



ArchivesSpace

Miller, Hugh Photograph Collection

A guide to the Hugh Miller Photograph Collection

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 01, 2021.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

peoples.archive@dc.gov

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Content Description	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	6
Accidents & Disasters	6
Biography	6
General DC	6
Prohibition	7
Sports & Recreation	7
Transportation	7

Summary Information

Repository:	People's Archive, MLK Library
Title:	Hugh Miller Photograph Collection
ID:	P022
Date [inclusive]:	1880-1938
Physical Description:	1 Linear feet
Physical Description:	3 Boxes
Language of the Material:	English

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Hugh Miller was born in New York City about 1898 and started to work with cameras while he was still a teenager. During World War I he went overseas with an ambulance group that served with the French Army. At the end of the war the Paris Tribune gave him his first photo assignment, covering the allied peace march along the Champs Elysees. After returning to America, Miller took a job working for the news photograph service Underwood and Underwood in Washington DC. He joined the staff of the Washington Post in 1921. In 1929 he moved from the District and became a turf photographer for the New York Morning Telegraph. During Miller's time with the Telegraph he became one of the foremost turf photographers in the country, even helping uncover a scam during a fall race at Havre de Grace. When Eugene Meyer took over as the new publisher of the Washington Post in 1934, Miller once again returned to Washington. While he occasionally went out to shoot major stories, Miller spent most of his time serving as picture editor. In the late 1940s he oversaw the development and design of the Post's photographic laboratory in the new building on L Street, NW. When completed it was considered the most up-to-date facility in the country and Miller delighted in giving guided tours. Throughout his career, Miller covered some of the most important events in Washington DC history. He worked every presidential inauguration from Warren Harding in 1921 to Lyndon Johnson in 1965, missing only Franklin Roosevelt's first in 1933. In 1922 when the roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre collapsed killing ninety-eight people, he was the only photographer to snap pictures from inside the theatre. He accomplished this by pretending to be a welder. Among the other events he covered were the Peoples Drug warehouse fire, a deadly tornado in La Plata, Maryland that killed fifteen children, the explosion at the National Bureau of Standards, The Washington Senators 1924 victory parade, and Babe Ruth's last game at Griffith Stadium. Miller was a founder and life member of the White House News Photographers

Association. Miller retired from the Washington Post in 1967 and moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. He died on November 10, 1979 of a circulatory ailment.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Content Description

The collection consists of 450 images generally taken around the mid-1920s. There are 410 glass plate negatives and 40 prints. In the 1990s, Jerry McCoy, a Washingtoniana librarian and amateur photographer, made prints from the original glass plate negatives. Eight of the negatives have no print and there is one print that has no negative. Writing on the rear of the prints is that of Washingtoniana volunteer Robert A. Trouex, and text was directly taken from the original sleeves. Mr. Miller is believed to have assigned numbers to the images prior to their arrival to DCPL.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Series I: Accidents and Disasters Series II: Biography Series III: General DC Series IV: Prohibition
Series V: Sports and Recreation Series VI: Transportation

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW
Washington, DC
peoples.archive@dc.gov

Revision Description

Entered revised finding aid data and item list 2021

Provenance

There is no deed of gift and it is uncertain as to how the library acquired these photographs.

Processing Procedure

Originally the collection's prints were assembled in four three-ring binders that were put together by Washingtoniana Volunteer Robert A. Trouex. The images were removed from their housing and placed in individual polypropylene sleeves. Mr. Miller originally assigned numbers and their order has been maintained. The images were then placed in an acid-free folder and stored in an archival storage box for long-term storage. The glass plate negatives were assigned a number that directly corresponded to the print. The plates were removed from their original housing and placed in individual archival paper sleeves. The collection name and all intellectual information were transferred to the sleeves. Information on the negative sleeve also appears on the rear of the corresponding print. The negatives were then placed in an archival box and placed in the negative cabinet for long-term storage.

Conditions Governing Use

There are no known restrictions on the use of the images.

Conditions Governing Access

Patrons will not be given access to the glass negatives due to their fragile nature.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

Washington Star Photograph Collection

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Architecture
- Photographs

- Presidents
- Sports
- Transportation
- Buildings
- Streets
- Prohibition
- Miller, Hugh

Collection Inventory

Accidents & Disasters, 1920-1929

Accidents & Disasters

Contains images of various tragedies, natural and man-made, that have occurred in the Washington DC metro area. Among the most notable are the Knickerbocker Theatre collapse (1922), La Plata tornado (1926), Bureau of Standards explosion (1923), and the Peoples Drug Warehouse fire (1923).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biography, 1870-1945

Biography

Contains images that document individuals, including life events, of notable persons. The most prominent and numerous are those images of US Presidents, which include Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Warren Harding, and letters written by George Washington. Other notable individuals include Charles Lindberg, General John Pershing, Ed Wynn, Walter Johnson, Harry Houdini, John Philip Sousa, and First Ladies: Edith Wilson, Grace Coolidge, Lou Hoover, and Florence Harding. Additional Biography images of athletes, especially baseball players, can be found in Series V: Sports & Recreation.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

General DC, 1865-1950

General DC

Contains a wide array of images associated with Washington DC and the metro area. These include District buildings, street scenes, parades, statue and fountain dedications/ceremonies, demonstrators, and Washington waterfront.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Prohibition, 1920-1925

Prohibition

Contains images of several liquor raids and seizures performed by Treasury Agents and US Marshals during the prohibition era.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Sports & Recreation , 1920-1935

Sports & Recreation

Contains images of a variety of sporting events and recreational activities. The most numerous are those images associated with baseball. Prominent players include Walter Johnson, Bucky Harris, Muddy Ruel, Joe Cronin, Tris Speaker, Honus Wagner and Babe Ruth. Other sporting events include horse racing, auto racing, hunting, tennis, and boating. Recreational activities and groups include the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, swimming, and fishing.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Transportation, 1880-1928

Transportation

Contains images related to a variety of transportation methods including automobiles, trolleys, airplanes, blimps, locomotives, and boats. Of interest are the images associated with the installation of the "Spirit of St. Louis" at the Smithsonian Institution.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)