

AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART ARCHIVES COLLECTION GUIDE

Collection Summary

- Title:** Earl Alonzo Brininstool Collection
- Date:** 1860s–1930s
- Creator(s):** Brininstool, Earl Alonzo (1870–1957)
- Extent:** 3.5 linear feet
- Code:** EAB
- Repository:** Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives
- Abstract:** The Earl Alonzo Brininstool Collection consists of manuscripts and photographs accumulated in support of Brininstool's historical research projects. These materials document aspects of the American west in the latter half of the 19th and early 20th century.

Information for Researchers

Access Restrictions

The collection is open to qualified researchers.

Use Restrictions

The Earl Alonzo Brininstool Collection is the physical property of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art. The Amon Carter Museum of American Art assumes no responsibility for infringement of literary property rights or copyrights or for liability to any person for defamation or invasion of privacy.

Preferred Citation

Earl Alonzo Brininstool Collection, [item identification], Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives.

Related Collections in the Amon Carter Museum of American Art Archives

None

Contact the museum archivist at archivist@cartermuseum.org or 817.989.5077 for additional information.

Administrative Information

Acquisition and Custody Information

Purchase from private collector, 1967.

Processed By

Teresa Ferguson and Jonathan Frembling

Biographical Note

Born in Warsaw, New York, Earl Brininstool (1870–1957) moved to Los Angeles in 1895. A newspaper reporter turned western Historian he collected books, artifacts, manuscripts, and vintage photographs, and contributed to the dialogue about the plains settlements of post civil war America. Through the early part of the twentieth century, he photographed survivors and places relevant to the westering of America. He also purchased vintage photographs of what he considered historically significant nineteenth-century people and places such as Native American subjects like Rain-in-the-Face, made about 1886 by David Barry and images by George Trager of the aftermath at Wounded Knee in 1891.

Scope and Content Note

The Earl Alonzo Brininstool Collection was acquired in 1967 from a private collector in Colorado. The Amon Carter Museum of American Art arranged with the University of Texas at Austin to purchase the manuscript portion of the collection and those items were shipped to Austin in March 1967. The Amon Carter retained photocopies of the manuscripts now housed in the Archives of the Amon Carter. 1822 objects, photographs and negatives, compromise the Amon Carter's Brininstool Collection. The Amon Carter library has sixteen Brininstool publications.

Since 1967 select vintage photographs from this collection have been exhibited on a regular basis. Approximately 333 vintage images collected by Brininstool include nineteenth century albumen silver and gelatin silver photographs by mostly well known photographers. The photographs include Native American subjects, particularly those involved in the Battle of Little Big Horn such as Sitting Bull by David F. Barry, city views of Deadwood by John C. Grabill, and cowboys by George Kirkland.

The balance of the collection consists of 989 snapshot quality black and white images and 500 negatives made by Brininstool between 1913 and 1930s. Brininstool used his collections to illustrate his publications and although he is not a major figure in the historical lexicon he survives as an avid supporter of popular history through his publications. His documents serve as illustrations of places like Beecher Island, a Colorado monument, or the Wagon Box site in Wyoming. The photographs are also personal mementos of events such as Brininstool and his friends attending a battlefield

monument dedication or views of the fifty-year reunion of the Battle of Little Big Horn made in 1926.

Papers: This series includes the research and manuscripts accumulated by Earl Alonzo Brininstool. The majority of these materials are copies of originals held by the University of Texas at Austin, and are included to provide context to the photographic collection of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art.

Acquisition and Research: This series includes supplementary research conducted by the Amon Carter on the themes and issues contained within Brininstool's original collection. Further material discusses the 1967 split of the collection between the University of Texas and the Amon Carter.

Photographic: This series consists of copy prints of originals in the Brininstool Collection made by the Amon Carter for reference use. These duplicate the larger body of original photography and provide easy access to fragile materials.

A more detailed series description appears at the start of each series in this finding aid.

Series I. Papers

Scope and Content Note: This series contains copies of materials either written by Brininstool or collected for his research. These items are mostly copies of those held by the University of Texas at Austin. The latter part of the series is heavily interspersed with research materials amassed by the Amon Carter which endeavor to integrate the Brininstool Collection into historical context and the larger museum holdings.

