

E. O. (Eugene Omar) Goldbeck:

An Inventory of His Non-panoramic Photographic Prints Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Goldbeck, E. O. (Eugene Omar), 1892-1986
Title:	E. O. (Eugene Omar) Goldbeck Non-Panoramic Photographic Prints Collection
Dates:	circa 1900-1980
Extent:	143 boxes (59.63 linear feet)
Abstract:	15,771 prints and approximately 15,000 negatives primarily taken by E. O. Goldbeck document American (especially Texan) cities, landscapes, people, and military life, from circa 1900 to 1980, particularly from the 1910s to 1950s.
Call Number:	Photography Collection PH-00947
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Part or all of this collection is housed off-site and may require up to three business days' notice for access in the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Please contact the Center before requesting this material: reference@hrc.utexas.edu.

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Gift, 1967
Processed by:	Nicole Davis, 2010
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Born in 1892 to first generation German-Americans Benno T. Goldbeck (1855-1916) and Ida Schultz (1869-1975), Eugene Omar Goldbeck was a commercial photographer whose career spanned the better part of the twentieth century. San Antonio, Texas, was both his hometown and the headquarters of his business, which he eventually called the National Photo and News Service.

Goldbeck decided on a career in photography in 1901 after capturing an image of President William McKinley in a local parade. He bought a camera and began taking portraits of high school classmates and working freelance for the city newspapers. Upon graduating in 1910, he traveled throughout the western United States and to South America taking "kidnapped" photos--impromptu photographs taken of subjects and offered for sale afterwards. Around this time he purchased a Cirkut camera and began his specialization in large panoramic group portraits.

Goldbeck served in World War I, in the Photographic Division of the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps. Subsequently he taught at the Signal Corps School of Photography at Columbia University in New York City. While in New York he met Marcella Fox, whom he married in 1919. He then returned to San Antonio, and after a brief stint with Fox Photo, he founded his own photography company. In addition to making panoramic group portraits, especially of military personnel, he captured events and scenes both locally and around the world.

Goldbeck died in San Antonio in 1986.

Sources:

Handbook of Texas Online, S.v. "Goldbeck, Eugene Omar." By Kendall Curlee.
<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/goldbeck-eugene-omar> (accessed July 9, 2010).

Scope and Contents

15,771 prints and approximately 15,000 negatives document American (especially Texan) cities, landscapes, people, and military life, from circa 1900 to 1985, particularly from 1910s to 1950s. The collection is arranged into the following five series: Series I. Military, 1917-1945; Series II. People and Events, 1901-1985; Series III. Places, circa 1910s-1970s; Series IV. Commercial Prints, 1910-1980; and Series V. Negatives. Most images are by Goldbeck, but work by other photographers, such as Stephen H. Willard, W. W. Mitchell, H. L. Summerville, and Julien Mandel, is also found throughout the collection.

Series I. Military, is the largest series with 8,207 items. It includes formal portraits and snapshots of officers and personnel, maneuvers and scenes from forts and encampments, including souvenir folders made for soldiers, various American Legion and other military parades, and scenes from the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945).

The second series, People and Events, consists of 2,467 items and includes Shriners parades, assorted clubs, rodeos, and individual and group portraits, including many prominent figures as well as Goldbeck and his family. Most events are located in San Antonio.

Series III. Places, contains 3,497 items which include travel and commercial photos from throughout the United States, including within several national parks, many European countries, and some locations in Central America and Eastern Asia. Scenes of Texas, especially San Antonio, are well represented in this series.

Commercial Photographs, the fourth series, includes 1,600 documentary photographs of various subjects presumably done as paid commissions. Imagery includes architecture, vehicles, airplanes and dirigibles, and construction equipment. The series also includes items collected by Goldbeck such as film stills and postcards.

The items in series I. through IV. are all black and white gelatin silver prints. The majority are vintage prints but some preservation prints made by the HRC are included. Box 74 contains oversize items removed from other parts of the collection. Series V. consists of negatives corresponding to the subjects in the above series. These are unprocessed and are not accessible.

Related Material

This collection is part of a larger collection of works by Goldbeck, including his High School Panoramic Negatives, Living Insignia Collection, and business records, as well as the Mitchell Collection which contains similar military photographs.

Index Terms

People

Goldbeck, E. O. (Eugene Omar), 1892-1986

Organizations

American Legion

Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America

Subjects

Armed Forces Officers

Military maneuvers

Missions--Texas--San Antonio

Parades

Portraits

Rodeos

Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945

United States--Armed Forces

United States--Pictorial works

Places

Fort Sam Houston (Tex.)

