World’s Fairs:

A Guide to Selected English-Language Resources

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Reference Sources


Primary Sources

To search effectively for archival sources dealing with world’s fairs and international expositions, one must employ an indirect strategy. There is no Library of Congress subject heading for World’s Fairs in general, just for individual fairs. Therefore, the best strategy to use in WorldCat or the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Materials is to search by the name of the individual exposition, e.g. “World’s Columbian Exposition” or “A Century of Progress Exhibition.” You can locate the names of world’s fairs in several sources such as *The Books of the Fairs: Material about World’s Fairs, 1834-1916, in the Smithsonian Institution Libraries* (Chicago, 1992) and *World’s Fairs* by Erik Mattie (New York, 1998). Some of the larger archival collections about international expositions have accompanying research guides that detail the items in the collection, such as the Smithsonian Institution’s research guide listed above, and all processed archival collections will have a finding aid either available online, in the repository’s online catalog, or in paper at the institution itself. The list of collections detailed here are merely the major collections on world’s fairs in the United States and serve as excellent starting points for research on this topic.

**American Memory Project, Library of Congress**
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/. The American Memory project at the Library of Congress website makes all kinds of primary source material available (for free) online. Simply search for the particular fair or exposition to see a list of related items.

**Architecture Library World’s Fair Ephemeral and Graphic Materials Collection, University of Maryland**
http://www.lib.umd.edu/ARCH/exhibition/home.html. The collection at the University of Maryland includes books as well as ephemeral and graphic items. The site includes images from the fairs, as well as detailed listing of the library’s holdings from each individual fair, ranging from the 1851 Great Exposition in London, 1851, to Expo ’86 in Vancouver, 1986.

**Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford Museum**
http://www.hfmgv.org/research/default.asp. The Benson Ford Research Center houses the archives of the Ford Motor Company. The archives contain many materials relating to Ford’s presence at World’s Fairs in the twentieth century.
Bitting Exposition Materials, Purdue University
http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/expo.html. A collection assembled by Dr. Avilla Bitting, a Purdue University alumnus. Materials cover fairs from 1867 to 1939.

Donald G. Larson Collection on International Expositions and Fairs, 1851-1940, California State University, Fresno
http://www.lib.csufresno.edu/subjectresources/specialcollections/worldfairs/welcome.html. “Donald G. Larson Collection on International Expositions and Fairs, 1851-1940, consists of approximately 1,600 books and more than 6,500 pamphlets, postcards, photographs, sheet music, and other materials. At present, the collection is not catalogued...There is a searchable database for materials for fairs between 1851 and 1903. The collection also includes materials about fairs before 1851 (the precursors to what became world's fairs and expositions) as well as fairs after 1940 (fairs never held due to World War II). This Web page contains lists of all the fairs for which [the library has] materials. The lists are arranged chronologically and then by city, with the official name of the fair, as well as any variant names or names for which the fair is more commonly known, denoted by an "x" in front of the name. Photographs for select fairs have been scanned and provided as thumbnail images.” (from the “Introduction” section on the collection’s web page). In addition to the lists described above the collection web page also has lists of fairs never held organized by date and by city, bibliographies, and links.

Edward J. Kobiela World's Fair Collection, University of New Mexico
http://elibrary.unm.edu/oanm/NmU/nmu1%23mss704bc/nmu1%23mss704bc_m1.html. “The World's Fair collection consists of news clippings, magazine articles, souvenir booklets, pamphlets, maps, promotional literature, and memorabilia from various world's fairs and other international exhibitions.” The fairs covered range from the Chicago 1933 to Vancouver 1986.
Expositions and Fairs Collection, 1853-1974, University of California, Los Angeles
http://findaid.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt6x0nc9hf. This large artificial collection of world’s fair materials contains ephemera, photographic material, and scrapbooks for numerous American and European fairs including some that have very little surviving material such as the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. A good supplement to this collection is the Fairs and Expositions Collection, 1893-1967 – University of California, Berkeley (http://findaid.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/ tf8779n9zn) which contains material on mostly California world’s fairs.

