



FINDING AID

HENRY G. PEABODY COLLECTION

c. 1900-1930s, 2018 (bulk dates: 1910-1928)

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NPS History Collection
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Copyright and Restrictions	2
History	3
Scope and Content	4
Hierarchy	5
Series Descriptions	6
Container List	7

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HISTORY

Henry Greenwood Peabody was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1855. He attended Washington University in St. Louis, the Pennsylvania Military Academy, and Dartmouth College, where he graduated in 1876. While a senior at Dartmouth, Peabody became interested in photography, producing views of the Dartmouth campus and scenes along the New England coast. After graduation, Peabody spent a year at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying architecture, electricity, and physics. He then went to work briefly as an engineer for the Western Electric Company in Chicago and New York.

Peabody met and married Dora Phelps, and the two relocated to Boston where Peabody opened his own photography studio in 1886. He specialized in marine, landscape and architectural photography, winning several medals and awards for his images in 1887. He also served as the official photographer for the Boston and Maine Railroad and the Great Northern Railway, photographed the Americas Cup races, and published "Representative American Yachts" and "The Coast of Maine." He opened two galleries in Chicago with Alexander Hesler, noted photographer of President Abraham Lincoln.

Peabody's wife Dora died in 1898, and he had to raise their daughter Mildred alone. In 1899, he traveled to Mexico as photographer to the American Architectural Expedition; his photographs were published in Spanish-Colonial Architecture in Mexico by Sylvester Baxter.

From 1900-1908 Peabody served as field photographer on both the east and west coasts for the Detroit Publishing Company, the largest postcard publisher in the United States. Famed landscape photographer and company founder William Henry Jackson selected Peabody for this position because of the high regard in which he held Peabody's outdoor work. Shortly after joining the Detroit Publishing Company, Peabody relocated with his young daughter to Pasadena, and his primary focus shifted to the landscape of the American West. In 1908, he also traveled to England and France to photograph cathedrals and other architectural monuments for the Horace K. Turner Company of Boston.

From about 1910 to the end of his career, Peabody produced photographs and slides of the American landscape for educational purposes. He published series of educational lantern and film slides and educational films (the "Swastika Educational Series") with accompanying narratives that focused on national parks in the American West. He also delivered illustrated lectures that covered the Grand Canyon, the California Missions, Yosemite, and Mexico. By the early 1930s, he was making audio recordings designed to synchronize with the slide shows; he called these his "talking films" and they were included in his educational offerings.

In his later years, Peabody sold photographic equipment and photographed the landscape in the San Gabriel Valley. He died in 1951 at his home in Glendora, California, shortly before his ninety-sixth birthday. During his long career, Peabody covered the range of camera work from daguerreotypes through 35mm color film.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

HENRY G. PEABODY COLLECTION
c. 1900-1930s, 2018 (bulk dates: 1910-1928)

<i>CATALOG NUMBER</i>	HFCA 1979
<i>VOLUME</i>	4.1 LF
<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	Lantern slides published as illustrated lectures by Henry G. Peabody for national parks including Zion, Bryce Canyon, Yosemite, and Yellowstone. Individual lantern slides for parks such as Bryce Canyon, Crater Lake, Glacier, Hawaii, Hovenweep, Monument Valley, and Grand Teton. Program "National Monuments of Deserts and Mesa" include various National Park Service units. Other lantern slides feature subjects or locations such as the White Mountains in New Hampshire; seashore of New England; Boston, Massachusetts; and Southern California. One lantern slide of the Canadian Rockies is included. Lecture guides are present for some of the programs. Black and white photographic prints of national parks include: Crater Lake, Canyon de Chelly, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Saguaro, Yellowstone, Zion, Death Valley, Grand Teton, Capitol Reef, Arches, Walnut Canyon, Craters of the Moon, Joshua Tree, and Yosemite. Other scenes include churches and historic buildings (possibly in Mexico), poppy fields, 1915 San Francisco Fair, and unidentified images.
<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	Organized into three series: Series I: Photographic Prints; Series II: Illustrated Lectures; and Series III: Lecture Guides.
<i>PROVENANCE</i>	Donated to the National Park Service History Collection.
<i>RESTRICTIONS</i>	Yes
<i>ASSOCIATED MATERIALS</i>	Henry G. Peabody Collection, Record Group 79, National Archives & Records Administration (NARA); Henry G. Peabody Collection of Photographs and Negatives; The Huntington Library; and Henry G. Peabody Collection (1896-1939), University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections.

