

# CANAL GATOR TALES

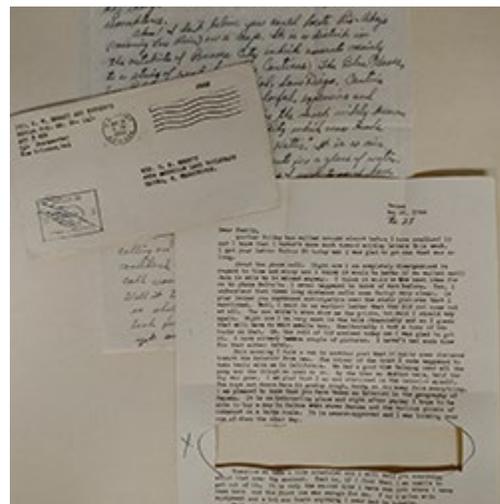
April 2021

## Recent Acquisitions

As we reported in March, we have been very fortunate to receive numerous gifts over the past year or so that improve our ability to support the diverse research and education needs of our patrons. Included here are a few images of some of our recent acquisitions.



Papers and photos relating to the sailing of "Chief Aptakisic" from the Canal Zone to New York as part of the 1976 Bicentennial (donated by George Brisbin).



World War II-era letters of Frank W. Emmett, including examples of censored letters (donated by Brad Wilde).



Photo album dated 1908-09 compiled by Caleb Mills Saville or Thorndike Saville featuring images of Canal construction and early views of town sites including Gatun (donated by Jennifer Saville and the Saville family).

For more information about donating items to the PCMC, please contact John Nemmers at 352-273-2766 or [jnemmers@ufl.edu](mailto:jnemmers@ufl.edu).



## Help Support the Silent Auction!

The Friends of the PCMC will hold a silent auction again this year at the Panama Canal Society reunion in Orlando, and we need your help. There are two ways you can contribute to this effort: 1) donate objects for the auction, and 2) volunteer to be a part of the incredible team that manages the auction. Your support ensures that we can raise funds to support the PCMC in a variety of activities including our oral history program.



Mickey Walker Fitzgerald gives a sneak peek here of some of the great donations to the silent auction at the reunion:  
Brass Tray with Stand, Tivoli Relish Dish, Huaca, Wedding Necklace, Mola Purse, Panama Hat.

Contact Mickey ([mickeyftz@aol.com](mailto:mickeyftz@aol.com)) or Kathy Egolf ([pankee@aol.com](mailto:pankee@aol.com)) to make a donation or learn more about volunteering. Thank you! After no reunion last year we're doubly excited about this year's reunion and silent auction.

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## Raising Funds for the Oral History Program

The campaign to raise funds to support our Oral History Program is off to a great start. Thanks to everyone who has generously donated!

The program was established in 2010 to capture the stories and personal experiences of the American Era of the Panama Canal. Oral history interviews allow people to tell their own stories in their own words and share their own tales of everyday life and work, challenges faced, and achievements reached. We have already produced over 90 [oral history interviews](#) and made them available online, and we are transcribing and editing more than 40 interviews to publish online this year. We offer these and future oral history recordings freely to a global audience as part of the [UF Digital Collections](#) and the [Digital Library of the Caribbean](#). We share these interviews with students of all ages and include excerpts in our online and physical exhibits so that everyone can learn from your firsthand experiences, insights, and perspectives.

**With your help, we can reach this goal!** Our new PCMC fundraising campaign aims to raise \$250,000 for our [Panama Canal Museum Collection Endowment](#), an amount that will support the oral history program in future years. To prepare for this new campaign, the Friends of the PCMC, in 2019, contributed \$25,000 in funds raised by the annual Silent Auction in the past few years. The auction proceeds, along with funds from the Libraries, were used as seed money needed to hire personnel dedicated to the initiative. As the campaign began to take form in 2020, we received a lead gift of \$25,000 from a generous donor, a gift representing 10% of our goal.

The 10-year anniversary of the museum collection at UF is coming up in 2022 and it would be wonderful to celebrate that anniversary with the

completion of this oral history fundraising campaign. You can help by making a gift and being part of this vital program. Together we can make it a great success, one that will benefit the PCMC and education and scholarship far into the future.

**To make a gift by check**, please make your check payable to the University of Florida Foundation/PCMC Endowment #017606. Please mail the check to the Office of Development, George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, PO Box 117000, Gainesville, FL 32611-7000.

**To make a gift with a credit card**, please call the UF Foundation's Gift Processing toll-free number: 1-877-351-2377 (and mention Fund #017605) OR give online at [https://www.uff.ufl.edu/give-now/?fund\\_id=017605](https://www.uff.ufl.edu/give-now/?fund_id=017605).

For more information, contact the Development Office at (352) 273-2505 or [lib-development@ad.ufl.edu](mailto:lib-development@ad.ufl.edu).



## SAVE THESE DATES

**July 7-11, 2021**

Exhibit, Cultural Seminar, and Silent Auction at the Panama Canal Society Reunion at the Caribe Royale Resort, Orlando, FL. Please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald at [mickeyftz@aol.com](mailto:mickeyftz@aol.com) if you wish to volunteer your time or items for the Silent Auction.