International Exposition, Canadian Centre for Architecture Special Collections
http://www.cca.qc.ca/pages/Niveau3.asp?page=special&lang=eng#International%20Expositions. “Over 1,500 items generated in connection with fifty different international expositions from the 1844 Paris exhibition to the Expo 2000 in Hannover. Strongest holdings are for London, 1851; Philadelphia, 1876; Chicago, 1893; Paris, 1900; St. Louis, 1904; San Francisco, 1915 (over 700 items); Paris, 1925; New York, 1939; and Montréal, 1967.”

Progress Made Visible: American World’s Fairs and Expositions
http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/exhibits/fairs/. An on-line version of an exhibition mounted by the University of Delaware Special Collections Department in 2000. The website includes a list of internet resources and a slightly more unusual list of creative works that were inspired by the World’s Fairs. The Special Collections Department of the University of Delaware Library holds a wide variety of primary source materials relating to the World’s Fairs and Expositions held in the United States between 1876 and 1939.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries
http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/Dibner/collections.htm. This extensive collection of world’s fair materials covers several decades (bulk 1834 – 1916) and includes both the Larry Zim World’s Fair Collection and materials that the Smithsonian produced for international expositions. Many items are available on microfilm. The Books of the Fairs: Material about World’s Fairs, 1834-1916, in the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (Chicago, 1992) is a guide to the microfilm collection.
The Wolfsonian, World Fairs and Expositions, Florida International University (Miami)
http://www.wolfsonian.fiu.edu/collections/c6/index.html. “An all-inclusive compilation of world’s fair materials, encompassing catalogs and rare books, furnishings, sculpture, paintings, and ephemera (such as scarves, postcards, pamphlets, toys and ashtrays).”

World’s Fair Collection (also known as the Robert Feer Collection), Boston Public Library Rare Books and Manuscripts Department
http://www.bpl.org/research/special/collections.htm#worldfair
“Brought together by historian Robert Feer, this collection contains well over 3,000 items including manuscripts, official printed records of the fairs, ephemera, photographs and souvenirs. Originally limited to material relating to World's Fairs of North America, this collection has been expanded to incorporate other fairs and expositions including those abroad.”
Comprehensive Resources

Bibliography

Examines, in part, the relationship between the futurism presented at fairs and the desire for a climate-controlled environment.


First chapter covers representations at international exhibitions.

Ch. 1 surveys the Japanese presence at 19th century expositions.

Ch. 3 looks at world's fairs.


   Includes "The Architectural Museum from World's Fair to Restoration Village."

   Chapter 1 examines the representation of African pygmies at world's fairs.


Report on the 1995 online world's fair.


Part III examines tourism and world fairs.


Ch. 10. The World's Fair: "The Electrician's Ideal City."


Studies, in part, how India was displayed in 19th century fairs.


Part III deals with the history of lighting at fairs from 1880-1939; Ch. 8 covers European representations at the 1939 New York fair.


Ch. 4 looks at Rookwood Pottery at international expositions.


Includes a chapter on Siam at international exhibitions.


General evaluation of the state of World's Fairs in the U.S.; also includes critique of the Columbian Exposition.


  Part IV contains pieces about various expositions.


  Contains an essay by Kenneth Breisch on fountains at international expositions, 1851-1915 and an essay by Bart Barlow on the Fountain of the Planets at the 1964 New York World's Fair.


**Videos**


Survey of America's World's Fairs beginning with the first one held in Chicago in 1893. It was at these fairs that new inventions such as the Ferris wheel and the telephone were first introduced. Also discusses how fairs have changed in recent years.
With rare film footage, examines the new products and technological wonders that look to the future at world's fairs, beginning with the first fair in 1851.

Websites

American Memory, The Library of Congress
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html. The American Memory site consists of digitized materials from the Library’s vast collection of American historical documents and artifacts. Although there is not a single collection for materials related to world’s fairs, it is worth searching across collections to find materials including speeches, sheet music, articles, pamphlets, and maps.

Donald G. Larson Collection on International Expositions and Fairs, 1851-1940
http://www.lib.csufresno.edu/subjectresources/specialcollections/worldfairs/welcome.html. The Larsen Collection holds primary materials relating to fairs held between 1851 and 1940 (with some other materials outside of those dates). The website displays a number of photographs, as well as a list of postcards and some videos. There are links to other libraries with world's fairs collections and links to world's fair material on the web. Site includes an alphabetical list of fairs by city and a chronological list; also has a very extensive and useful bibliography.