Box 1, Folder 1: Personal Correspondence

Box 1, Folder 2: Correspondence E. A. Brininstool — Robert. E. Strahorn

Box 1, Folder 3: Baker and Johnston

Box 1, Folder 4: The Killing of Sitting Bull

Box 1, Folder 5: Field Diary of The Indian Campaign of 1876 (Custer's Last Expedition)

Box 1, Folder 6: The Bozeman Trail Forts under General Philip St. George Cooke In 1866

Box 1, Folder 7: The Beecher Island Fight by Scout Sigmund Shlesinger

Box 1, Folder 8: Letters of Dr. V. T. McGillycuddy to E. A. Brininstool

Box 1, Folder 9: Original Manuscript of Homer W. Wheeler Colonel, Calvary, U.S.A. Volume 1

Box 1, Folder 10: Original Manuscript of Homer W. Wheeler Colonel, Calvary, U.S.A. Volume 2

Box 1, Folder 11: Original Manuscript of Homer W. Wheeler Colonel, Calvary, U.S.A. Volume 3

Box 1, Folder 12: Original Manuscript of Homer W. Wheeler Colonel, Calvary, U.S.A. Volume 4

Box 1, Folder 13: General R. S. Mackenzie's Raid into Mexico 1873

Box 1, Folder 14: Account of Indian Battle on Sappa Creek April 23, 1875 2nd Lieut. Austin Henely, 6th Calvary to Post Adjutant Fort Wallace, Kansas April 26, 1878

Box 1, Folder 15: Nute, Grace Lee. "Fur Trading Posts in Minnesota, 1660–1855." *The Minnesota Archaeologist*, July 1949

Box 1, Folder 16: Letters and Documents Relating to the Killing of Cheyenne Indian known as "Yellow Hand" or "Yellow Hair" on Hat Creek, Nebraska, July, 1876

Box 1, Folder 17: Custer Letters from Charles Kuhlman to E. A. Brininstool on the Custer Campaign

Box 1, Folder 18: The Covered Wagon (Address by Hon. Harry B. Hawes of Missouri) St. Louis, April 10, 1930

Box 1, Folder 19: Brininstool — UT Austin — Related Collections [1]

Box 1, Folder 20: Brininstool — UT Austin — Related Collections [2]

Box 1, Folder 21: Brininstool — UT Austin — Related Collections [3]

Box 1, Folder 22: Brininstool — UT Austin — Related Collections [4]

Box 2, Folder 1: Miscellaneous Military Orders and Instructions

Box 2, Folder 2: Brininstool — Ranch Houses

Box 2, Folder 3: BYU Ellison/Brininstool

Box 2, Folder 4: Brininstool — BYU

Box 2, Folder 5: Brininstool — UT Austin Center for American History

Box 2, Folder 6: Brininstool — Denver Public Library

Box 2, Folder 7: Brininstool — Rosenstock

Box 2, Folder 8: Brininstool — Professor Hester Colorado University

Box 2, Folder 9: Brininstool — Other Institutions Summary of Holdings

Box 2, Folder 10: Brininstool — University of Wyoming

Box 2, Folder 11: Newberry Collection

Box 2, Folder 12: Brininstool — UT Austin — Other Institutions

Box 2, Folder 13: Denver Art Museum

Box 2, Folder 14: Research Denver 1999 Denver Public Library

Box 2, Folder 15: BAE Background Notes and Contacts

Box 2, Folder 16: BAE Images — Not ACM

Series II. Acquisition and Research

Scope and Content Note: This series includes records from outside of Brininstool's original collection primarily dealing with the museum's acquisition and split of the collection. Included is a notable discussion of the errors arising from the acquisition and mixing of the Earl Alonzo Brininstool Collection (EAB) and the Bureau of American Ethnology Collection (BAE) during the same period.

Box 2, Folder 17: Transfer to Archives

Box 2, Folder 18: Brininstool Family Correspondence

Box 2, Folder 19: Brininstool — Popular Historian

Box 2, Folder 20: Brininstool — ACM Archives/Photo Split

Box 2, Folder 21: EAB Provenance and Chronology

Box 2, Folder 22: Brininstool — Provenance

Box 2, Folder 23: File Lists

Box 2, Folder 24: Brininstool ACM Archives

Series III. Photographic

Scope and Content Note: This series consists of copy prints of originals held by the museum. These prints are meant to serve as use proxies to minimize handling of the originals. This series is not a complete set of all photos within the collection — being primarily those that have been most often requested in the past.

