[Photograph album of city and landscape views of Brazil], [between 1890 and 1910]

Finding aid prepared by Jane Carpenter with assistance from Simon Elliott; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

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Title: [Photograph album of city and landscape views of Brazil]
Collection number: 94/251
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1 album(146 photographic prints) : albumen ; 28 x 38 cm (album)
Date: [between 1890 and 1910]
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

Conditions on Access
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Preferred Citation
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Biography/History
Album of photographs of cities and landscapes of Brazil from 1890-1910, including 23 large-format photographs, two signed by the Gaensly & Lindemann studio of Guilherme Gaensly and Rodolfo Lindemann. The album, purchased from a Glasgow stationer, and perhaps compiled by a Scottish Presbyterian missionary to Brazil, contains photographs of many different Brazilian cities, documenting their streets, civic and commercial buildings, churches, residences, public parks and botanical gardens, municipal waterworks, trolley cars, and railroads: Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Pernambuco (Recife), Bahía (Salvador de Bahía), and Porto Alegre. Also included are photos of the states of Para, and Parana. Outside the cities, the photographer has captured views of the countryside and jungle, including rivers--the Tocantins, the São Joao--waterfalls, fishing boats and ferries, and dense jungles of ferns, coconut palms, and bamboo, and the curious rock formations of Vila Velha. The photos of native peoples such as the Amazonian Indians, and the Gavião or Urubu Kaapor Indians, as well as Brazilian blacks, posing in front of their mud and thatch huts, and selling water, pineapples, bananas, and bread in the streets and open air markets. There are some excellent images of Guarani Indians in full war costume, wearing bracelets and necklaces made of human teeth, and Gavião Indians, some wearing feather headdresses, others clothed in straw costumes and towering straw and feather headdresses. Also included are photos of churches in various cities: Penha Church in Pernambuco; the Italian church and the English church in Bahía, and a large Italianate church in Pará. In Novo Friburgo, near Rio, a small house with elaborate gingerbread work is identified as the house of Rev. Dr. Kyle; Rev. John M. Kyle and his wife served as missionaries to Brazil for the Presbyterian Church in America, in the 1880s and 1890s, and were posted to Novo Friburgo in 1891. There also two spectacular large photographs of the São Paulo Railway, a privately owned British railway company which operated the route from the seaport of Santos via São Paulo to Jundiaí. Although only two of the large photographs are signed "Gaensly & Lindemann," with their studio address at Rua 15 de Novembro in São Paulo, many others in the album, including the two three-part city panoramas of Porto Alegre and São Paulo, also appear to be the work of the Swiss-born Brazilian photographer Guilherme Gaensly who opened a studio in São Paulo in 1894. Some of the smaller photographs may have been taken by the amateur photographer who compiled the album.

According to John Hannavy's Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography (New York: Routledge, 2008, page 565), Wilhelm Gaensly, one of Brazil's most celebrated landscape photographers, was born in the Swiss town of Felben-Wellhausen, but moved with his mother to Bahía, Brazil in 1848, where they joined a community of Swiss immigrants. After studying with established photographers such as Albert Henschel, Waldemar Lange, and Joseph Schleier, he established his own studio at No. 1, Ladeira de São Bento in Bahía, winning acclaim for his large collection of views of Bahía Gaensly moved to São Paulo in 1894 to set up a second studio, leaving Lindemann behind to manage the Bahía studio. For almost twenty years, Gaensly worked extensively for the São Paulo Tramway Light and Power Company, and for various government agencies. When his partnership with Lindemann ended in 1900, Gaensly continued to work as "Photographia Gaensly." His photographs of the fishermen's huts and canoes on the outskirts of Bahía are famous for their beauty. He also photographed the British Church in Bahía, the first Protestant church there, a historic building which was
demolished in 1975.

Scope and Content

Large photographs (23 x 29.5 cm) are mounted to rectos and versos of 33 leaves of heavy white cardboard, one to a page; smaller photographs (13 x 18 cm or smaller) are mounted two, three, or five to a page; two photographic panoramas, one of Porto Alegre (12 x 62 cm), and one of São Paulo (21 x 80 cm) are folded into segments, each panorama mounted across two facing pages so it can be unfolded to its full extension; each photograph has detailed caption added in pen; last four leaves are blank.

Bound in brown grained leather covers; gold-stamped cover title in gold; inner gilt dentelles; gray, green, and white glossy marbled endpapers; stationer's name "A. Duthie. Glasgow" stamped in lower right corner of front pastedown.

Related Material

Part of the Photograph Album Collection (Collection 94) in UCLA Library Special Collections.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

A. Duthie (Firm: Glasgow, Scotland).
Gaensly, Guilherme, 1843-1928, photographer.
Lindemann, Rodolfo Frederico Francisco, approximately 1852-, photographer.
Restaurante Progredior (São Paulo, Brazil) São--Photographs.
Albumen prints.
Blacks--Brazil--Photographs.
Blacks--Brazil--Social life and customs--Photographs.
Botanical gardens--Brazil--Photographs.
Brazil--Photographs.
Brazil--Rural conditions--Photographs.
Brazil--Social life and customs--Photographs.
Caravans--Brazil--Photographs.
Carriages and carts--Brazil--Photographs.
Church buildings--Brazil--Photographs.
Coconut palm--Brazil--Photographs.
Ferns--Brazil--Photographs.
Ferries--Brazil--Photographs.
Indians of South America--Clothing--Brazil--Photographs.
Par? (Brazil : State)--Photographs.
Paran? (Brazil : State)--Photographs.
Parks--Brazil--Photographs.
Parque Estadual de Vila Velha (Brazil)--Photographs.
Photograph albums
Photograph albums--Brazil--1890-1910.
Photographic prints
Porto Alegre (Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil)--Photographs.
Recife (Brazil)--Photographs.
Reservoirs--Brazil--São Paulo--Photographs.
Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)--Photographs.
Salvador (Brazil)--Photographs.
Smacks (Fishing boats)--Brazil--Photographs.
Street-railroads--Brazil--São Paulo--Photographs.
São Paulo (Brazil)--Buildings, structures, etc.--Photographs.
São Paulo Railway--Photographs.
Urubu Kaapor Indians--Clothing--Photographs.
Viaducts--Brazil--São Paulo--Photographs.
Waterfalls--Brazil--Photographs.
Waterworks--Brazil--São Paulo--Photographs.

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