ExpoMuseum: World's Fair History, Architecture, and Memorabilia
http://www.expomuseum.com/. Lots of images from various world's fairs from 1851-present plus a few links for each fair. Also features a newsgroup and current world's fairs-related news.

The Golden Door: Immigration Images from the Keystone-Mast Collection, World's Fairs and Expositions
http://photo.ucr.edu/projects/immigration/worldfair.html. This site features a gallery of photographs of people who were featured in the foreign villages areas of world’s fairs during the early 20th century.
Honors 219F Essays

Photographs of International Expositions
http://www.nga.gov/resources/expositions.shtm. Images from four expositions (Philadelphia 1876, Paris 1889 and 1900, and Glasgow 1901), including buildings, booklets, and maps, from the National Gallery of Art’s Photographic Archives. The Archives collection includes materials from expositions held between 1851-1958, but only selected images are available on the site.

Progress Made Visible: American World’s Fairs and Expositions
http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/exhibits/fairs/index.htm. Includes essays and images of artifacts from world’s fairs held in the U.S. between 1876 and 1939.


Scouting at the World's Fair: A History in Memorabilia
http://www.stefford.com/jjmsr/. Covers the fairs in Chicago (1933), San Francisco (1939), New York (1939, 1964), Seattle (1962), and Montreal (1967). Each fair has a brief note about the fair, an image of the fair, and a list of scouting memorabilia with images.

World’s Fair and Exposition History of the Liberty Bell
http://www.libertybellmuseum.com/fairs.htm. This site from the Liberty Bell Museum includes separate galleries about the Liberty Bell’s travels to worlds fairs and expositions held in various cities in the U.S. between 1876 and 1926.
The World's Fair and Exposition Information and Reference Guide
http://www.earthstation9.com/index.html?worlds_2.htm. The largest collection of links to world's fair sites on the Web. Also includes a list of over 100 books related to world's fairs. Each fair has its own page with fair stats (e.g., attendance, cost), trivia, links, and a short list of books.

World’s Fair Ephemeral and Graphic Materials Collection, University of Maryland Libraries
http://www.lib.csufresno.edu/subjectresources/specialcollections/worldfairs/1851.html. Primarily serving as a guide to uncataloged materials in the Architecture Library’s World’s Fair Collection, this site does include some annotated images from fairs and exhibitions from 1851-1986.
Bibliography


Using as an example the 1851 international exhibition at the Crystal Palace, London, Preziosi focuses on how art historians, critics, and museologists perceive and use objects to explore the past.


Three chapters look at the building of the Crystal Palace, the Eiffel Tower, and the Galerie des Machines.


**Videos**


Describes life in London between 1837-1870, including the 1851 Crystal Palace exhibition which was the largest greenhouse in the world.


Study of the architect and design, especially the Crystal Palace, of the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. Looks at how the building was actually achieved, why it took the form it did, and the scientific and industrial advance in the items exhibited inside it. A separate 25 minute program “The Great Exhibition: An Exercise in Industry” is also included on the tape.


Study of the architect and design, especially the Crystal Palace, of the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. Looks at how the building was actually achieved, why it took the form it did, and the scientific and industrial advance in the items exhibited inside it. A separate 25 minute program “The Great Exhibition: A Lesson in Taste?” is also included on the tape.

**Websites**

*The Great Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations, 1851*
http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/exhibits/greatexhibition/. An online exhibit from the Special Collections Department at the University of Kansas library highlighting items in their collection. Includes descriptions of the items, and scanned images.

*Victorian Britain*
http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/victorianbritain/. This site, a K-12 teaching resource from the British National Archives, incorporates text, images, and primary source materials. Though the focus is life in Victorian Britain, the Great Exhibition is used as a point of reference throughout the site.
Paris 1855: Exposition universelle


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London 1862: International Exhibition of 1862


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Paris 1867: Exposition universelle


Catalog to an exhibition displaying Lilienthal's photographs of New Orleans displayed at the 1867 Exposition.


Section on Norwegian response to the Orient as represented at the Paris World's Fair.


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**Vienna 1873: Weltausstellung 1873 Wien**


Adams was the head of the Massachusetts Commission sent to the Vienna Exposition.

