Bohemian Grove, ca. 1906-1909

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Berkeley, California 94720-6000
1996
Bohemian Grove, ca. 1906-1909, by Gabriel Moulin

BANC PIC 1957.023--ALB

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Collection Summary
Collection Title: Bohemian Grove,
Date (inclusive): ca. 1906-1909
Collection Number: BANC PIC 1957.023--ALB
Extent: 1 album of 54 photographic prints ; b&w, 18 x 28 in.54 digital objects
Photographer: Gabriel Moulin
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Languages Represented: English

Access
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Preferred Citation

Bohemian Grove, ca. 1906-1909

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Digital Representations Available

Digital representations of selected original pictorial materials are available in the list of materials below. Digital image files were prepared from selected Library originals by the Library Photographic Service. Library originals were copied onto 35mm color transparency film; the film was scanned and transferred to Kodak Photo CD (by Custom Process); and the Photo CD files were color-corrected and saved in JFIF (JPEG) format for use as viewing files.

Title: Bohemian Grove photographs from the William Albert Setchell papers / by Gabriel Moulin. 1937.
Identifier/Call Number: BANC PIC 1966.023--PIC

Title: Photographs of "The Piper," Bohemian Grove play / taken by Gabriel Moulin. 1938.
Identifier/Call Number: BANC PIC 1976.052--ALB

Title: Views of the Bohemian Grove / photographed by Gabriel Moulin. 1921-1926.
Identifier/Call Number: BANC PIC 1980.059--PIC

Biography

Gabriel Moulin [Charles Peter Gabriel Moulin] (1872-1945) was a leading California photographer whose subjects included 1906 San Francisco earthquake scenes, Bohemian Grove plays, and the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge. He was born in San Jose, but his family relocated to San Francisco when he was eight years old. In 1884 he began assisting Isaiah West Taber with Taber's commercial photography. After working for photographer Max Karras for a year in 1891, he was soon employed by R.J. Waters, who had a large photography studio in San Francisco. Under Waters, Moulin worked as a photographer for the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. He later became the official photographer for the Bohemian Club.

In 1909, he founded Gabriel Moulin Studios in San Francisco. This business is credited with preserving many gelatin nitrate negatives and glass plates from this era. Within five years, Moulin was a firmly established commercial photographer, and was chosen to be the official photographer of the Palace of Fine Arts at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915. His studio was also chosen to document the construction of the Golden Gate and the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridges, and the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island in 1939/1940.

Moulin's photographic technique is characterized by highly detailed and carefully composed settings. He was particularly well-known for his meticulously crafted home interior photographs. His acquaintances included many well-known, famous San Franciscans, and his documentation of them and their families and homes is a major strength of his photographic collections. Nature photography was of particular interest to him -he photographed California redwood forests including those of Bohemian Grove, as well as parts of Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, and Monterey. A well-known commercial photographer in San Francisco in the 1920s and 1930s, only later was he recognized to have captured significant moments in California history in his photographs.

After Moulin's death in 1945, he left his studio to his sons, Irving and Raymond.


Scope and Content

This collection consists of an album of 54 photographic prints of Bohemian Grove activities, circa 1906-1909. Most of the prints are identified as Gabriel Moulin photographs. Included are photographs of groups of people and theatrical productions at Bohemian Grove. The individuals pictured include Porter Garnett, Xavier Martinez, H. Morse Stephens, George Sterling, Benjamin Ide Wheeler, and G. Coutts. Captions have been supplied for the container list.