

William Inglis Morse Lantern Slide Collection

VRC 172



Compiled by Sarah Coe

2009

Arts Library Special Collections
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New Haven, CT 06511
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<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale University Arts Library
Arts Library Special Collections
180 York Street
New Haven, CT 06511
haasalsc@yale.edu
<https://web.library.yale.edu/arts/alsc>

CALL NUMBER: VRC 172

CREATOR: Morse, William Inglis, 1874-1952

TITLE: William Inglis Morse Lantern Slide Collection

DATES: ca. 1925-1927

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.33 linear feet (25 boxes)

SUMMARY: Collection consists of lantern slides of travels in 1926 and 1927 (and possibly other years), as well as didactic material possibly used for lecturing. The travels appear to be those of the William Inglis Morse family (as marked on some of the slides), of Lynn, MA. His daughter, Susan Morse Hilles, went on to be an art collector and donor to the Yale Art Gallery. Her papers were donated to the Harvard University Library, and include travel journals that may be related to these slides. William Inglis Morse was an Episcopal priest, and author of many books, several of them accounts of his travels. These slides may in part have been used for edifying lectures related to those travel accounts. The images are both purchased views of standard sights (the pyramids of Egypt, the Alhambra, etc.), and candid photos taken of family, friends, employees, and local color. Many of these are interesting as a record of a time, place, and the culture of the Grand Tour. Unfortunately, not all of the views are identified. Some, such as those of gothic cathedrals (including some of World War I damage), may be recognizable to an expert on the subject. The garden and landscape scenes will probably remain obscure.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/vrc.0172>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/vrc.0172>.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright has not been transferred to Yale University. Further use of this material may be subject to the copyright laws of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) or to site license or other rights management terms or conditions.

Preferred Citation

William Inglis Morse Lantern Slide Collection, Arts Library, Yale University

Scope and Contents

Collection consists of lantern slides of travels in 1926 and 1927 (and possibly other years), as well as didactic material possibly used for lecturing. The travels appear to be those of the William Inglis Morse family (as marked on some of the slides), of Lynn, MA. His daughter, Susan Morse Hilles, went on to be an art collector and donor to the Yale Art Gallery. Her papers were donated to the Harvard University Library, and include travel journals that may be related to these slides. William Inglis Morse was an Episcopal priest, and author of many books, several of them accounts of his travels. These slides may in part have been used for edifying lectures related to those travel accounts. The images are both purchased views of standard sights (the pyramids of Egypt, the Alhambra, etc.), and candid photos taken of family, friends, employees, and local color. Many of these are interesting as a record of a time, place, and the culture of the Grand Tour. Unfortunately, not all of the views are identified. Some, such as those of gothic cathedrals (including some of World War I damage), may be recognizable to an expert on the subject. The garden and landscape scenes will probably remain obscure.

Arrangement

Slides are arranged by place, although many are unidentified. Educated guesses have been made as to where various scenes were taken, but no guarantee is made that they are all correctly categorized. The unidentified slides are separated into Unidentified Scenery, General Travel, Paintings & Sculpture, and People.

Collection Contents

British Isles

Slides of England, Scotland, and Wales, many unidentified. Some are standard sights, and some appear to be of Great Houses where the family stayed as guests. (286 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 1-4

France

(80 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 5-6

Italy

The photos of Italy contain many of Pompeii. (155 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 6-7

Germany, Austria, and various Alpen locations
(155 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 8-10

Netherlands and Belgium

(78 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 10

Scandinavia

This includes Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and some Lapp culture. (155 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 11-12

Spain and Portugal

(115 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 13-14

Czechoslovakia and Greece

(71 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 15

Arabic countries

This includes Egypt, Morocco, Palestine, and Algiers. (145 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 16-17

Iceland and the North Cape, Norway

The land of the midnight sun, etc. (50 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 18

Unidentified Scenery

Buildings, landscapes, and gardens, all unidentified. Some may be recognizable. (246 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 19-21

General Travel; Painting & Sculpture

General Travel includes shots of trains, boats, port scenes, ship schedules, route maps, cartoons about seasickness, and other transportation photos not otherwise identified by country. Painting & Sculpture includes reproductions of artworks in black & white, one assumes for inclusion in lectures. (61 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 22

Miscellaneous Illustrations

This includes portraits of authors, heraldry, cartoons, diagrams, illustrations from Evangeline, etc. These would appear to have been used for the edification of lecture attendees. (67 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 23

People and Cultures

Fascinating images of the (one assumes) the Morse family, the drivers they hired posing in front of automobiles, local children squirming for the camera, Egyptian guides, and many others. There are many slides of people and cultures included in the other boxes, but they are all identified by location. (89 lantern slides, hand-colored and black & white)

b. 24

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

Travel photography

Genres / Formats

Lantern slides
Reproductions
Slides

Contributors

Morse, William Inglis, 1874-1952
Hilles, Susan Morse, 1905-2002