Philadelphia 1876: Centennial International Exhibition

Bibliography


**Websites**

*Centennial Exhibition of 1876*
http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/ppet/centennial/page1.asp?secid=31. This site from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission includes an essay on the exhibition.

*The Centennial Exhibition, Philadelphia 1876*
http://libwww.library.phila.gov/CenCol/. The result of a digitization project by the Free Library of Philadelphia, this site includes an interactive map of the grounds, silver albumen photographs and descriptions of significant sites, and information about the current status of buildings and sculpture from the exhibition.

*World’s Fairs as History: The Centennial Exhibition*
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/learning_history/worlds_fair/centennial.cfm. Part of the Digital History teaching resource for grades 9-12, this site includes a brief description of the exhibition, suggested discussion questions, and a list of linked resources consisting of contemporary articles about aspects of the exhibition.

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**Paris 1878: Exposition universelle**


New Orleans 1884:
The World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition


Paris 1889: Exposition universelle

Bibliography


Catalog of an exhibition.


Three chapters look at the building of the Crystal Palace, the Eiffel Tower, and the Galerie des Machines.

**Videos**


The Paris World's Fair of 1889, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the French Revolution, signaled the beginning of a new technological era. An exploration of the relationship between culture and technology.


A holiday at the 1889 Paris Exposition is disrupted by the disappearance of a young woman's brother, whose belongings vanish from a Paris hotel along with all traces of his existence.

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**Chicago 1893: World's Columbian Exposition**

**Bibliography**


    Assesses representations of Buddhism at the Columbian Exposition.


    Ch. 1, "Speaking out at the World's Columbian Exposition, 1893."


Ch. 3 covers the Wild West show at the Columbian Exposition.


   Contains "Kathe Schirmacher Reports on the International Women's Congress at the Columbian Exposition."


   The last chapter examines MacKaye's work for the Columbian Exposition.


   Begins with a look at the World's Columbian Exposition.


Edited by Robert W. Rydell and with an introduction by Frederick Douglass.


Edited and illustrated by G.L. Dybwad and Joy V. Bliss.


**Videos**


After the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago closed, J. C. Rogers of Wamego, Kansas, decided to purchase various artifacts he had seen at the Fair including paintings, architectural pieces and 2 entire buildings. This video talks about the Fair and Roger's purchases but mainly about the restoration of several of the paintings for the Columbian Theatre Museum and Art Center in Wamego.
   Uses drawings, paintings, and photographs to highlight the Chicago World’s Fair of 1893. Traces the fair’s history from early plans and proposals, through construction, to official opening day.

   The dream of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair is seen through original photos, drawings, and computerized adaptations. Video covers the planning and building of the fair, contributions of various groups of people, experiencing the fair, and its destruction.

   Explores the tension between the messy vitality of cities that grow on their own and those where orderly growth is planned. Chicago, with Hull House, the World’s Columbian Exposition, the new female workforce, the skyscraper, the department store, and unfettered capitalism--is the place to watch a new world in the making at the turn of the century.

   As the 20th century neared, Americans celebrated with the World Columbian Exposition, where they were told that the frontier had closed, but in the real West, for every frontier story that ended, another one began.

   Professors from Loyola University in Chicago and throughout Illinois discuss changes in the Chicago resulting from the World’s Fair in 1893.

Websites

A Gleaming City on the Lake
http://www.chipublib.org/digital/lake//CFDWCE.html. Part of the Chicago Public Library’s “Chicago’s Front Door” exhibit, this page includes images of the fair and scanned documents relating to its planning, construction, and aftermath.
Chicago: 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition
http://cpl.lib.uic.edu/004chicago/timeline/columbianx.html. An annotated archival finding aid to the James W. Ellsworth Collection, which contains records relating to the planning of the exposition, as well as items such as tickets, invitations, and programs.

The World’s Columbian Exposition
http://www.chicagohistory.org/history/expo.html. This site from the Chicago Historical Society includes an essay on the exposition and a gallery of photographs.

World’s Columbian Exposition
http://users.vnet.net/schulman/Columbian/columbian.html. Includes factual information (admission prices, construction costs), background information, and photographs and brief descriptions of significant buildings and sculpture. Also includes a forum where visitors can post information or questions.

