

Center for Creative Photography

The University of Arizona

1030 N. Olive Rd.

P.O. Box 210103

Tucson, AZ 85721

Phone: 520-621-6273

Fax: 520-621-9444

Email: info@ccp.arizona.edu

URL: <http://creativephotography.org>

Finding aid for the
George Alexander Grant Archive, 1925-1945

AG 55

George Alexander Grant, 1925-1945

AG 55

Creator

Grant, George Alexander, 1891-1964

Abstract

Contact prints, 1925 – 1945, by George Alexander Grant (1891 – 1964), official photographer for the National Park Service. Includes 2977 gelatin silver prints of original 5x7 inch nitrate negatives in repository at the Western Archaeological Center (Tucson, Az.). Main subjects covered are national parks and monuments in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and missions in Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and Sonora, Mexico. Grant occasionally photographed people in social activities associated with his trips or people with “historical importance” such as Don Juan and the Navajo Indians, although these photographs are generally undated.

The collection is inactive.

Quantity/ Extent

7.5 linear feet

Language of Materials

English

Biographical/ Historical Note

George Alexander Grant was born on 4 March, 1891 in Sunbury, Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school in 1909, he held several jobs (including art metal worker for Roycroft Commune, East Aurora, N.Y.), before joining the U.S. Army in 1917. He was stationed at Fort Russell near Cheyenne, Wyoming during World War I. From 1918-21, Grant held various supervisory positions near Sunbury until, restless, he pursued employment with the National Park Service. He developed an interest in photography in 1922 while working as a park ranger in Yellowstone National Park and was hired as a scientific photographer for the Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture in 1923. After successful lobbying, he was appointed first photographer to the National Park Service in 1929. Soon after he moved to Berkeley, California, where he remained until 1948 when he moved to Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. During the 1940s he photographed the American landscape, emphasizing both the national parks and government construction projects. He spent most of his time traveling throughout the western United States photographing and printing in the field. Grant most commonly

used a 5x7 inch view camera with a well stopped-down 19th century brass-bound lens with a six-inch focal length. From 1929-1954 he photographed the land and buildings of western national parks and monuments, pausing briefly in 1935 to serve as photographer for the Sonoran Mission Expedition. After his position was eliminated, Grant moved to Snow Hill, Maryland to be near his brother (Grant never married). He moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico a year later and died there in October 1964.

Scope and Content Note

Series one, modern contact prints, contains 2,977 gelatin silver prints of original 5x7 inch nitrate negatives. Negatives are ordered according to Grant's (or Sawyer's?) numbering system within subjects.

Arrangement

Series 1: Modern Contact Prints, 47 boxes

Names and Subject Terms

Grant, George Alexander, 1891-1964 [<https://lccn.loc.gov/n86099041>]

Restrictions

Conditions Governing Access

Access to this collection requires an appointment with the Volkerding Study Center.

Conditions Governing Use

It is the responsibility of the user to obtain permission from the copyright owner (which could be the institution, the creator of the record, the author or his/her transferees, heirs, legates or literary executors) prior to any copyright-protected uses of the collection.

The user agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Arizona Board of Regents, the University of Arizona, Center of Creative Photography, including its officers, employees, and agents, from and against all claims made relating to copyright or other intellectual property infringement.

Provenance

The gelatin silver contact prints which comprise this collection are one of three sets printed by Mark Sawyer between 1982-1986 from negatives in the repository at the Western Archaeological Center (Tucson, AZ). The WAC and the National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, Virginia, have interpositives, internegatives and a selection of original prints.

Preferred Citation

George Alexander Grant Archive, 1925-1945. AG 55. Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.

Processing Information

Processed June 1985 by David Peters. Revised by Heather McAsh, 1990, when additional contact prints were received from the Western Archaeological Center, Tucson, AZ. The finding aid was updated in 2017 by Paloma Phelps.