Louisiana

San Antonio (Tex.)

Texas

Document Types

Black-and-white negatives

Gelatin silver prints

Series I. Military, 1917-1945

American Legion Conventions and Parades

Boston, 1930 (151 items)	Container 1.1-1.5
Chicago, 1933 (155 items)	Container 2.1-2.4
Detroit, 1931 (133 items)	Container 3.1-4.2
Paris, 1927 (117 items)	Container 4.3-4.6
Philadelphia, undated (16 items)	Container 5.1
San Antonio, shot from Thompson's Café, 1928 (303 items)	Container 5.2-7.4
Texarkana, 1928 (24 items)	Container 8.1
[Washington, D.C.?] with Franklin D. Roosevelt (38 items)	Container 8.2
Various locations, includes Kansas City, Missouri, and Omaha (7 items)	Container 8.3

Maneuvers and encampments

Georgia, Fort Benning (18 items)	Container 8.4
Hawaii, 1935, 1937 (26 items)	Container 8.5-8.6
Louisiana, circa 1920s-1930s	
Alexandria (20 items)	Container 8.7
Cravens (153 items)	Container 8.8
Flatwood (199 items)	Container 9.1-9.3
Hornbeck (43 items)	Container 9.4
Leesville (382 items)	Container 9.5-10.1
Manny (55 items)	Container 10.2
McNutt (20 items)	Container 10.3
Monroe (99 items)	Container 10.4

Simpson (195 items)	Container 10.5-10.6
Slagle (98 items)	Container 11.1
Zimmerman (84 items)	Container 11.2-11.3
Various locations, some identified (795 items)	Container 11.4-13.1
Maryland, Fort Meade (20 items)	Container 13.2
Mississippi, circa 1920s-1930s (90 items)	Container 13.3-13.4
Panama, 1917-1940 (70 items)	Container 13.5-13.6
Texas	
Big Bend and western regions, 1919-1930 (102 items)	Container 13.7-13.8
Brookland (12 items)	Container 13.9
Fort Sam Houston, 1925-1935 (145 items)	Container 14.1-14.6, 74.1
Fredericksburg (345 items)	Container 14.7-14.9
Kerrville and Bandera Pass, 1926 (582 items)	Container 15.1-15.6
Longfellow (14 items)	Container 16.1
Various locations, aerial views (36 items)	Container 16.2
South Carolina, Camp Jackson, 1917 (15 items)	Container 16.3
Various encampments, includes candid portraits (236 items)	Container 16.4-17.2
Various maneuvers, some locations identified (413 items)	Container 17.3-18.3
Opening of Corpus Christi Harbor, includes images of destroyers, and a parade with Army bands, sailors, and bathing beauties, 1926 (41 items)	Container 18.4-18.5
Parades	

Armistice Day, San Antonio, 1925 (28 items)	Container 19.1-19.3
For Admiral Nimitz, Corpus Christi, 1946 (25 items)	Container 20.1-20.2
Kreuger Day Parade, San Antonio, 13 February 1946 (23 items)	Container 20.3
Unidentified, October 1944 (12 items)	Container 20.4
Unidentified, undated (19 items)	Container 20.5
Portraits, 1928-1938	
Individuals, some identified (476 items)	Container 20.6-21.5
Groups (141 items)	Container 22.1-22.9
Officers	
Individuals, identified (581 items)	Container 23.1-27.17
Individuals, unidentified (266 items)	Container 27.18-29.2
Groups (13 items)	Container 29.3
On horseback (52 items)	Container 29.4-29.7
Regimental designs, diagrams, and insignias (55 items)	Container 30.1
Second Sino-Japanese War, includes images of barricades, Japanese troops, Emperor Xuantong, and cityscapes, 1937-1945 (239 items)	Container 30.2-31.7
Souvenir folders of prints of Fort Meade, Fort Knox, and encampments in Hawaii, Louisiana, and Texas (920 items)	Container 31.8-33.1
Sports teams (32 items)	Container 33.2
Trophies, ribbons, and punch bowls (46 items)	Container 33.3
USS <i>California</i> , scenes and personnel, 1923, by Sherburne and Wright (27 items)	Container 33.4

