

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy**

**Collection of photographs of New York City, New York State and more by Max
Hubacher
1917-1971
AZ 13-3600**

Summary

Main entry:

Hubacher, Max Henry

Title:

Collection of photographs of New York City, New York State and more by Max Hubacher, 1917-1971

Size:

9.5 linear feet (24 boxes)

Abstract:

Photographs by Max Hubacher, including approximately 5,700 loose black and white photoprints and nine scrapbooks, dated from 1917 to 1971, of scenes near his home in Long Island, in New York City where he worked, and documenting his travels throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States. Also includes old Swiss family and school photographs, dated 1883-1916, reprinted from the original negatives.

Preferred citation:

Collection of photographs of New York City, New York State and more by Max Hubacher, AZ 13-3600, Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, The New York Public Library.

Biographical note

Max Henry Hubacher was born in 1900 in Bern, Switzerland and emigrated to the United States in 1923, where he lived in West Virginia and then New York until his death in 1989. Hubacher was a chemist, local historian, and amateur photographer who photographed his travels throughout Europe, Canada, New York, and the American West. Hubacher developed all of his prints from glass plate negatives in his darkroom. Many photographs feature Hubacher's wife, Frieda Hubacher, and his two children, Sylvia and Eric.

Scope and content note

Collection contains approximately 5,700 loose 4"x6" and 8"x10" black and white photoprints, organized by location and then date as noted on their original boxes, followed by nine scrapbooks. The scrapbooks, arranged alphabetically by title, contain mounted photographs organized by subject or trip. Many photographs include detailed handwritten or typed captions on the back.

Most of the photographs in the collection contain images of buildings, streetcars, elevated subway lines, and boats in New York City, New York State, and surrounding areas. Included are many photographs of the Ex-Lax building at 423 Atlantic Avenue in the Fort Greene-Boerum Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn, where Hubacher was employed as a research chemist. In addition to images of the building's exterior and surroundings, Hubacher also took individual and group portraits of Ex-Lax's employees in their offices and laboratories. Also present are many photographs of Long Island, including class portraits of students at the Hewlett School in East Islip, a 1950 Ringling Bros. circus, various historic houses and buildings, and New York World's Fairs in 1939-1940 and 1964-1965.

Many travel photographs also document city scenes, small towns, and landscapes in Switzerland, France, Germany, Italy, the United States, and Canada. These often feature trains and train stations, many of which were shot during Hubacher's long train journeys across the United States and Canada, especially along the routes of the Union Pacific Railroad, the Northern Pacific Railway, and the California Zephyr line spanning from California to Illinois. Travel photographs also show national parks in Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming; streetcars in Chicago, Saint Louis, Montreal, and Seattle; and family houses and farms in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Switzerland. Many family portraits and group portraits of students at the University of Bern are also included. Some prints, dated 1883-1916, were made by Hubacher from old Swiss negatives taken by an unknown family photographer.

Container list

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
		Photographs, 1883-1971
		Europe, 1883-1971
1	1-8	1956 From box labeled "For my scrapbook, duplicates." Includes photographs of landscapes, buildings, boats, and trains in France, Switzerland, and more.
		1965 From box labeled "Trip to Europe." Includes travel photographs of landscapes, buildings, boats, and trains in France, Switzerland, and more.
2	9-12	Part 1
	1-2	Part 2
	3-9	Switzerland, 1883-1971 1883-1924 From box labeled "Duplicate prints of old Swiss negatives: views of a Weissenbühl barn, Löffel family, Gurten mountain in snow." Includes family portraits and landscapes near Basel and Bern, shot by an unknown photographer, 1883-1924, and reprinted from original negatives by Hubacher.
		1959-1966 From box labeled "Duplicate prints." Includes family portraits, landscapes, and photographs of trains and boats, some of which are reproductions from negatives created at an earlier date.
3	10-12	Part 1
	1-6	Part 2
	7-10	Basel, 1916-1971 Includes landscapes and portraits taken near Château d'Oex, Château Chillon, Simmental, and Littisbach.
4	1-5	Bern, 1923-1936 1900-1923 From box labeled "Also persons, but not family, good prints." Includes portraits and landscapes. Folder 3 includes a postcard and pamphlet with similar images.
		1914-1936 From box labeled "High school, class travel, university, NOBS dances, my schoolbook." Includes group portraits of students from the Chemical Institute of the University of Bern and others during class outings and dances, shots from Swiss school books, and photographs of mountains near Wallis.
5	6-8	Part 1
	1	Part 2
	2-10	Switzerland-Germany-Italy, 1956 Includes travel photographs, especially of buildings and trains.
6	1-9	North America, 1922-1964 1959 From box labeled "Canada-Northern USA, Mrs. Chesley, for second album." Includes travel photographs of British Columbia, Alberta, Montreal, Ottawa, Montana, Yellowstone National Park, Chicago, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Seattle, and New Hampshire.
7	1-6	Canada, 1958-1959 Includes photographs of Niagara Falls, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Fort William, Medicine Hat, and Calgary.
		United States, 1922-1964 1958-1959 From box labeled "Vacation." Includes photographs of Montana, Colorado, Washington, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, and Yellowstone National Park. Photographs were taken along the route of the Northern Pacific Railway, with many images of train cars and stations.
	7-8	Part 1

