Photo album of trip to Cuba, Guatemala, and Honduras, 1938
MC.801.06.003
Finding aid prepared by Natalia Gutierrez-Jones

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
May 05, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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Summary Information

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<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator - Author</td>
<td>Ziegler, Arthur, 1892-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Photo album of trip to Cuba, Guatemala, and Honduras</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.58 Linear feet 1 photo album</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
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Preferred Citation note

Photo album of trip to Cuba, Guatemala, and Honduras (MC.801.06.003), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical/Historical note

The creator of the album, Arthur Ziegler (born 1892) lived with his wife Viola Ziegler (also born 1892) in Baltimore City, Maryland. Although Arthur never finished high school and his wife never surpassed 8th grade, they were were fairly well off with his salary of $5,000 per year (comparable to $85,000 per year in 2015) as an ‘assistant purchasing agent.’ Their friends Mary Caroline Gross (born 1882, died 1972) and Angus Roy Gross Sr. (born 1883, died 1967), who accompanied them on their cruise on the S.S. Antigua, also lived in Baltimore City; Roy had been a machinist before being drafted into World War I at age 35. Also pictured are Margaret Askwith, presumably a friend of the group, and W.J. Close, the S.S. Antigua’s captain who immigrated from Northern Ireland to New Jersey in 1921. The group’s two-week cruise (November 5th, 1938 to November 17th, 1938) was facilitated by one of the United Fruit Company’s commercial ventures; passenger cruises aboard ships transporting bananas from the company’s Central American plantations. The United Fruit Company had significant control over these countries’ economies and were politically involved, particularly in Guatemala, to ensure their monopoly and avoid regulations to protect workers which could impede their harsh labor practices.

Scope and Contents note

Ziegler’s photographs document the journey of the T.E.S. Antigua (of the United Fruit Company's Great White Fleet) from a New York harbor to locations in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba; Puerto Barrios, Guatemala; and Puerto Cortés, Honduras. These images include various portraits of the ship’s guests and crew and scenic views from the ship. More centrally, the album depicts touristic travels through Central American ports. This includes local life in the native quarter in Guatemala, the Tela Railroad and scenes of a banana plantation with its grading and loading station in Guanacastal, Honduras, as well as sites in Santiago de Cuba such as the Plaza de Cespedes and its earthquake-destroyed hotel, the Bacardi Gardens, and the cathedral. The album contains 105 captioned photographs as well as 16 pieces of ephemera from the cruise. These items include a detailed travel itinerary, a postcard of the S.S. Antigua, a travel agency’s business card, Ziegler’s tourist ID card from the United Fruit Company, and a map of the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico with their route outlined, and list of items to be gathered for a scavenger-hunt style prize. The album both depicts the experience of a group of middle-class Americans enjoying a cruise of foreign locales, and alludes to the effect of American corporations on Central American economies during the 20th century.
Administrative Information

Publication Information
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections December 2015

Conditions Governing Use note
Standard Federal Copyright Laws Apply (U.S. Title 17)

Immediate Source of Acquisition note
Purchased from Carmen Valentino, 2014.

Processing Information note
Processed by Natalia Gutierrez-Jones; December 2015.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note
MC 1156, Bacon family papers, 1807-1987 In Series II.: Correspondence, Legal and Miscellaneous, Box 8: Esther Farquhar Kamp (1895-1994). Letters, 1907-1987 includes mention of the influence of the United Fruit Co. and local resentment of Americans.
MC 801.06.001, Mexican Travelogue photo album, 1937

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

• Central America -- Pictorial works
• Cuba
• Guatemala
• Honduras

Personal Name(s)

• Close, William J., Captain, 1883-?
• Gross, Angus Roy, Sr., 1883-1967
• Gross, Mary Caroline, 1882-1972
• Ziegler, Arthur, 1892-1956
• Ziegler, Viola, 1892-?

Subject(s)

• Travel -- 20th century
Collection Inventory

| Photo Album 1938 | 1.0 Item |