The World's Columbian Exposition: Idea, Experience, Aftermath

World's Fairs as History: The Columbian Exposition
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/learning_history/worlds_fair/columbian.cfm Part of the Digital History teaching resource for grades 9-12, this site includes a brief description of the exhibition, suggested discussion questions, and a list of linked resources consisting of contemporary articles about aspects of the exposition.

San Francisco 1894: California Midwinter International Exposition

Bibliography


**Videos**


Includes original photographs, drawings and lithographs to recreate the atmosphere of San Francisco's first great civic event, the Midwinter Exposition of 1894. Voice-over narration provides a discussion and analysis of the fair's historical background, architectural aesthetics and cultural symbolism.

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**Atlanta 1895: Cotton States and International Exposition**

**Bibliography**


Chapter on Penn's work at the Exposition.


Mentions the 1881 Expo, but focus is on the 1895 Expo.
   Chapters on the Cotton Expo of 1881 and the International Expo of 1895.

**Websites**

*World’s Fairs as History: Cotton States International Exposition*
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/learning_history/worlds_fair/cotton_states.cfm. Part of the Digital History teaching resource for grades 9-12, this site includes a brief description of the exhibition, suggested discussion questions, and a list of linked resources consisting of contemporary articles about aspects of the exposition.

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**Omaha 1898: Trans-Mississippi Exposition**

**Bibliography**


   Cookbook from the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.


*Official Guide Book to the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, Omaha, U.S.A., June 1 to November 1, 1898.* Omaha, NE: Omaha History Center, 1998.

**Videos**

*Westward the Empire: Omaha World’s Fair of 1898.* Dir. David C. Rotterman. 1998. VHS. Omaha, Nebraska: UNO Television. 57 min. A television documentary examining The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of 1898, a major historical event held in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Websites**

*Trans Mississippi and International Exposition.*
http://www.omaha.lib.ne.us/transmiss/. Primarily images of buildings with some text. Includes the full text of the "Secretary's Report" and information on the Indian Congress that convened at the Exposition in 1898.

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**Paris 1900: Exposition universelle**

**Bibliography**


Videos


The dawn of the twentieth century was forged in hope and optimism. Here interviewees from Europe, Asia and the United States (boasting an average age of 102), recount the part they played in the century's early history. Whether fighting on the barricades of the failed Russian Revolution of 1905 or campaigning for votes for women; recalling the Paris Exposition of 1900, or President McKinley's assassination or witnessing the sinking of the Titanic, all remember the changes they lived through and the clash of forces and ideas before World War I.

Four part series examining the turn of the century pivotal year: 1900. This program chronicles the forces of change which ultimately shaped the coming century. Part three and four examine the presidential campaign of Fall, 1900, the 1900 Paris Exposition, the Boxer Rebellion in China, racism against Afro-Americans, the Galveston hurricane, labor unrest among coal miners resulting in the formation of the United Mine Workers, the developing music industry and popular culture at the turn of the century.

Looks at the exhibits of the French colonies of the Paris Exhibition of 1900, and the impact of colonial art on French culture.


This film is intended to show the pre-eminence of European art, science, and technology in the beginning of the 20th century. The film utilizes a combination of recently filmed scenes with old news film clippings from the early 1900's. The film focuses on events such as the Paris World’s Fair of 1900 and on famous personages such as Georges Clemenceau and Sara Bernhardt.


Captures the fin de siecle on archival film by the renowned Lumiere brothers. Shows the World’s Fair, Opera Comique, Rodin's Gates of Hell the work of the Impressionists and Picasso. Paris at the end of a major cultural epoch.


Explores the Paris Exhibition of 1900 and the exaggerations and confusions of ideas which constitute the architectural scene in Paris at the turn of the century.

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**Buffalo 1901: Pan-American Exposition**

**Bibliography**


Videos


Through historic photographs, remarkable film footage and remarks from various historians and other experts, the grandeur of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. comes to life. The program not only takes viewers to the fair, but also explores its underlying themes of race and culture and the national tragedy of President McKinley's assassination that unfolded during this shining moment in Buffalo history.

Science, capital and art came together at the Pan-American Exposition in 1901. By day it was called the Rainbow City and by night it became the City of Light. Electricity dominated every aspect of the fair. The world could see that Buffalo was truly the Electric City with unlimited potential for industrial development. This program tells the story of that centennial event and why Buffalo was uniquely appropriate to host it.

