

Guide to the John Frederick Sutton Collection of Glass Slides and Motion Picture Films

YCAL MSS 1522



by Brooke McManus

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1522

CREATOR: Sutton, John Frederick (Yale 1955) , collector

TITLE: John Frederick Sutton collection of glass slides and motion picture films

DATES: circa 1910s-1978

BULK DATES: 1910-1929

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 14.09 linear feet (18 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: The collection contains glass plate and photographic negatives of scenes from World War I in France by Reverend George Fountain, including images of Sergeant Alvin York and General John J. Pershing, lantern slides of scenes from silent films by an unknown photographer, and motion picture films related to the Bible and physician Edward Livingston Trudeau and the Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis. Also included is a stereopticon used to project images from the lantern slides, which feature actors such as Marion Davies and Douglas Fairbanks, onto a movie screen.

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

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.suttonjf>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John Frederick Sutton (Yale 1955), 2002, 2012.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 15 (audiovisual material): Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Boxes 16-18: Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The John Frederick Sutton Collection of Glass Plate Slides is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

John Frederick Sutton Collection of Glass Plate Slides. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection or revisions in arrangement and description.

John Frederick Sutton

John Frederick Sutton graduated Yale University in 1955.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains glass plate and photographic negatives of scenes from World War I in France by Reverend George Fountain, including images of Sergeant Alvin York and General John J. Pershing, lantern slides of scenes from silent films by an unknown photographer, and motion picture films related to the Bible and physician Edward Livingston Trudeau and the Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis. Also included is a stereopticon used to project images from the lantern slides, which feature actors such as Marion Davies and Douglas Fairbanks, onto a movie screen.

Arrangement

Organized into three series. I. George Fountain Glass Plate and Photographic Negatives of World War I, 1919, 1978. II. Lantern Slides Related to Silent Film and Stereopticon, circa 1910s-1920s. III. Motion Picture Films, circa 1910s-1920s.

Collection Contents

Series I: George Fountain Glass Plate and Photographic Negatives of World War I, 1919, 1978

7.59 linear feet (11 boxes)

Rev. George Fountain was a pastor who most likely traveled to France with the Young Men's Christian Association to minister and provide medical aid to soldiers during World War I. During his service, he photographed various battle sites and towns, monuments, soldiers, and military aircraft, vehicles, and arms.

This series contains George Fountain's glass plate negatives and photographic negatives depicting scenes from World War I, including battle sites in France; American, French, and German soldiers and aviators; aircraft, vehicles, and armaments; buildings, bridges, and monuments; and the aftermath of bombing raids on cities and towns. Among the images are Sargeant Alvin York standing on the hill where he faced a German machine gun battalion and General John J. Pershing at a French aviation camp. Also included are original negative sleeves with Fountain's handwritten captions, a wooden crate belonging to Fountain, and a 20th century newsclipping about glass negatives.

Glass negatives maintain order found at time of acquisition. The remaining materials are not arranged in any particular order.

b. 1	Glass negatives Images include French aviators and military equipment. Several slides are missing pieces and should be handled with care.	1919
b. 2	Glass negatives Images include the sites of several battles in France, among them the towns of Cambrai and Château-Thierry; downed German aviators; and a German prison camp in Giessen.	1919
b. 3	Glass negatives Images include a German hand grenade dump; an unidentified balloon camouflaged by trees; a French aviator downing a German observer near Saint-Mihiel; German trenches in the Hindenburg Line on the Western Front; and the castle at Fère-en-Tardenois, site of the Second Battle of the Marne.	1919
b. 4	Glass negatives Images include the St. Andrew quarter and cathedral of Reims after the Germans bombed the town in 1914; German prisoners captured during the Battle of Château-Thierry; and an American observer in a plane.	1919
b. 5	Glass negatives Images include steamships; Château-Thierry; General John J. Pershing and his staff reviewing a French aviation camp near Paris; and the cathedral in Reims.	1919
b. 6	Glass negatives Images include a gas mask drill; Alvin York at the site where he infiltrated German lines and faced a machine gun battalion; an observation tower near St. Mihiel; the railroad in Château-Thierry after the Germans bombed the lines; American units at Toul; trench mortars and guns; a German plane shot down by the 88 squadron at the Soissons front; and the Saumur artillery school in France.	1919

b. 7	Glass negatives and slides Includes a number of unidentified aerial views; dead soldiers; and military vehicles and planes.	1919
b. 8	Glass negatives Includes unidentified aerial views and an image of American troops known as the Limey Sector.	1919
b. 9	Glass negatives	1919
b. 10, f. 1-6	Empty glass negative sleeves	1919
	Nitrate photographic negatives	1919
b. 10, f. 7	Empty photographic negative sleeves	1919
b. 10, f. 8	Photographic postcard of World War I scene by George Fountain	undated
b. 10, f. 9	"Teacher Collects Glass Negatives for History Books," <i>New York Times</i> clipping	1978
b. 11	Wooden crate belonging to George Fountain	undated

Series II: Lantern Slides Related to Silent Film and Stereopticon, circa 1910s-1920s

3.08 linear feet (3 boxes)

This series contains hand colored lantern slides used by movie theaters to promote coming attractions and film stars, such as Marion Davies, Douglas Fairbanks, Norma Talmadge, and Will Rogers. Also included is The Great National No. 1 Stereopticon, a slide projector manufactured by the National Pictures Service of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Slides maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 12	Lantern slides	circa 1910s-1920s
b. 13	Lantern slides	circa 1910s-1920s
b. 14	The Great National Stereopticon No. 1 [slide projector]	circa 1910s-1920s

Series III: Motion Picture Films, circa 1910s-1920s*1 linear foot (1 box)*

This series contains twelve 35mm filmstrips of "Bible in Pictures," a film series created by the National Picture Company of Cincinnati, and one 35mm filmstrip related to Edward Livingston Trudeau and the Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis. The film canisters were formerly stored in a compartment of the stereopticon in Series II. Other materials include an unidentified fragment of a negative that may relate to silent film and a typed dinner invitation, also found in the stereopticon compartment.

Not arranged in any particular order.

b. 15	"Bible in Pictures" Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 15	Film related to Edward Livingston Trudeau Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	circa 1910s
	Unidentified nitrate negative fragment	circa 1910s-1920s
b. 10, f. 10	Invitation to "Mexican Supper"	undated

Restricted Material

2.42 linear feet (3 boxes)

Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 16-18

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.

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials -- United States -- 20th
Century
Filmstrips
Glass plate negatives
Lantern slides
Motion pictures (visual works)
Projectors
Slides (photographs)
Stereopticons

Subjects

Bible films
Lantern slides
Motion pictures -- United States
Projectors
Silent films -- United States
World War, 1914-1918 -- France
World War, 1914-1918 -- France -- Pictorial
works
World War, 1914-1918 -- Pictorial works

Names

Davies, Marion, 1897-1961
Fairbanks, Douglas, 1883-1939
Fountain, George
Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948
Trudeau, Edward Livingston, 1848-1915
York, Alvin Cullum, 1887-1964

Corporate Body

Saranac Laboratory

Contributors

Sutton, John Frederick (Yale 1955) , collector
Fountain, George