

RONALD S. SMITH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

(Mss.4127)

Inventory

Created/revised by
Mark E. Martin

Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University Libraries
Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University

2003
Revised 2009

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SUMMARY

Size	24 glass plate negatives; 24 resin-coated paper prints; 24 interpositives; 24 internegatives.	
Geographic Locations	Louisiana; New Orleans.	
Inclusive Dates	ca. 1890.	
Bulk Dates	ca. 1890.	
Languages	English	
Summary	The collection consists of twenty-four (24) glass plate negatives from which twenty-four (24) resin-coated paper prints, twenty-four (24) interpositives, and twenty-four (24) internegatives were created in 2003. Most of the images cover subjects in New Orleans and Louisiana.	
Access Restrictions	No restrictions.	
Reproduction Note	None	
Copyright	Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by descendants of the creators of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.	
Related Collections	None	
Citation	Ronald S. Smith Photograph Collection, Mss.4127, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.	
Stack Location(s)	65:03	glass plate negatives
	E:69 box 15	resin-coated paper prints
	146	Interpositives / Internegatives

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Ronald A. Smith, New Orleans, La., donated these twenty-four (24) glass plate negatives, dated circa 1890, to the LSU Libraries. None of the images have any subject or location information associated with them, with the exception of two images. These two images have the names Charles A. Theil and John E. Theil and "N.O." scratched in the negatives' emulsion.

Charles A. Theil, born in Saxony, 1842, first appears in New Orleans in 1867. The 1870 census lists the then 28 year old Charles as married and working as a clerk at the customs house. By 1874, Charles had become the manager of the United States Bonded Warehouse #6, Nos. 143, 145, 147 and 149 Front Street (between Fulton and South Peters, Julia and Saint Joseph). The following year he became the proprietor of the same warehouse and of the Montgomery Warehouse (115 Fulton). By 1884 Charles had become the proprietor of the United States Bonded Warehouse #1, Crescent Warehouse, (Tchoupitoulas, between Julia and Saint Joseph) and Montgomery Warehouse. In 1889 the Crescent Warehouse was owned by Hearn & Riffel; Charles Theil retained proprietorship of the #1 and Montgomery Warehouses. In 1891 Charles is listed as the proprietor of U S Bonded Warehouse #1, Montgomery Warehouse #2, Sugar and Molasses Warehouse, and Iron Warehouses, with a parenthetical reference to Rice, though whether Rice refers to a commodity or to a family name is unknown. By 1895 Charles is listed as proprietor of U S Bonded Warehouse, Dairy, Sugar and Molasses Warehouse, and Iron Warehouses, with the same enigmatic reference to Rice. By the 1904, the year of his death, Charles was listed as the president of the United Warehouse Co. Ltd., 815 Fulton, which was the owner of:

1. Daisy, United Warehouse Co. Ltd. propr., 843 South Peters;
2. Iron, United Warehouse Co. Ltd. propr., 861 Fulton;
3. Keystone, United Warehouse Co. Ltd. propr., 804 Fulton;
4. Mississippi, United Warehouse Co. Ltd. propr., 814 Fulton;
5. Montgomery, United Warehouse Co. Ltd. proprs., 815 Fulton;
6. Rebecca, United Warehouse Co. Ltd. proprs., Fulton corner Julia.

The New Orleans city directory lists a John Theil as early as 1871 but this John Theil is listed as a saloon worker or bartender. It isn't until 1889 that a John E. Theil is listed as a clerk in the Montgomery Bonded Warehouse, owned by Charles Theil. As Charles' only surviving son was named Charles, Jr., it seems likely that John E. Theil was perhaps a relative; John's residence is listed as the same as Charles'. John E. Thiel is listed variously as clerk, bookkeeper, or assistant manager of the warehouse through 1900 when his name disappears from the record.

Charles and John Theil may have been amateur photographers associated with the New Orleans Camera Club. The Camera Club first appears in the city directory in 1889 ("New Orleans Camera Club, meets at Tulane University. H. T. Howard, president; C. H. Fenner, secretary, 105 Gravier; P. E. Carriere, treasurer"). The Camera Club stopped being listed in the city directory as of the 1900 edition.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of twenty-four (24) glass plate negatives from which twenty-four (24) resin-coated paper prints were made in 2003. Interpositives and internegatives were also created at that time for all twenty-four (24) negatives. Most of the images cover subjects in New Orleans and Louisiana.

SERIES AND SUBSERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I.	Prints	
Subseries I.	Portraits, adults	Four (4) portraits of adults: two of a young woman posing dramatically; one of an older woman in bed perhaps convalescing, and; the last of a shirtless young man. The last negative is badly decayed.
Subseries II.	Portraits, children	Three (3) portraits of children: one a male child seated on the ground in a garden; another of two boys and a girl seated on the ground in a garden, and; an older male child posing in a studio.
Subseries III.	Portraits, groups	Three (3) group portraits: one of an African-American family on and around a mule-drawn cart in front of a one room shack; another of a group of men in front of an unidentified business in a city, and; the last of an unidentified extended family posing in their side yard
Subseries IV.	Landscapes, rural and urban	Two (2) images of landscapes, one a pastoral rural scene and one a snowy urban scene
Subseries V.	Homes	Six (6) images of residences, four document the façade of the buildings and two document the backyards of a building
Subseries VI.	Lakefront scenes	Three (3) unidentified lakefront scenes, one of which includes a photographer with his wooden box camera on a tripod
Subseries VII.	Trick photography	One (1) double exposure of an industrial complex
Subseries VIII.	War memorials	Two (2) scenes of war memorials, one identified as the Washington Artillery, the other unidentified.
Series II.	Negatives	Twenty-four (24) glass plate negatives.
Series III.	Interpositives/internegatives	Twenty-four (24) interpositives and twenty-four (24) internegatives created from the original glass plate negatives.

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Gazebos--Photographs	412721
Girls--Portrait photographs	412706
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RONALD S. SMITH PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

ca. 1890

Mss. #4127

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, LSU LIBRARIES

Theil, John E.	412708
United States--History--Civil War--1861-1865--Memorials-- Photographs	412723, 412724
Wagons--Louisiana--New Orleans--Photographs	412708
Waterfronts--Photographs	412719, 412720, 412721
Women--Portrait photographs	412701, 412702, 412703, 412710

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Subseries</u>
E:69	15	I. Prints	I. Portraits, adults
			II. Portraits, children
			III. Portraits, groups
			IV. Landscapes, rural and urban
			V. Homes
			VI. Lakefront scenes
			VII. Trick photography
			VIII. War memorials
65:03		II. Negatives	
146		III. Interpositives/internegatives	