Websites
"Doing the Pan...": The Pan American Exposition, 1901, Buffalo
http://panam1901.bfn.org/. This site features a number of tours, both guided and self-guided, as well as contemporary articles about the exposition, information about the experience of visiting the exposition, and a page devoted to Buffalo’s weather during the summer of 1901.

Illuminations: Revisiting the Buffalo Pan-American Exposition of 1901
http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/exhibits/panam/index.html. A very informative and well-designed site with primary source material (images and text) and excellent supporting text. The "Essays" section has articles that provide historical context for the Exposition and are well worth reading.

The Last Days of a President: Films of McKinley and the Pan-American Exposition, 1901
http://rs6.loc.gov/papr/mckhome.html or http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/papr/mckhome.html. 28 films produced by the Edison Manufacturing Company in 1901, each one accompanied by a short summary. Films are viewable in MPEG, Real Media, or QuickTime formats. The collection covers three areas: McKinley's inauguration, the Pan-American Exposition, and McKinley's funeral.
St. Louis 1904: Louisiana Purchase International Exposition

Bibliography


Ch. 3 analyzes Filipino exhibits at the 1904 Exposition.


"St. Louis Color Line Problem at the Fair: Filipino Soldiers Aspire to Figure in Society." *Radical History Review* 73 (Winter 1999): 74.

...Presents a photograph of a Filipino soldier featured at the 1904 Saint Louis World's Fair.


...Discusses myth of hot dog's origin at 1904 fair.


**Videos**


Photographic images of the central palace area and the Pike of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, including building interiors and interspersed with views of the site during and after the Forest Park renovations of the early 2000s. The soundtrack includes music from original John Philip Sousa band performances, the music of Scott Joplin and other music of the era, all recorded in 1904 or earlier.

*Beckmann in St. Louis.* 1999. VHS. St. Louis: St. Louis Art Museum. 12 min.

The subject of this segment of the News hour is the exhibit "Max Beckmann and Paris," displayed at the St. Louis Art Museum in the spring of 1999. The program features selected paintings as well as interviews with museum curator Connie Homburg and Wally Barker, a painter and former student of Beckmann. The film also includes footage of the St. Louis World's Fair, for which the Art Museum was built.


A personal and poignant docudrama that examines the Filipino experience at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. The film focuses on the filmmaker's grandfather, an Igorot warrior, one of the 1,100 tribal natives displayed as anthropological 'specimens' in the Philippine village exhibit. A unique fusion of rare archival images, verite, and carefully orchestrated visual sequences shot in the present, the film is an innovative investigation of history, memory and the spectacle of the "other" in the turn-of-the-century America.
Decades. A Century Turns: 1900-1910. 1997. VHS. St. Louis: KETC. Chronicling the period of history in St. Louis from 1900-1910, this film shows how the St. Louis World's Fair caused St. Louisans to pull together to clean up the city, its streets, and its water and sewer system to bring to the world a unique event. The aftermath of the fair was continued social reform. The film includes personal memories of Laura Marsalek, at the age of 103.


Meet Me in St. Louis. Dir. Vincente Minnelli. DVD; VHS. 1944. Burbank, California: Warner Home Video. 113 min. In Saint Louis before the 1904 World's Fair, Alonzo Smith threatens to uproot his family and move to New York, which greatly upsets his wife and four daughters.


Historians from the Missouri Historical Society, together with officials of the organization 2004, Missouri, and the 1904 World's Fair Society, present the history of the 1904 World's Fair and a vista for a possible exhibition in 2004. Archival photographic and picture materials provide an impression of the scope of the exhibits and events of the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

Uses first-person accounts from elderly Missourians who went to the Fair in 1904, interviews with historians, archival motion pictures, and photographs to situate the St. Louis Fair in the social, political, and cultural context of American society in 1904. Covers American civilization at the turn of the century; the representation of history; authenticity; modernity; dress and body language; oral history and childhood memories; world fairs as experiences; and receiving information through visual symbols, words, and exhibits.

Documentary on the 1904 World's Fair in Saint Louis, using archival images and interviews with historians to highlight various aspects of the event.

