Guide to the Siberia Photograph Album

Processed by Edward C. Fields
Department of Special Collections, Davidson Library
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010
Phone: (805) 893-3062
Fax: (805) 893-5749
URL: http://www.library.ucsb.edu/speccoll/index.html
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Title: Siberia Photograph Album
Date (inclusive): ca. 1895
Collection number: Bernath Mss 150
Extent: .4 linear feet (1 document box)
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010
Physical location: Del Sur
Language of Material: Collection materials in English
Access Restrictions
None.
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Acquisition Information
Purchase, 2005.
Scope and Content of Collection
The album (stamped "Sibirien," Siberia in German, on the cover) contains 50 b/w photographs of people and places in Siberia. Many appear to be of the port city of Vladivostok, along with Irkutsk the most important trade and commercial center in turn of the century Siberia. Founded in 1860, Vladivostok's importance to Tsarist Russia was greatly enhanced by the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway begun in 1891 and completed in 1905. Some of the scenes in the album suggest the commercial growth and activity of this period. There are scenes of various ships (ranging from large coal burning ships to a smaller harbor vessel with the name "Pavel" on its side) as well as views of the city and street scenes showing various commercial enterprises (for example, the Kinst and Albers Trading House) some with their or their proprietors' names on signs (in Russian) and an Orthodox Church compound. There are shots of inhabitants and workers (including some Chinese workers in Qing era dress) engaged in various activities including photographs of a group of men on bicycles and what appears to be a group of young women leaving a convent school.