Series II. People and Events, 1901-1985

Assorted events, includes Boy Scouts and Pioneer Ball, 1945-1947 (75 items)	Container 34.1-34.2
Assorted unidentified events (63 items)	Container 34.3-34.6
Burials	
Flower arrangements and funerary displays (42 items)	Container 34.7-35.1
Funeral of a cardinal (16 items)	Container 35.2
Civilian Conservation Corps, Townshend, Maryland, April 1934 (10 items)	Container 35.3
Expeditions and hunts	
Lt. George C. Lewis search for swamp pirates, Port Tampa, Florida, 1901 (2 items)	Container 35.4
Hunting party (68 items)	Container 35.5-35.7
Fiesta de San Jacinto, San Antonio	
1923 and 1934, including the Battle of Flowers parade (192 items)	Container 36.1-36.2
1947, including floats, military motorcade, and King Antonio (19 items)	Container 36.3-37.1
Goldbeck, E. O.	
Portraits, includes images of Goldbeck taking photos, his equipment, towers used for aerial shots, and a self-portrait in a plane, 1917-1985 (247 items)	Container 37.2-38.1
Friends and relatives, includes images of graves and houses, 1904- circa 1970s (203 items)	Container 38.2-38.7
Highland Park Lions Club, minstrel shows, 1945, 1947-1948 (37 items)	Container 39.1-39.3
Native Americans (31 items)	Container 39.4, 74.2
Nudes, by Julien Mandel (75 items)	Container 39.5-39.6
Parades, unidentified (15 items)	Container 39.7

Portraits

Individuals (245 items) **Container** 39.8-40.4

Groups (253 items) **Container** 40.5-42.3

Public figures, subjects include George Patton, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Warren Harding, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Pershing, Woodrow Wilson, and Charles Lindberg, by assorted photographers (163 items) **Container** 42.4-43.3

Rodeos

American Legion, 1928 (9 items) **Container** 43.4

Fort Sam Houston, includes military horse show, 1925-1929 (416 items) **Container** 43.5-44.1

H. H. Hinkle's Bullfight and Rodeo, Eagle Pass, Texas, 1931 (25 items) **Container** 44.2

Scottish Rite office, 1935; past potentates, undated; and minstrel show, 1947 (9 items) **Container** 44.3

Shriners [Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America]

Alzafar Shrine Circus, San Antonio, circa 1950s (14 items) **Container** 44.4

Parade, Cleveland, 1931 (140 items) **Container** 45.1-45.4

Parades, unidentified (12 items) **Container** 44.5

San Antonio and Galveston temples, individual and group portraits, events, and parades (83 items) **Container** 44.6-44.7

YWCA members, 1935 (3 items) **Container** 45.5

Series III. Places, circa 1910s-1970s

United States, circa 1910s-1970s

Alaska, subjects include Eskimos, towns, highways, and landscapes; commercial prints by unknown photographers (117 items)	Container 46.1-46.3, 74.3
Arizona, includes images of the Grand Canyon and images by El Tovar Studio (19 items)	Container 46.4, 74.4
California (40 items)	Container 46.5-46.6, 74.5
Colorado, includes images of Pike's Peak and Estes Park, some images by Fox Co. (40 items)	Container 46.7-46.8
Eastern states, various locations (5 items)	Container 46.9
Hawaii, subjects include water buffalo, volcanic smoke and lava, landscapes, and military sites (108 items)	Container 47.1-47.3, 74.6
Mississippi (11 items)	Container 47.4
Montana, images of Yellowstone (32 items)	Container 47.5
New Jersey (4 items)	Container 47.6
New Mexico, includes images of Carlsbad Caverns (42 items)	Container 47.7
New York (state and city), includes images of Niagara Falls (70 items)	Container 47.8-48.1, 74.7
Pennsylvania (4 items)	Container 48.2
South Carolina (4 items)	Container 48.3
Texas	
Austin and surrounding area (29 items)	Container 48.4-48.5
Big Bend and western regions (25 items)	Container 48.6-48.8

Galveston and Corpus Christi, images of storm damage, 1912-1920 (72 items)	Container 48.9-48.10
Goliad, images of Presidio La Bahia mission (3 items)	Container 48.11
San Antonio, Texas	
Aerial views (94 items)	Container 48.12-49.1, 74.8
Buildings	
Identified, by Goldbeck and W. W. Mitchell, circa 1920s (176 items)	Container 49.2-50.4
Unidentified (8 items)	Container 50.5
Businesses	
Assorted scenes, includes interiors, exteriors, employees, merchandise displays, and equipment, 1930s (175 items)	Container 50.6-52.1
Handy Andy stores, by W. W. Mitchell (30 items)	Container 52.2-52.3
Window displays (472 items)	Container 52.4-57.1
Fort Sam Houston buildings, interior and exterior views (88 items)	Container 57.2-57.3
Kool Ranch, interior and exterior views (110 items)	Container 57.4-58.1
Missions	
Alamo (37 items)	Container 58.2-58.4
Concepción (34 items)	Container 58.5-58.7
San Francisco de la Espada (18 items)	Container 59.1-59.2
San José (95 items)	Container 59.3-59.4
San Juan (25 items)	Container 60.1-60.2
Street scenes and landscapes (231 items)	Container 60.3-61.2