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- 8 1-9 Part 2
Colorado-Utah, 1961-1963
- 9 1-3 1961
From box labeled "Vacation." Includes photographs of Denver, Red Rock, Buffalo Bill's grave, Idaho Springs, Berthoud Pass, Georgetown, and Central City.
- 4-8 1963, First Box
Includes photographs of the Colorado National Monument, Grand Mesa, Montrose, Black Canyon of Gunnison National Park, and a trip from Grand Junction to Moab.
- 1963, Second Box
Includes photographs of Moab, Dead Horse Point, Arches National Park, Loveland Pass, Climax, Leadville, Buena Vista, South Park, Grand Junction, and the California Zephyr train.
- 9 Part 1
- 10 1-9 Part 2
New Bern, North Carolina, 1960
- 11 1-6 Trip to New Bern
Includes travel photographs of New Bern and other parts of North Carolina, and some in Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.
- Vacation
Includes travel photographs of New Bern and other parts of North Carolina, and some in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Virginia, and the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal.
- 7-11 Part 1
- 12 1-6 Part 2
New York City and Long Island, New York, 1922-1964
- 7-9 1943-1959
From envelope labeled "NY, NY." Includes photographs of buildings, skylines, and waterways in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Long Island.
- 10-12 Brooklyn, etc., 1951-1961
From box labeled "Mr. Brower." Also includes some photographs of Long Island, Queens, and Manhattan. Photographs are mainly of streetcars, elevated train lines, skylines, and buildings. Also noted are several shots of an April 20, 1952 fire at Gilgo Beach, Long Island.
- 13 1-8 Brooklyn-Manhattan, 1939-1964
1939-1964, Part 1
From box labeled "Subway & Elevated." Also includes some photographs of Queens and Philadelphia. Photographs are mainly of streetcars, elevated train lines, skylines, and buildings. Also noted are shots of the New York World's Fair in 1939-1940 and 1964-1965.
- 14 1-2 1939-1964, Part 2
From box labeled "Subway & Elevated." Also includes some photographs of Queens and Philadelphia. Photographs are mainly of streetcars, elevated train lines, skylines, and buildings. Also noted are shots of the New York World's Fair in 1939-1940 and 1964-1965.
- 3-7 1940-1954
From box labeled "Birthday." Also includes some photographs of Queens and Massachusetts. Photographs are mainly of streetcars, elevated train lines, skylines, and buildings.
- 8-10 Brooklyn-Queens, 1922-1956
From box labeled "Mr. Brower Streetcars." Includes photographs of streetcars and elevated subway lines.
- Brooklyn-Queens-Manhattan, 1935-1964

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- 15 1-3 1935-1960
Includes photographs of streets, elevated subway lines, snowstorms, and family portraits. Contains many views of and around the Ex-Lax building in Brooklyn.
- 4-6 1949-1964
Includes photographs of boats and New York waterways.
- 7-8 Manhattan-Staten Island-Bronx, 1925-1960
From box labeled "Landscapes." Includes photographs of people, waterways, and skylines.
- 9 Queens-Long Island-Bronx, 1949-1960
Includes photographs of skylines, boats, trains, and buses. Also noted are images of the Bronx Zoo and the Ringling Bros. circus on Long Island in 1950.
- 10 Nitro, West Virginia, 1930-1931
From box labeled "Personal and family." Includes photographs of rivers, family homes, roads, and automobiles.
- Scrapbooks, 1939-1965, undated
Seven scrapbooks containing mounted photographs, ca. 1939-1965, some with captions, and many of which are duplicates of unmounted images.
- 16 Brooklyn-Ex Lax
Includes photographs of elevated subway lines, streetcars, boats, and buildings in Brooklyn. Of interest are shots of the Ex-Lax building at 423 Atlantic Avenue and its employees, Fort Greene Park, a 1947 snowstorm, and the Brooklyn Bridge.
- 23 Canada, 1958-1959
Includes photographs of trains, boats, and landscapes in New York, Montreal, Toronto, Niagra Falls, Ottawa, Fort William, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Banff, and Lake Louise along the route of the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- 17 Family: Trip to Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, Eric's school class, Mr. Buck
Includes family and group portraits and photographs of trains and churches in New York, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Includes a 1945 series of class portraits of students at the Hewlett School on Long Island.
- 24 Manhattan: Views, El, Ships, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson
Includes photographs of skylines, street scenes, elevated train lines, and boats in New York City and New York Harbor.
- 18 Montana-Wyoming-Nebraska, 1962
Includes travel photographs of landscapes, people, wildlife, trains, and train stations in Illinois, Montana, Wyoming, and Nebraska. Noted are shots of Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the Big Horn Mountains, and the Little Big Horn Battlefield.
- 19 Pennsylvania: Paul's farm, Liberty Bell Line, West Virginia
Includes family and group portraits, as well as photographs of farm animals and tractors, trains, train stations, and churches in New York, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.
- 20 Street Cars
Includes photographs of streetcars, elevated subway lines, and street scenes in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.
- 21 Subway and Elevated
Includes photographs of elevated subway lines and platforms in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.
- 22 Utah-Colorado, 1961
Includes travel photographs of landscapes, towns and cities, streetcars, trains, and boats in Illinois, Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Missouri, along the route of the Union Pacific Railroad. Noted are shots of Kennicott Copper Mine, the Great Salt Lake, and Rocky Mountain National Park.