F. Trippet and Alexander MacKenzie, and aide J. Armstrong Read. Also included in the papers are the research materials used by Charles Gauld, Farquhar’s biographer, in the writing of The Last Titan: Percival Farquhar, American Entrepreneur in Latin America.

Arrangement
Arranged by topic.
Collection Contents

The papers consist primarily of business records from various companies with which Percival Farquhar was involved. The files attest to Farquhar’s entrepreneurial ambitions in Brazil and those for the Itabira Iron Ore Company/Itabira Railway are particularly voluminous. The business papers are arranged alphabetically by company name and may contain correspondence; memoranda; reports; surveys; legal and financial documents; and related items. Farquhar’s original arrangement of papers has been maintained. Correspondence with family members, listed alphabetically, is both personal and professional in nature, as Farquhar’s family participated in his business ventures. There is also a small amount of memorabilia and photographs. Papers relating to Charles Gauld contain interviews, correspondence, research notes, and drafts compiled for the biography of Farquhar. Unpublished biographical material by Vivaldo Coaracy is also included in the papers.

Farquhar, Percival

b. 1, f. 1  Autobiography ["Notas Autobiográficas"]  1936

Business papers

b. 1, f. 2-5  General [primarily negotiations with lenders to raise capital]  1928–1943
b. 1, f. 6-14  Brazil Railway Company  1901–1946, 1956
b. 2, f. 15-22  Brazil Railway Company  1932–1943
b. 2, f. 23  Brazilian Iron Ore Company  1940
b. 2, f. 24-28  International Products Corporation  1931–1942

Itabira Iron Ore Company/Itabira Railway

b. 3, f. 29-41  1919–1930 April  1919–1930 April
b. 4, f. 42-57  1930 May–1940 April  1930 May–1940 April
b. 5, f. 58-71  1940 May–1944 September  1940 May–1944 September

b. 6, f. 72-85  1919–1945  1919–1945
b. 7, f. 86-97  1920–1942  1920–1942
b. 8, f. 98-111  1920–1943  1920–1943
b. 11, f. 137-150  1922–1947  1922–1947
### Inventory

**Percival Farquhar papers**

**MS 205**

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<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>b. 15, f. 206</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>b. 15, f. 207</td>
<td>Madeira-Mamoré Railway</td>
<td>1937–1951</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 15, f. 208-211</td>
<td>Port of Para</td>
<td>1906–1943</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 16, f. 213-215</td>
<td>General, 1893</td>
<td>1929–1953</td>
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<td>b. 16, f. 216</td>
<td>Coaracy, Vivaldo</td>
<td>1943, undated</td>
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<td>b. 16, f. 217</td>
<td>Farquhar, Cathya [wife]</td>
<td>1942–1943</td>
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<td>b. 16, f. 218-221</td>
<td>Farquhar, Donald [son]</td>
<td>1939–1953</td>
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<td>b. 16, f. 222</td>
<td>Farquhar, Francis [brother]</td>
<td>1932–1944, 1951, undated</td>
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<td>b. 16, f. 223-236</td>
<td>Farquhar, George [son]</td>
<td>1930–1939</td>
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<td>b. 17, f. 242</td>
<td>Farquhar, Gordon [son]</td>
<td>1942–1948</td>
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<td>b. 17, f. 243-244</td>
<td>Gomes, Olivo</td>
<td>1942–1951</td>
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<td>b. 17, f. 245</td>
<td>Memorabilia</td>
<td>1920, 1929, 1940–1945</td>
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<td>b. 18, f. 248-267</td>
<td>Gauld, Charles [correspondence, writings, and research materials, pertaining to the biography of Percival Farquhar]</td>
<td>1915–1967</td>
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<td>b. 19</td>
<td>Oversize</td>
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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.

Subjects
Americans -- Brazil
Railroads -- Brazil

Geographic Names
Brazil
Latin America
South America

Genres / Formats
Biographies (documents)

Occupations
Capitalists and financiers

Names
Farquhar, Percival, 1864-1953
Gauld, Charles Anderson, 1911-
Mackenzie, Alexander
Malozemoff, Andrew, 1910-1952
Read, J. Armstrong
Russell, T. O.
Trippet, J. F.

Corporate Bodies
Brazil Railway Company
Ferrovia Madeira-Mamoré
Itabira Iron Ore Company
Rio de Janeiro Tramway Light and Power Company