



# Rockefeller (Laurance S.) photographs, Slide Books, RG 3

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on April 10, 2020.  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue  
Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	6
Administrative Information .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	7
Slide Notebooks .....	7

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rockefeller Archive Center
<b>Creator - aut:</b>	Rockefeller, Laurance Spelman
<b>Title:</b>	Laurance S. Rockefeller photographs, Slide Books, RG 3
<b>ID:</b>	FA1128B
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1945-1988
<b>Physical Description:</b>	12.2 Cubic Feet 45 slide books.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Information regarding the Rockefeller Archive Center's preferred elements and forms of citation can be found at <http://www.rockarch.org/research/citations.php>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

Laurance Spelman Rockefeller was born on May 26, 1910, in New York City, the fourth of the six children of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. He attended Lincoln School, a progressive coeducational preparatory school connected with Teachers College of Columbia University in New York City, before entering Princeton in 1928. A philosophy major, he graduated from Princeton in 1932 with a B.A. degree in philosophy and went on to two years of graduate study at Harvard Law School.

On August 15, 1934, Laurance Rockefeller married Mary French in the Congregational Church in Woodstock, Vermont. Together they raised three daughters and a son.

During World War II, Laurance Rockefeller served in the Navy (1942-1945), attaining the rank of lieutenant commander.

Laurance Rockefeller pursued a number of successful careers during his lifetime. He was a pioneer in the field of venture capital. He was a leading and influential figure for three decades in the American conservation movement. He led the development of one of the world's foremost cancer care and research facilities, and was both a benefactor and advisor to major educational institutions. And, with great foresight, he combined his personal vision for conservation, recreation, and the spiritual needs of individuals to develop internationally acclaimed environmentally oriented resorts. His many accomplishments have been recognized both nationally and internationally.

In 1935, he began working in the family office in Rockefeller Center. His first duties were to develop his knowledge and understanding of Rockefeller philanthropic activities, conservation projects, and business interests, through both study and playing a modest role in their operation. Simultaneously, he developed his own special interest, blending business acumen with the talents of a "gadgeteer," a label he once pinned on himself.

He became well known as an investor of risk capital in young enterprises whose future was based primarily on scientific and technological developments. Over the years his investment interests included the fields of aviation, aerospace, electronics, high temperature physics, composite materials, optics, lasers, data processing, thermionics, instrumentation, and nuclear power. Beginning in August 1969, his venture capital investments in these areas were made through a venture capital group, Venrock, formed by members of the Rockefeller family.

In a different area of venture capital, he developed outstanding environmentally oriented resort hotels in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Hawaii, and Vermont, serving as chairman of Rockresorts, Inc., a resort management company which he founded and chaired.

Conservation of the environment and recreational development constituted much of Laurance Rockefeller's philanthropy and public service. His introduction to public service came in 1939 when Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York appointed him to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC). He was president of the PIPC from 1970 to 1977 and continued as a commissioner until his resignation in December 1978. He was an advisor to Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford on matters of environmental conservation and outdoor recreation, and he worked on federal commissions set up to help develop national conservation and environmental policies and programs. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed him chairman of the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC), which charted ways of meeting the nation's outdoor recreation needs through the year 2000. He was a special emissary for President Lyndon Johnson in the effort that led to creation of the National Redwoods Park in California, and he served as chairman of President Nixon's Citizens' Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, successor to a similar group which he headed under President Johnson. He played a pivotal role in the creation and development of several national parks including Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, Virgin Islands National Park on the island of St. John, and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Vermont.

He served as a leader of several important nonprofit and philanthropic organizations. He was president and later chairman of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (1958-1980) and was a trustee of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (1960-1982). His first association with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City was in 1947; he also served as chairman (1960-1982), overseeing an expansion and modernization of its operations. He was a longtime trustee of the New York Zoological Society (1935-1986) and served as its president (1969-1971) and chairman (1971-1985).

Laurance Rockefeller received many honors for his efforts on behalf of the environment and cancer research and treatment. Among them are the Alfred P. Sloan, Jr. Memorial Award from the American Cancer Society (1969), the Medal of Freedom (1969), Commander (Honorary) of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (1971), the Woodrow Wilson Award from Princeton University (1991), the Congressional Gold Medal (1991), the Chairman's Award from the National Geographic Society (1995), the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Medal of Honor (1995), and the Lady Bird Johnson Conservation Award for Lifetime Achievement (1997). In 2003, he became the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the British Virgin Islands in recognition of his many contributions to the area. In December 1959 he received the National Institute of Social Sciences' Gold Medal for distinguished services to humanity, an award previously bestowed upon his grandfather and father. This was the first time in the Institute's history that three generations of a family had been so honored. The citation to Laurance Rockefeller proclaimed him as a "creative organizer of ventures into new fields of human endeavor for the growing aspirations of mankind; [and a] leader in the conservation of natural resources and in the development of the medical and social sciences for the welfare of the individual." In 1967, the National Institute awarded Gold Medals to all five Rockefeller brothers in recognition of their individual and collective services to humanity.

Laurance Rockefeller died on July 11, 2004, at his home in Manhattan.

Prepared by Rockefeller Family and Associates, June 1982, and 2004.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

FA1128B, LSR's Slide Notebooks, contains slides from the late 1940s to the early 1980s, taken mainly by LSR. The slides consist primarily of travel photos, from Mary and Laurance's trips to the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and the U. S., in the 1950s; as well as various images of family travel, activities, and homes (including Woodstock, VT; Pocantico; and, especially, Wyoming).

