



FINDING AID

Tramps, Camps, and Wonders Photograph Album Circa 1903

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December 19, 2017

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Catalog Number: MSC 121

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Copyright and Restrictions	3
History	4
Scope and Content	5
Container List	7

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HISTORY

Little is known about the creators of the album, as they chose to identify themselves and many of their fellow travelers with variations on the nickname "tramp". The main participants appear to be "the fat tramp" and "the slim tramp". Both gentlemen appear to have traveled by the Northern Pacific Railroad across at least part of North Dakota. Once they disembark the train, probably at Gardiner, Montana, they use small wagons to explore Yellowstone National Park at their own pace—a practice which would have made them "sagebrushers" as those who camped in the sagebrush were known.

The pair seems to have hired a guide for their trip. They may also have known some of the ranchers in the area south of Yellowstone Park (now Grand Teton National Park) as they stop to visit several ranches in the area, sadly identified only by first names or initials. The one exception is a Mrs. Sebastian, who may be Cora L. Sebastian, wife of Fred, who lived in the Jackson Hole, Wyoming, area about 1900. One or more of these friends appear to have joined the pair on a portion of the trip.

While the photographs do not appear to be in chronological order, it appears that the pair travelled a typical journey around the Grand Loop and exited the Park through the north entrance at Gardiner, Montana.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

TRAMPS, CAMPS, AND WONDERS PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM CIRCA 1903

CATALOG NUMBER: MSC 121

VOLUME: 0.3 LINEAR FEET (1 BOX)

DESCRIPTION

The collection consists of a photograph album documenting a camping trip through Yellowstone National Park about 1903. The names of the "sagebrushers," as campers in Yellowstone were known, are unknown as they identified themselves by the nicknames "the fat tramp" and "the slim tramp." The album shows numerous sepia tones photographic prints mounted in two paned mattes and bound together. The cover is a black cloth with the words "Photographs" and "Tramps, Camps, and Wonders" embossed in gold.

The photographed are well labelled and document the typical tourists' visit around the Grand Loop road system as well as visits to several ranches near the Tetons and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Manmade features depicted include several interior views of the guide's cabin, homestead or ranch houses, and a bachelor's kitchen. There are also images of Gardiner, Montana; Medina, North Dakota; and Fort Yellowstone, Wyoming. Images of camping include views of the tents, the small wagons, boxes, and kitchen and cooking supplies. There is also a distant view of a soldiers' camp showing the tents pitched in the prescribed linear layout. Activities include fishing and picnicking. Several views depict irrigation ditches in the Jackson area as well as a large freight wagon. Unfortunately, most people are identified only by nicknames, first names, or initials. The only exception is a Mrs. Sebastian, who may be Cora L. Sebastian, who was living in the Jackson Hole area about 1900.

Thermal features and geysers include Mammoth Hot Springs, including the terraces Hyman, Cleopatra, Minerva, Jupiter, Pulpit, Narrow Gauge, and Angel. Geysers photographed include Old Faithful, Lone Star, Constant, Riverside, Grotto, Hurricane, Teakettle, Giant, Fountain, Excelsior, Comet, Daisy, Splendid, Lion, and Beehive. Other features include Grand Prismatic, Mud Volcano, Devil's Kitchen, Liberty Cap, Cupid's Cavern, the Paint Pots, the Lower Geyser Basin, Norris Geyser Basin, Upper Geyser Basin, and West Thumb Geyser Basin.

Landscape features include the following rivers: Gardner, Firehole, Yellowstone, Lewis, Gros Ventre, Boiling, and Gibbon. Lakes include Yellowstone, Shoshone, Lewis, and Jackson. Beryl, Glen, and Butterfly springs are shown. Waterfalls depicted are Virginia Cascades, Gibbon Falls, Upper and Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Lewis Falls, and Moose Falls. Mountains and landscape features include Electric Peak, Gardiner Canyon, Sepulchre Mountain, Sulphur Mountain, the Hoodoos, Eagles' Rest, Devil's Slide, Golden Gate, Natural Bridge, Obsidian Cliff, Roaring Mountain, Sheep Mountain, Teton Mountains, Silver Gate, Bunsen Peak, and Inspiration Point. Additional natural features include lodgepole pine and the Continental Divide.

Animals include deer, black bear, grizzly bear, a beaver dam, and a "moose bird," most likely a grey or Canada jay.

This album is useful in that it depicts, in significant detail, the typical trip conducted by those who camped on their own in Yellowstone National Park. Despite the lack of names, the album is quite useful for the detailed labels and the views of the tent camps and cabin interiors.

ARRANGEMENT

The album remains in its original order.

PROVENANCE

Gift of Dierdre Duewel, 2014. Found by donor at garage sale.

RESTRICTIONS: NO

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS: None

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

File Unit Nbr	Title
01.01	Photograph album, circa 1903