Box 3, Folder 1: Negative Sleeve Photocopies [1]

Box 3, Folder 2: Negative Sleeve Photocopies [2]

Box 3, Folder 3: Photo File Negatives

Box 3, Folder 4: Photo File Contact Sheet [Former P1967.3–P1967.99]

Box 3, Folder 5: Photo File [Former P1967.23–P1967.48]

Box 3, Folder 6: Photo File [Former P1967.52–P1967.99]

Box 3, Folder 7: Photo File [Former P1967.101–P1967.110]

Box 3, Folder 8: Photo File [Former P1967.111–P1967.182]

Box 3, Folder 9: Photo File [Former P1967.204–P1967.250]

Box 3, Folder 10: Photo File [Former P1967.258–P1967.295]

Box 3, Folder 11: Photo File [Former P1967.301–P1967.345]

Box 3, Folder 12: Photo File [Former P1967.353–P1967.398]

Box 4: Folder 1: Photo File [Former P1967.413–P1967.439]

Box 4: Folder 2: Photo File [Former P1967.457–P1967.469]

Box 4: Folder 3: Photo File [Former P1967.470–P1967.499]

Box 4: Folder 4: Photo File [Former P1967.503–P1967.594]

Box 4: Folder 5: Photo File [Former P1967.613–P1967.630]

Box 4: Folder 6: Photo File [Former P1967.631–P1967.692]

Box 4: Folder 7: Photo File [Former P1967.704–P1967.709]

Box 4: Folder 8: Photo File [Former P1967.711–P1967.790]

Box 4: Folder 9: Photo File [Former P1967.801–P1967.861]

Box 4: Folder 10: Photo File [Former P1967.978–P1967.994]

Box 4: Folder 11: Photo File [Former P1967.1067]

Box 4: Folder 12: Photo File [Former P1967.1260–P1967.1268]

Box 4: Folder 13: Photo File [Former P1967.1331–P1967.1399]

Box 4: Folder 14: Photo File [Former P1967.1412–P1967.1489]

Box 4: Folder 15: Photo File [Former P1967.1526–P1967.1546]

Box 4: Folder 16: Photo File [Former P1967.1607–P1967.1674]

Box 5, Folder 1: Photo File [Former P1967.1676–P1967.1695]

Box 5, Folder 2: Photo File [Former P1967.1701–P1967.1722]

Box 5, Folder 3: Photo File [Former P1967.2097–P1967.2099]

Box 5, Folder 4: Photo File [Former P1967.2191]

Box 5, Folder 5: Photo File [Former P1967.2219–P1967.5929]

Box 5, Folder 6: Photo File [Former P1974.109.1–P1974.109.10]

Box 5, Folder 7: Photo File [Former P1974.109.11–P1974.109.20]

Box 5, Folder 8: Photo File [Former P1974.109.21–P1974.109.30]

Box 5, Folder 9: Photo File [Former P1974.109.31–P1974.109.40]

Box 5, Folder 10: Photo File [Former P1974.109.41–P1974.109.50]

Box 6, Folder 1: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1069–P1967.1150]

Box 6, Folder 2: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1151–P1967.1174]

Box 6, Folder 3: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1218–P1967.1250]

Box 6, Folder 4: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1251–P1967.1274]

Box 6, Folder 5: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1276–P1967.1300]

Box 6, Folder 6: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1301–P1967.1325]

Box 6, Folder 7: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1326–P1967.1350]

Box 6, Folder 8: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1351–P1967.1375]

Box 6, Folder 9: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1376–P1967.1400]

Box 6, Folder 10: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1401–P1967.1422]

Box 6, Folder 11: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1427–P1967.1450]

Box 7, Folder 1: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1451–P1967.1473]

Box 7, Folder 2: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1476–P1967.1500]

Box 7, Folder 3: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1501–P1967.1525]

Box 7, Folder 4: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1527–P1967.1550]

Box 7, Folder 5: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1551–P1967.1575]

Box 7, Folder 6: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1576–P1967.1600]

Box 7, Folder 7: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1601–P1967.1625]

Box 7, Folder 8: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1626–P1967.1645]

Box 7, Folder 9: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1654–P1967.1675]

Box 7, Folder 10: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1676–P1967.1695]

Box 7, Folder 11: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1967.1701–P1967.1724]

Box 7, Folder 12: Copy Prints — Research Set [Former P1968.6886–P1968.8435]