Container List

Series 1: Modern Contact Prints

Arrangement: Geographical subject

Quantity: 2977 prints

Box

- 1 Arches National Park, UT 101-115 (some numbers missing)
Aztec ruins, NM, 1a-117 (many numbers missing)
- 2 Aztec ruins, 118-223 (many numbers missing)
- 3 Bandelier National Monument, NM., 1-70 (many numbers missing)
- 4 Bandelier, 71-91
Big Bend National Monument, TX, 1-30
- 5 Big Bend, 31-93
- 6 Grand Canyon, AZ, 151-416 (many numbers missing)
- 7 Grand Canyon, 417-932 (many numbers missing)
- 8 Black Canyon (south rim), Gunnison National Monument, CO, 101-116
Boulder Dam, AZ/NV, 1-50
- 9 Boulder Dam, 51-104, 202-219 (some numbers missing)
- 10 Boulder Dam, 220-285 (some numbers missing)
- 11 Boulder Dam, 286-300
Bryce Canyon National Monument, UT, 1-40
- 12 Bryce Canyon, 41-73, 301-311

- 13 Bryce Canyon, 312-359 (some numbers missing)
Canyon de Chelly National Monument, AZ, 1-28
- 14 Canyon de Chelly, 101-160 (some numbers missing)
- 15 Canyon de Chelly, 161-241 (many numbers missing)
- 16 Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM, 1-41, 102-132 (some numbers missing)
- 17 Carlsbad Caverns, 132a-167
Casa Grande National Monument, AZ, 2-50 (some numbers missing)
- 18 Casa Grande, 51-114 (many numbers missing)
Chaco Canyon National Monument, NM, 1-28
- 19 Chaco Canyon, 29-52, 115-166, 202-211
- 20 Chavez Pass, NM, (no numbers)
Chiricahua National Monument, AZ, 1-78 (many numbers missing)
- 21 Death Valley National Monument, CA, 1a-124 (many numbers missing)
- 22 Grand Canyon National Park, AZ, 151-380 (many numbers missing)
- 23 Grand Canyon, 381-471a (many numbers missing)
- 24 Grand Canyon, 471b-957 (many numbers missing)
- 25 Grand Canyon, 958-988 (many numbers missing)
Hermosillo, Sonora, 1-12
Keet Seel Ruin, AZ, 13k-16k
Lincoln, NM, 1-11
- 26 Missions: Arizona, 1-21
Missions: California
La Purisima de la Concepcion, 1-23 (some numbers missing)
San Carlos de Barrromeo or Carmelo, 1-15
San Miguel Arcangle, 1-7
- 27 Missions: New Mexico, 1-5
Missions: Sonora, 1-58
- 28 Missions: Sonora, 59-126

- 29 Missions: Sonora, 127-200
- 30 Missions: Sonora, 201-285
- 31 Missions: Sonora, 286-333
Missions, Texas, 1-7
Modoc Lava Beds, 3
Old Laguna, NM, 1-3b
- 32 Oregon Caves National Monument, OR, 1-121, WASO-D-650
(many numbers missing)
- 33 Oregon Coast, 1-80 (many numbers missing)
- 34 Oregon Coast, 87-161 (many numbers missing)
Petrified Forest National Monument, AZ 131-150
- 35 Petrified Forest, 151-223
- 36 Petrified Forest, 224-327
Poston Butte, AZ, 1-8
Rainbow Bridge National Monument, UT, 29
Register Cliff, WY, 1-10
Saguaro National Monument, AZ, 1-28
- 37 San Francisco Recreation Center, 1-12
Santa Fe, NM, 1-37
Sequoia National Monument, CA, 3-14 (some numbers missing)
- 38 Sequoia, 14a-54, 107-291, 401-412 (many numbers missing)
- 39 Sequoia, 413-446 (some numbers missing)
Sunset Crater National Monument, AZ, 1-3
Tumacacori National Monument, AZ, 1-219 (many numbers missing)
- 40 Tuzigoot National Monument, AZ, 1-13, 102 (some numbers missing)
White Sands National Monument, NM, 2-44a (some numbers missing)
- 41 White Sands, 45-159 (many numbers missing)
- 42 White Sands, 160-277 (many numbers missing)
- 43 Wupatki National Monument, AZ, 3-15
Yosemite National Monument, CA, 250, 258

Zion National Monument, UT, 1-45 (many numbers missing)

- 44 Zion, 46-139 (many numbers missing)
- 45 Zion, 140-419 (many numbers missing)
- 46 Zion, 420-425a
Zuni Pueblos, NM, 1-44
- 47 Zuni Pueblos, 45-95