

Panama-California Exposition Digital Archive



Fanciful Interpretation of Panama-California-Exposition by A.J. Roberts. San Diego History Center

Members of The Balboa Park Alliance

The Committee of One Hundred

Friends of Balboa Park

The Balboa Park Trust at The San Diego Foundation

Panama-California Exposition Digital Archive

Proposal: To create a permanent, on-line Digital Archive of documents, images, audio, and video related to San Diego's 1915-1916 Panama-California Exposition.

The Digital Archive will make original material readily accessible on-line to researchers and to the general public. It will include digital surrogates of documents which may be fragile or damaged and those which are difficult to access or unknown even to scholars. The website will be searchable, expandable, and encourage the submission of additional material by individuals and institutions. One-of-a-kind items, which might otherwise be lost altogether, will be preserved in digital format for posterity. The Digital Archive will become an important legacy of the 2015 Centennial celebration and continue to grow long after 2015, adding material from institutions as well as from individual collections, family photos, and scrapbooks.

Collaboration: The City of San Diego, San Diego Public Library, San Diego History Center, San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego Museum of Art Library, The Committee of One Hundred, and Special Collections libraries at UCSD and SDSU and other institutions have agreed in principle to contribute material to the Digital Archive.

Design: The Digital Archive will retain no physical objects. Most items would be scanned or photographed on-site at the owner's location and under the owner's supervision. Institutions providing access to scanned or photographed items would receive copies of the highest quality digital documents and images created. The website will include a link to the institution providing each item, along with the institution's name, collection information, identifying file numbers and other details.

Sustainability: The Committee of One Hundred is committed to expanding and maintaining the website and database for the Panama-California Exposition Digital Archive.

Management and Staffing: The project will be supervised by The Committee of One Hundred. A fulltime project archivist will work with institutional archivists and librarians, develop finding aids, and supervise writing of narrative descriptions of historic material. The project archivist will

interact with the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) consultant to assure that on-line searches and displays meet the requirements of traditional libraries and fulfill the needs of researchers and the general public. Graduate student interns will identify and access material on-site in libraries and museums. They will complete data forms, write narrative descriptions and enter that information into the database for inclusion in electronic finding aids, which will be part of the website. They will assist librarians and archivists in the institutions with pulling and filing material and with scanning and photography.

Website: The Digital Archive website will go on-line early in 2014. It will contribute to public understanding of the 1915 Exposition, generate public interest and enhance marketing of the 2015 Centennial Celebration.

Primary and Secondary Source Documents:

Primary sources for researchers might include material such as architectural drawings, maps, artifacts, photographs, correspondence, telegrams, diaries, reports, minutes, business and financial records, creative works of art, audio and video recordings. Contemporaneous secondary sources would include articles from newspapers, periodicals, and scholarly journals. Material included in the Digital Archive should date from the time of the planning of the Panama-California Exposition through the completion of the 1915-1916 Exposition and approximately through the end of 1918, when the Exposition was assessed in retrospect in reports, books and periodicals. Secondary sources originating after 1918, such as theses and dissertations, books, and articles about the Exposition will not be included in the initial phase of the Digital Archive project.

The following pages provide examples of primary and contemporaneous secondary source material to be included in the Digital Archive. There is certainly much more that will be identified as the project progresses. There are an estimated 5,000 and 20,000 primary and secondary source documents appropriate for inclusion in the 2015 Digital Archive. The project will concentrate on material which is difficult to access, considered to be at risk, or for which there are no finding aids.

Official documents of and about the Panama-California Exposition:

Articles of Incorporation for the Panama-California Exposition Company (1909)
Articles of Incorporation for the Panama- California International Exposition (1915)
Minutes of the Panama-California Exposition Executive Committee (1909-1919)
Minutes of the Women's Board of the Panama-California Exposition (1914)
Minutes for the San Diego Museum Association (1915-1916)
Minutes of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce (1909-1915)
Minutes of the San Diego City Council (1909-1915)
Architectural drawings for construction of Panama-California Exposition buildings
Maps of the Panama-California Exposition layout, exhibits, plantings, grounds
State of California and United States congressional documents
Case histories and reports of the Travelers Aid Society of San Diego (1915-1916)

Items displayed and exhibits at the Panama-California Exposition:

Paintings exhibited in the Fine Arts Building by modern artists of the "Ash Can School"
Exhibits on display by commercial exhibitors, counties, states
Items displayed in the California State Building [at Museum of Man]:
Discovery and Conquest of America, a frieze in four panels by Sally James Farnham
Scenes from Maya Life, a frieze in several low-relief panels by Jean Beman (Cook) Smith.
Physical anthropology collections, including mummified remains, trephined skulls from Peru
Several large impressionistic paintings by Gerald Cassidy; Model of the Palace at Uxmal
Maya cities paintings by Carlos Vierra (Copan, Quirigua, Tikal, Palenque, Chichen Itza, Uxmal)
Mayan casts / molds of monuments from Quirigua, Guatemala
Collection of busts of different races sculpted by Frank Mischa

Publications about the Panama-California Exposition:

Books:
The Architecture and the Gardens of the San Diego Exposition (1916, Goodhue/Stein/Winslow)
The San Diego Garden Fair (1916, Neuhaus)
Exposition Memories and San Diego Writers (1917, James)
Army and Navy Review 1915 Panama-California Edition (1916, Aronson)
California Garden magazine articles relating to the Exposition (1909-1917)
Contemporaneous newspaper and periodical articles:
Richard Amero Collection of newspaper and magazine articles (1909-1917)
G. Aubrey Davidson Collection of newspaper clippings (1910-1917)

Ephemera from private individual collections and institutions

Scrapbooks, personal photographs
Stereoviews and postcards printed or dated between 1911-1917
Guidebooks, brochures, posters, souvenirs, passes, tickets, exhibit catalogs, programs
Commemorative medals, coins, badges, awards, pins

Correspondence and business records:

Contracts with architects, builders, exhibitors, sculptors, vendors

Invoices, ledgers and other business records

Letters, telegrams, diaries about the Exposition:

G. Aubrey Davidson

John D. Spreckels

U. S. Grant, Jr.

Joseph W. Sefton, Jr.

George Burnham

George Marston

Thomas O'Halloran

Moses A. Luce

Julius Wangenheim

William Kettner

John C. Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue

Clarence Stein

Carleton Monroe Winslow

Frank P Allen, Jr.

Irving J Gill

Gertrude Gilbert

Edgar Lee Hewett

Ales Hrdlicka

Jesse Nusbaum

Alice Klauber

Robert Henri

George Wharton James

Other items related to the Panama-California Exposition:

Paintings by Maurice Braun:

California Tower (1915)

Balboa Park from California Tower (1914)

California Hills (winner of Gold medal @ 1916 exposition)

Painting by A.J. Roberts:

Fanciful Interpretation of Panama-California-Exposition, Cabrillo Bridge

Photos, postcards, and material from the 3-day groundbreaking ceremonies (1911)

Photographs of construction, buildings, exhibits, people at the Exposition

Text of speeches, sound & film recordings of officials, visitors, music, parades, and events