U. S. Federal Prohibition Community Center (25 preservation prints)	Container 61.3-61.4
Various locations, subjects include city scenes, landscapes, and oil fields, circa 1910s-1970s (59 items)	Container 61.5-61.6
Washington, images of Mt. Rainier (15 items)	Container 61.7
Washington, D.C. (31 items)	Container 61.8-61.10
West Virginia (3 items)	Container 62.1
Western states, various unidentified locations, primarily landscapes, includes images by Willard (298 items)	Container 62.2-62.6
Wyoming, images of the Grand Tetons (12 items)	Container 62.7, 74.9
Assorted travel, includes images taken by and purchased by Goldbeck, circa 1920s-1930s	
Australia, images of Sydney and Tasmania, 1924 (4 items)	Container 63.1
Belgium, images of Brussels (7 items)	Container 63.2
Canada, images of Ontario and Quebec (7 items)	Container 63.3
China, images of palaces (12 items)	Container 63.4
Cuba, images of Havana, 1936 (5 items)	Container 63.5
Dominican Republic, images of Santo Domingo, (25 items)	Container 63.6
England (26 items)	Container 63.7
France (56 items)	Container 63.8-64.1
Germany (14 items)	Container 64.2-64.3
Haiti, images of Citadel (2 items)	Container 74.10
Holland, 1927 (151 items)	Container 64.4-64.5
Italy (136 items)	Container 64.6-65.3
Mexico (92 items)	Container 65.4-65.7

Panama, includes images of tourists, San Blas natives, and Panama Canal (150 items)	Container 66.1-66.4, 74.11
Philippines (28 items)	Container 66.5
Switzerland (32 items)	Container 66.6
Various locations, some identified (89 items)	Container 66.7-66.8, 74.12

Series IV. Commercial Subjects, 1910-1980

Airplanes, including Kelly Field, Brook Field, parachuters, stunts, and aerial views (278 items)	Container 67.1-67.6, 74.13
Animals, including dogs, cattle, game, fowl, and colt and horse at Hogg Ranch, circa 1928- 1932; some images by Haynes (82 items)	Container 68.1-68.3, 74.14
Architecture	
Houses, unidentified, includes interior and exterior views and images of construction (135 items)	Container 68.4-69.4
Robert E. Lee's home, by W. W. Mitchell (2 items)	Container 69.5
Balloons and dirigibles, on the ground, in the air, and aerial views (65 items)	Container 69.6-69.7
Bank robbery, Redondo Beach, California, 1980, by Associated Press photographers (6 items)	Container 69.8
<i>City of Gold</i> film stills, includes bound album (65 items)	Container 69.9-70.1
Clippings, paintings, and drawings (copy prints of) (10 items)	Container 70.2
Farm equipment (30 items)	Container 70.3-70.4
Postcard collection, includes images of American states, Canada, South American and European countries, and military scenes, by unknown photographers (801 items)	Container 70.5-73.1
Power plant (11 items)	Container 73.2
Road building, including construction equipment and Texas development board aerial survey views (45 items)	Container 73.3-73.4
Transportation	
Automobiles, includes advertising vehicles and race cars, circa 1910 (34 items)	Container 73.5-76.6
Horse-drawn carts (3 items)	Container 73.7-73.8
Ships (32 items)	Container 73.9-73.10

Trains (1 item)

Container 73.11

Series V. Negatives

Unorganized negatives

Container 75-143

List of BarCodes

- Box 1: 059188000063549
- Box 2: 059188000063550
- Box 3: 059188000063560
- Box 4: 059188000063571
- Box 5: 059188000063582
- Box 6: 059188000063593
- Box 7: 059188000063607
- Box 8: 059188000063618
- Box 9: 059188000063629
- Box 10: 059188000063630
- Box 11: 059188000063640
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- Box 73: 059188000064268
- Box 74: 059188000064279