Nicaragua and Isthmian Canal Commission Papers, 1889-1904

Collection Summary

Title: Nicaragua and Isthmian Canal Commission Papers, 1889-1904
Call Number: MS 74-02
Size: 0.5 linear feet
Acquisition: Purchased
Processed By: KJC, 3-1-1992; SMC, 1-22-1998; MN, 10-3-2002; MN, 10-2008
Note: None
Restrictions: None

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Restrictions

None

Content Note

These papers include a selection of typed correspondence, memoranda and photographs concerning the Nicaraguan and Isthmian Canal Commissions. Subjects covered include the Nicaraguan route and its subsequent abandonment, the Isthmian route and the negotiations with the surrounding country of Colombia. The papers provide insight into the decision-making process in which the United States government engaged regarding the canal routes from 1824 to 1904. The correspondence is between members of the commissions. Some photographs show early stages of canal construction in 1897 and 1898.

Detailed Description: Series Listing

Series 1 Box 1 FF 1-14 Reports and Memorandum. Copies of typed reports and memorandum investigating the possibility of constructing a
canal in Nicaragua. Includes three reports critical of canal construction in Panama. 1824-1901.

**Series 2**  
Box 1 FF 15-27  
Correspondence of the United States Isthmian Canal Commission, the United States Naval Department, and John G. Walker. Correspondents range from the State Department, foreign ministers, and the presidents of the Panama Railroad Company. 1890s-1904.

**Series 3**  
Box 1 FF 28-32  
Photographs. 1890s-1904.

**Series 4**  
Box 1 FF 33-34  
Miscellaneous. Articles, map and report.

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**Detailed Description: Box and Folder Listing**

**Series 1 – Reports and Memorandum**

| Box 1 | FF 2 | Typed copy of memorandum for the Nicaragua Canal Commission signed by T. A. Huertos. Building specifications for a canal in Nicaragua. |
| Box 1 | FF 4 | 3 November, 1897. Washington. Typed copy of a memorandum to members of the Nicaragua Canal Commission from John Sherman. Suggestions concerning the contents of its report to Congress. |
| Box 1 | FF 5 | (1) Typed copy of a memorandum to A. A. Adee, State Department, from J. Crawford. Provides "facts" to substantiate his claim in a negotiating role between Nicaragua and the United States. Mentions the Frelinghuysen-Zavala Treaty, W. R. Grace and Company, and Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua. (2) 30 October, 1899. Washington, D.C. Typed copy of a memorandum to A. A. Adee, State Department, from J. Crawford, Managua Canal Company of Nicaragua. |
| Box 1 | FF 6 | 15 pages. Typed copy of memorandum on the points embodied in a treaty between Republic of Colombia and the United States and the purchase of the New Panama Canal Company. |
| Box 1 | FF 7 | (1) 23 September, 1897. Typed copy of a memorandum to Rear Admiral J. G. Walker, President of the Nicaragua Canal Commission, from Frank P. Dairs. Regarding personal outfits and camping gear for use in Nicaragua. (2) 16 August, 1897. New York. Typed copy of memorandum from Frank P.
(1) Typed copy of memorandum to Nicaragua Canal Commission from Alvey A. Adee, Acting Secretary. Congressional Authorization of disbursement of funds (Sundry Civil Appropriations Act). June 1897. (2) Typed copy of Public document, #2, pg. 54. Goals and objectives of Nicaragua Commission.


Typed copy of a report. The history and criticism of the payment of directors fees to the members of the Isthmian Canal Commission who have been elected directors of the Panama Railroad Canal.

Typed copy of a feasibility study comparing the Panama route to the Nicaragua route.

26 pages. Typed copy of a report from the Committee on rights, privileges, and franchises in and upon the different route for an Isthmian canal.

Typed copy of a report. A study concerning the estimated value in compensation of the French company.

A copy of FF 13

Series 2 – Correspondence of the United States Isthmian Canal Commission, the United States Naval Department, and John G. Walker


Series 3 – Photographs

Box 1 FF 28 Photographs. (1) Schooner supply-Isthmian Canal Commission. (2) Group of men, 1898, two copies. (3) Group of men 1898. (4) Four photographs on a sheet of paper. (5) Farewell to Commission at Panama, 7 September 1904. (6) The Commission Chief Engineer Wallace of Empire in Camp Elliot. (7) Special car used by Commission, Panama to Colombia, 7 September 1904. (8) View looking towards Colombia side from top of hill at Empire, 7 September 1904. (9) Group of men: Back row, left to right, Colonel Frank J. Hecker, W. B. Parsons, C. E. Grunsky, B. M. Harrod. Front Row, left to right, W. H. Burr, Rear Admiral John G. Walker, General George W. Davis.

Box 1 FF 29 Series of four photographed Republic of Colombia documents.


Box 1 FF 31 Photographs. (1) House 265 owned by Mr. Hollenger. Two photographs. (2) House 273 owned by Mr. J. J. Burton. (3) House 274 owned by Zeilla

Box 1       FF 32 Photographs. (1) House 266 owned by Marie Lueere. (2) House 275 owned by Andres Podella. (3) House 282 owned by V. de Suza. (4) House 297 owned by Schuetz. (5) House 300 owned by Lam Hing and Company of Colon.

Series 4 – Miscellaneous


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