Descriptive Summary

Title: Photograph album of the Chinese Eastern Railway

Date: circa 1920s

Collection Number: MS-M018

Extent: 0.8 linear feet (1 box)

Languages: The collection is in Russian.

Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.

Irvine, California 92623-9557

Abstract: The collection comprises a photograph album of over 100 black-and-white photographic prints related to the Chinese Eastern Railway line of the Trans-Siberian Railway in the 1920s. The photographs depict railway lines, bridges, train stations, cargo loading, the manufacture of locomotive parts, the interiors and exteriors of railway cars, and group portraits of railway staff. Photographs also depict tourists, local people, and landscapes along the route. The album also includes several photographic postcards of Harbin China, a few photomechanical prints, and a photographic reproduction of a black-and-white painting of Hingan Railway Loop. Most photographs have handwritten captions in Russian.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation


For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. V. I. Sourine, 1972.

Historical Background

Completed in 1901, the Chinese Eastern Railway is the trans-Manchurian line of the Trans-Siberian Railway that runs from the Transbaikal region to Vladivostok. By 1904 the line from Vladivostok was linked all the way to Moscow, and by 1916 the Trans-Siberian Railroad was complete. At the time of its construction the Chinese Eastern Railway was the shortest route from European Russia to Russia's port (Vladivostok) on the Sea of Japan. China granted Russia the right to construct the Chinese Eastern line in Manchuria during a period of secret alliance between the two countries (circa 1896). The Chinese seized control of the line from the Soviets in 1927, but relinquished control in 1929. In 1935 the Soviet Union sold the line to Japanese-controlled Manchukuo. Following World War II Chinese ruler Chiang Kai-shek granted the Soviets a thirty-year partnership in the line. The Soviet Union returned its share of the Chinese Eastern Railway to the People's Republic of China in 1953.


Collection Scope and Content Summary

The collection comprises a photograph album of over 100 black-and-white photographic prints related to the Chinese Eastern Railway line of the Trans-Siberian Railway (Velikai a Sibirskaia magistral) circa 1920s. The photographs depict railway lines, bridges, train stations, cargo loading, the manufacture of locomotive parts, the interiors and exteriors of railway cars, and group portraits of railway staff. Photographs also depict tourists, local people, and landscapes along the route. The album also includes several photographic postcards of Harbin China, a few photomechanical prints, and a photographic reproduction of a black-and-white painting of Hingan Railway Loop. Most photographs have handwritten captions in Russian. The photographs range from 2 x 3 to 9 x 11 inches.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Chinese Eastern Railway -- Photographs.
Velikai a Sibirskaiia magistral -- Photographs.
Railroads -- Russia -- Photographs.
Railroads -- China -- Photographs.

Genres and Formats of Materials
Photographic prints -- 20th century.
Photograph albums -- 20th century.