HIERARCHY

SERIES I: PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS, c. 1900-1930s

SERIES II: ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, c. 1910-1930s (bulk dates: c. 1910-1928)

SERIES III: LECTURE GUIDES, 1919-2018

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES I: PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS, c. 1900-1930s

Unarranged.

Black and white photographs taken by Henry G. Peabody. Primarily 5" x 7" prints, although some smaller prints are included. A small number of 8x10 prints are copies of images by Peabody in the National Archives. Labeling on original boxes indicated that matte prints were to be tinted but that was never completed for these prints. National park images include: Crater Lake, Canyon de Chelly, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Saguaro, Yellowstone, Zion, Death Valley, Grand Teton, Capitol Reef, Arches, Walnut Canyon, Craters of the Moon, Joshua Tree, and Yosemite. Other scenes include churches and historic buildings (possibly in Mexico), poppy fields, 1915 San Francisco Fair, and unidentified images. Includes a small number of images attributed to F. Jay Haynes. Most images are undated.

SERIES II: ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, c. 1910-1930s (bulk dates: c. 1910-1928)

Arranged alphabetically by park name or lecture title.

Hand-colored lantern slides and lecture programs created and sold by Peabody as part of his educational lecture series. Includes lantern programs for Bryce Canyon National Park, Yosemite National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Zion National Park, as well as National Monuments of Desert and Mesa. A small number of lantern slides are included which do not appear to be part of these illustrated lectures include Crater Lake, Bryce Canyon, Monument Valley, Hawaii, Hovenweep, Glacier, Grand Teton, and Zion. Other programs present include "In the Footsteps of Cortes", "Seashore of New England", "Southern California" (parts I and II), "Tour of the White Mountains", "Colonial and Revolutionary Landmarks in Boston", and a single lantern slide for the Canadian Alps (i.e., Canadian Rockies).

SERIES III: LECTURE GUIDES, 1919-2018

Arranged alphabetically by lecture series title.

Lecture guides for Peabody's illustrated lectures. Yosemite and Yellowstone guides are original while other guides are photocopies acquired to provide descriptive context for the lantern slide programs in Series II.

CONTAINER LISTSERIES I:
PHOTOGRAPHS

BOX 01

Unarranged

BOX 02

Unarranged

SERIES II:
ILLUSTRATED
LECTURES

BOX 01

Bryce Canyon to Canadian Alps

BOX 02

"Colonial and Revolutionary Landmarks in Boston"

BOX 03

Glacier to "In the Footsteps of Cortes"

BOX 04

"In the Steps of Cortes" to "National Monuments of Desert and Mesa"

BOX 05

"National Monuments of Desert and Mesa" to "Seashore of New England"

BOX 06

"Seashore of New England" to "Southern California Part I"

BOX 07

"Southern California Part II" to "Tour of the White Mountains"

BOX 08

"Tour of the White Mountains" to Yellowstone

BOX 09

Yellowstone to Yosemite

BOX 10

Yosemite-Zion Other

SERIES III:
LECTURE
GUIDES

BOX 01

- Folder 01: "Colonial and Revolutionary Landmarks of Boston," c. 1913 [2018 photocopy]
- Folder 02: "In the Footsteps of Cortes", c. 1918 [2018 photocopy]
- Folder 03: "Seashore of New England", c. 1908 [2018 photocopy]
- Folder 04: "The Yellowstone National Park", c. 1928
- Folder 05: "The Yellowstone National Park, Parts I-III", c. 1928
- Folder 06: "The Yellowstone National Park" (Film Slide Edition), c. 1928
- Folder 07: "Yosemite National Park" (Abridged Edition), c. 1919