

Joseph Miller slide collection

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circa 1880s-1950s



Title Statement

Joseph Miller slide collectionGuide to Joseph Miller slide collection C0560

Subtitle: Joseph Miller slide collection

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0560

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/766

Unit Date

circa 1880s-1950s

Language

English

Abstract

A collection of 51 wood-framed lantern slides and 55 glass-framed 35mm slides from the collection of Joseph Miller, creator of the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs (NVACC).

Creator

Miller, Joseph A., 1932-2023

Extent

2 Linear Feet 3 boxes

Physical Location

R 73, C 2, S 3

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Donated by Matthew Schmidt in March and April 2025. The slides were previously owned by Joseph Miller, creator of the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs (NVACC).

Processing Information

Processing and finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in December 2025.

Preferred Citation

Joseph Miller slide collection, C0560, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

Biographical Information

Joseph A. Miller, born on May 10, 1932, was known throughout the Northern Virginia region for his work as a photographer and photographic instructor emphasizing the "4 C's" of Visual Communication: Craftsmanship, Composition, Creativity, and Communication. In 1997, he created the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs (NVACC), an informal group with the purpose of promoting communication and cooperation among camera clubs in Northern Virginia and in 2001 he started the Annual Abstract Photography Exhibit (later known as the Annual Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit). His work with the NVACC also included authoring or co-authoring handbooks on photography, teaching workshops on photographic techniques, training for those interested in becoming camera club judges, and serving as a professional mentor for club members. In addition to his work with the NVACC, Miller taught photography classes at both Northern Virginia Community College and his personal photographic center located near Gainesville, Virginia. Miller passed away on January 3, 2023 at the age of 90.

Scope and Content

A collection of 51 wood-framed lantern slides and 55 glass-framed 35mm slides from the collection of Joseph Miller, creator of the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs (NVACC). The wood-framed slides feature round images set into rough wood carved frames and largely depict landscape or architectural locations and photographs of artwork. Several of the wooden frames have "T.H. McAllister, Optician N.Y." carved into them and identifications and/or numbers are written in pencil on the back of a few, but these are difficult to read clearly. Identifiable subjects include locations in and around California's Yosemite National Park, including Mirror Lake, locations in New York including Washington Irving's house and General George Washington's headquarters, and Ireland's Blarney Castle.

The glass-framed 35mm slides are all professional images with "V-Dia-Verlag - Heidelberg" printed at the top and Series # and then slide # printed underneath. Identifications of the locations depicted in the images are printed at the bottom of the slide and predominantly feature Heidelberg, Germany, but there are also locations from the French Riviera and Switzerland. No text is printed on the reverse side of the slides.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other slide and photography collections including the Christine Drennon European lantern slide collection.

Keywords

Slides

Lantern slides

Europe -- Geography -- Slides

Cities and towns -- Europe -- Slides

Heidelberg (Germany)

Switzerland

New York (State)

Photography

Bibliography

Find a Grave. n.d. "Joseph Adolph Miller (1932-2023)." Accessed December 17, 2025.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/285446448/joseph_adolph-miller.

Northern Virginia Photographic Society. 2011. "Forum: Joe Miller: Visual Communication." October 25.

https://nvps.org/main/meetings/members_gallery/october_24_forum_-_joe_miller/.

NVACC - Abstracts Are the Poetry of Photography. 2013. "About." May 12. <https://nvacc.org/home/about/>.

Schmidt, Matthew G. 2013. "Joseph Miller." Lorelei Studios, January 1. <https://loleleistudios.com/joseph-miller/>.

Arrangement

Items are arranged by format.

Description of Subordinate Components

Wood-framed lantern slides

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393923

Unit Date circa 1880s-1910s

Mixed Material 1-2 (box)

Glass-framed 35mm slides

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/393924

Unit Date circa 1950s

Mixed Material 3 (box)