James Houston Henderson Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm94084036

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009186

Prepared by Harry G. Heiss

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April
Collection Summary

Title: James Houston Henderson Papers
Span Dates: 1913-1920
ID No.: MSS84036
Creator: Henderson, James Houston, 1878-1935
Extent: 23 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: 0.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm94084036
Summary: Surveyor and civil engineer. Correspondence, employment records, biographical notes, and photographs chiefly relating to Henderson's work as chief surveyor of the Panama Canal and as civil engineer for the Panama Railroad.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Henderson, James Houston, 1878-1935.
Henderson, Lula Ross--Correspondence.

Organizations
Panama Railroad Co.

Subjects
Bridges--Design and construction.
Civil engineering--Panama.
Railroads--Panama.
Roads--Construction--Panama.
Surveying--Panama.

Places
Panama Canal (Panama)--Surveys.

Occupations
Civil engineers.
Surveyors.

Provenance
The papers of James Houston Henderson, surveyor and civil engineer, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Frances Henderson Carter, in 1994.

Processing History
The papers of James Houston Henderson were arranged and described in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Houston Henderson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions
The papers of James Houston Henderson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, James Houston Henderson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note
The papers of James Houston Henderson (1878-1935) span the years 1913-1920 and contain correspondence, employment records, biographical notes, and photographs. Henderson was employed by the Isthmian Canal Commission in 1913 as a rodman and later chief of the party which surveyed the Panama Canal. He also oversaw construction of roads and bridges for the Panama Railroad in 1914 and for the Panama Canal in 1915. The papers consist chiefly of correspondence to his wife, Lula Ross Henderson, that detail his work with the construction of the Panama Canal and personal family matters. The correspondence is augmented with photographs of the canal construction as well as records outlining Henderson's employment history. Included in the papers are letters of recommendation from C. A. McIlvain of the Panama Canal and George W. Goethals of the Isthmian Canal Commission and a biographical outline compiled by Henderson's daughter, Frances Henderson Carter. After his tenure with the construction of the Panama Canal, Henderson was employed as a surveyor and civil engineer for several oil companies in Texas and Oklahoma.

Arrangement of the Papers
This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.
# Container List

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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Employment records and letters of recommendation, 1913-1920, undated</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
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