The slides are arranged on slide pages and housed in slip-cased binders. Description is minimal, but within some of the binders, slides are grouped into labeled subsets. While some of the groupings are full, others are quite small. FA1128B is most likely only a partial collection of LSR's slide images.

LSR often printed out photos from his slides, and many of the photographs that make up FA1128C (LSR Photographs, Snapshot Files) were printed from slides now found in FA1128B. In other cases, prints went into albums. Book O 42 contains Album Slides, which are linked to specific photo albums. In addition to slides, FA1128B also includes two binders of Album Negatives and one of Album Disk Negatives, which similarly link to specific photo albums. Finally, some slides in FA1128B were labeled "Rejects" – LSR retained these images, even if he judged them not worth printing.

LSR also kept slides in various slide boxes, trays, and cabinets. These images have been interfiled by subject with other photo formats in FA1128. (See, for example, especially under Trips, Resorts, LSR Family.)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

The 45 slide books that make up FA1128B are arranged in a numerical and alphabetical order, corresponding to the general content label assigned each book: Caribbean, Miscellaneous, Travel, and Wyoming, except for books O 42 – O45, which are labeled according to format or their relation to other parts of the collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rockefeller Archive Center

15 Dayton Avenue

Sleepy Hollow 10591

[archive@rockarch.org](mailto:archive@rockarch.org)

URL: <http://www.rockarch.org>

### Conditions Governing Access

Open for research with select materials restricted as noted. Brittle or damaged items are available at the discretion of RAC.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Controlled Access Headings

- Photographs

## Collection Inventory

### Slide Notebooks, 1945-1988

Title/Description	Instances
Caribbean, 1950s	box O 1
Caribbean, 1950s	box O 2
Caribbean, 1950s	box O 3
Caribbean, 1952	box O 4
Caribbean, 1953	box O 5
Caribbean, 1954	box O 6
Caribbean, 1954-1955	box O 7
Caribbean, 1955 May-June	box O 8
Caribbean, 1955-1956	box O 9
Caribbean, 1956-1958	box O 10
Caribbean, 1957 February-May-November	box O 11
Caribbean, 1958-1961-1963	box O 12
Caribbean, 1964-1965	box O 13
Caribbean, 1978-1980	box O 14
Miscellaneous, 1950s	box O 15
Miscellaneous, 1950s	box O 16

### Scope and Contents

16 A-K: San Juan; unidentified Caribbean; Wyoming; LSR family, including MFR and children. 16 L: Caribbean (Dorado); 16 M-N: Woodstock Mansion views (and renovations), 1955-1956, including Billings Farm, MFR and LSR. 16 O-P: unidentified maps (possibly Pocantico). 16 R: unidentified waterfront scenes, MFR and children at

resort pool, NAR. 16 S: LSR family at Pike's Peak; MFR in Caribbean; 16 T: Caneel Bay; Ocean Liner.

Miscellaneous, 1954-1956	box O 17
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Includes "Rejects" (17 C-F: Caneel, 1956 December; 17 G-L: Europe, 1956 June).	
Miscellaneous, 1957-1960	box O 18
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Pocantico 1957; Woodstock, 1957 (card 18 B); miscellaneous hunting, 1957; West, 1957, rejects; Laura graduation, circa 1958; Puerto Rico construction, 1960 April.	
Miscellaneous, 1958-1959	box O 19
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Mainly boating, Virgin Islands and Caneel Bay.	
Miscellaneous, 1958-1959	box O 20
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Boating, Caneel Bay; mainly Wyoming views, including some group photos; Dorado golfing, with Robert Trent Jones.	
Miscellaneous, 1962-1982	box O 21
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
Japanese house and Pocantico sculpture, 1972; Woodstock, 1974 August (family group photos; cattle show); foliage, 1975 October; Mauna Kea 1979; NYC; Caneel, JY Ranch, Pocantico, 1980 August; Carefree, AZ, 1982 April.	
Travel - Africa, 1953	box O 22
Travel - Africa and Europe, 1953	box O 23
Travel - Europe, 1950s	box O 24
Travel - Europe, 1956	box O 25
Travel - Europe, 1958 July	box O 26
Travel - Europe, 1958 July	box O 27
Travel - Europe, 1958 July	box O 28
Travel - Norway, 1974	box O 29
Travel - United States, 1953-1954	box O 30



Travel - United States, 1955-1959	box O 31
Travel - United States, 1957	box O 32
Travel - United States, Mexico, 1959	box O 33
Travel - United States, Alaska, 1960	box O 34
Travel - United States, Hawaii, 1960	box O 35
Wyoming, 1946-1949	box O 36
Wyoming, 1950	box O 37
Wyoming, 1951-1953	box O 38
Wyoming, 1945-1955	box O 39
Wyoming, 1958-1959-1961-1963-1975	box O 40
Wyoming, 1979	box O 41
Album Slides, 1962-1977-1980	box O 42

### Scope and Contents

Selected slides, arranged by album accession number. Slides from Albums 17, 19, 21, 23, 77, 80-82.

Album Negatives, circa 1975 - 1985	box O 43
------------------------------------	----------

**Scope and Contents**

Negative strips and contact sheets, arranged by album accession number. Images from Albums 8, 9, 21, 23-26, 31, 52, 59, 61-62, 73, 77, 80-83, 96, 103, 106-107, 115, 135, 208, 225.

Album Negatives, 1988	box O 44
-----------------------	----------

**Scope and Contents**

Four pages of negative strips from Album number 237 (Hawaii).

Album Disc Negatives, 1982-1985	box O 45
---------------------------------	----------

**Scope and Contents**

Disc negatives from Albums 32, 90, 143, 151, 208, 223, 225.