San Francisco Earthquake and Fire Photographs by the Miles Brothers, 1906

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San Francisco Earthquake and Fire Photographs by the Miles Brothers, 1906

Collection number: BANC PIC 19xx.181--PIC

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Finding Aid Author(s):
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Collection Summary
Collection Title: San Francisco Earthquake and Fire Photographs by the Miles Brothers
Date: 1906
Collection Number: BANC PIC 19xx.181--PIC
Creator: Miles Brothers
Extent: 43 glass plate negatives35 digital objects
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Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Access
Original glass plate negatives restricted. Use viewing prints with call no. BANC PIC 19xx.181--PIC.

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Preferred Citation
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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.

Acquisition Information
Unknown.

Organization History
The Miles brothers (Harry, Herbert, and Earl C.) were film exhibitors who established the first motion picture exchange in the United States in San Francisco in 1902. Prior to this they and other exhibitors had to purchase movies directly from the makers. Brother Harry came up with the idea of renting films to exhibitors, an idea that forever changed the growing industry.

Under the Miles Brothers Motion Picture Company, the brothers produced "actualities," filmed records of local views and current events. They were also active in foreign film distribution and the development of early storefront theaters (nickelodeons). In 1906, they constructed an elaborate studio in San Francisco with the intention of making narrative films. Had the earthquake and fire not destroyed their facility (before a single film was produced), they might have become major producers. They continued to make actualities through 1907, establishing a reputation for filming important boxing matches. The exchange was still in business as of 1915 on Mission Street in San Francisco, as noted in "Miles Brothers, Pioneers" (The Moving Picture World, July 10, 1915, p. 248).


Scope and Content
The collection consists of 43 glass plate negatives from which copy prints have been made. The photographs are primarily of street scenes and buildings damaged or destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire. Also included are two shots of the Miles brothers, two of boxer Jim Jeffries, and a few unidentified photos. Most of the photographs bear the company's name and a photograph number. The original glass plates are not available for use.


Girls' High School BANC PIC 19xx.181:01--PIC ark:/13030/tf3k4008bc
   Additional Note
   Number: 1

St. Dominic's Church before steeple fell BANC PIC 19xx.181:02--PIC ark:/13030/tf3r29p1k8
   Additional Note
   Number: 14

St. Dominic's Church BANC PIC 19xx.181:03--PIC
   Additional Note
   Number: 15

St. Dominic's Church BANC PIC 19xx.181:04--PIC ark:/13030/tf400096g
   Additional Note
   Number: 19

Olsen Family in Jefferson Park BANC PIC 19xx.181:05--PIC ark:/13030/tf6r29p3q7
   Additional Note
   Number: 21

Band Stand in Golden Gate Park BANC PIC 19xx.181:06--PIC ark:/13030/tf1s2006fn
   Additional Note
   Number: 22
Southeastern Pacific Information and Register Tent  BANC PIC 19xx.181:07--PIC  ark:/13030/tf3h4nb550
   Additional Note
   Number: 33

Museum in Golden Gate Park  BANC PIC 19xx.181:08--PIC  ark:/13030/tf167nb3kn
   Additional Note
   Number: 34

Wrecked house  BANC PIC 19xx.181:09--PIC  ark:/13030/tf648p2zf
   Additional Note
   Number: 58

Steam Wrecker on Van Ness Avenue  BANC PIC 19xx.181:10--PIC  ark:/13030/tf7k4010wg
   Additional Note
   Number: 59

Novelty Theater on Powell St.  BANC PIC 19xx.181:11--PIC  ark:/13030/tf600009rm
   Additional Note
   Number: 60

Bread line  BANC PIC 19xx.181:12--PIC  ark:/13030/tf838nb87d
   Additional Note
   Number: 61

Group of wrecked houses, 17th and Howard Streets  BANC PIC 19xx.181:13--PIC  ark:/13030/tf1489p0bm
   Additional Note
   Number: 62

Wrecked house, Scott near Post St.  BANC PIC 19xx.181:14--PIC  ark:/13030/tf0c60063j
   Additional Note
   Number: 64

Post Office Building, 7th and Mission Streets  BANC PIC 19xx.181:15--PIC  ark:/13030/tf159p0n7
   Additional Note
   Number: 71

Lick Baths, 11th near Howard St.  BANC PIC 19xx.181:16--PIC  ark:/13030/tf987011tk
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   Number: 73

Safes on Sutter St.  BANC PIC 19xx.181:17--PIC  ark:/13030/tf638nb68b
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   Number: 77

Book stores on Geary St.  BANC PIC 19xx.181:18--PIC
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View from Ferry Building BANC PIC 19xx.181:31--PIC  ark:/13030/tf1f59p0pr
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Men and women posed in front of ruins BANC PIC 19xx.181:32--PIC  ark:/13030/tf0z09n9n3
Miles Bros. lab after fire BANC PIC 19xx.181:33--PIC  ark:/13030/tf696nb6wz
Horse and buggy with men and woman in front of ruins BANC PIC 19xx.181:34--PIC  ark:/13030/tf2t1nb3x2

Ocean Shore Railway BANC PIC 19xx.181:35--PIC  ark:/13030/tf5x0nb6rh
Balloon disaster of the 80's BANC PIC 19xx.181:36--PIC  ark:/13030/tf7q2nb7m7
Jim Jeffries refereeing fight BANC PIC 19xx.181:37--PIC  ark:/13030/tf61nb6vq
Jim Jeffries at Colma BANC PIC 19xx.181:38--PIC

The Miles brothers: pictured on platform above crowd (Herbert, left) BANC PIC 19xx.181:39--PIC  ark:/13030/tf8m3nb802
The Miles brothers: pictured in front of their motion picture exchange (Herbert, left) BANC PIC 19xx.181:40--PIC  ark:/13030/tf489p0c4
Man with clenched fist posed in front of house BANC PIC 19xx.181:41--PIC
Four men in automobile BANC PIC 19xx.181:42--PIC

New York: photographic copy of a 1911 lithograph by Richard Rummell BANC PIC 19xx.181:43--PIC