Websites

The 1904 World’s Fair: Looking Back at Looking Forward
http://www.mohistory.org/content/fair/wf/html/index_flash.html. This site from the Missouri Historical Society includes information about the fair, construction of the fair site, and significant structures. There is also a section of photographs of artifacts from the fair. An excellent virtual tour is available, featuring an interactive map of the fair grounds and images.
San Diego 1915: Panama California Exposition


San Francisco 1915: Panama-Pacific International Exposition

Bibliography


Brief discussion of the Exposition with an appendix listing American prize winners there.

**Videos**


Celebrating the completion of the Panama Canal the year before, the Panama Pacific International Exposition opened in San Francisco on February 20, 1915. Covering the 635 acres, it ran for nine and a half months. This documentary tells its story. The Tower of Jewels and Bernard Maybeck's Palace of Fine Arts are among the spectacular constructions featured.


Collection of short silent films from the 1910s, including a 12 minute film of Mabel Normand and Fatty Arbuckle viewing the 1915 San Francisco World’s Fair.


Examines the architectural features of the Palace of Fine Arts, designed by Bernard Maybeck for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition and reconstructed between 1964 and 1967.

**Websites**

**Panama Pacific International Exposition**

Photographs and memorabilia from the 1915 Expo in San Francisco. Good integration of images and text. The links section is noteworthy for its inclusion of e-texts. Also includes a small selection of 3D photos.
Philadelphia 1926: Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition


    Ch. 7 covers the 1926 Philadelphia Exposition.


    Chapters on Pennsylvania impressionists at the Panama-Pacific Expo and the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial Expo.


Barcelona 1928: Exposición Internacional de Barcelona

Bibliography

    Includes a chapter on the Barcelona International Exposition.


    In English and Japanese.

**Videos**


Using old photographs and digitally restored archival newsreels, Mies van der Rohe's Pavilion for the German government in Barcelona's 1929 International Exposition is shown. Live footage captures the reconstruction of the building on its original site.

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**Chicago 1933: A Century of Progress Exposition**

**Bibliography**


Recounts the story of Bill & Ellison Mott's trip to the fair.


Reprint of 1933 edition, with new preface.


Videos


Films compiled for Movietone News of the 1933-34 Chicago World’s Fair and 1939-40 World’s Fair in New York City.

 Presents the story of the murals (depicting the history of the state of Indiana from the early Native Americans until the 1930s) from their creation for the World's Fair of 1933 to a major restoration in the 1990s.

Contains footage of major news events from 1934, including the Chicago World’s Fair.

The first work contains a full overview of the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair. The second work shows scenes of the New York World's Fair of 1939-1940.

In this suspenseful and paranoid film portraying the struggle between idealism and the dark side of American big business, an inventor dreaming of prosperity is menaced by sinister "interested parties" who have something else in mind. Based on a play by David Mamet, part of the dialogue is in and about the Hall of Science at the 1933-34 Chicago Century of Progress International Exposition.

Websites

San Diego 1935: California Pacific International Exposition

Bibliography


Videos

*Ford at the 1934-1935 Fairs.* Dir. Lorin Sorensen. 1987. VHS.
Sacramento: Towe Ford Museum. 48 min.


Websites

*California Pacific Exposition, San Diego, 1935-36*
http://www.sandiegohistory.org/calpac/35expo11.htm. A postcard tour of the exposition, as well as a collection of stereocards, video clips (requires Windows Media Player), and sound clips (requires RealPlayer).

Parvis 1937: Exposition universelle et internationale


Chapters 2 and 3 discuss exhibitions at the 1937 World's Fair.


New York 1939: New York World's Fair

Bibliography

Catalog for an exhibition that shows the development and design of the Surrealist pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair.


Ch. 1, "Constructing the Post-WWII Megalopolitan Subject: The Socio-Spatial Ideology of the 1939-40 New York World's Fair."


Includes a chapter on the New York World's Fair of 1939.


Harrison, Helen A. "Stuart Davis's 'World of Tomorrow'." American Art 9:3 (Fall 1995): 96-100.


Ch. 3. Surrealism Goes to the Fair: Projects for an American Surrealist Display at the 1939 New York World's Fair.


Looks at, in part, the effect of the 1939 Fair on international folk dancing.


Includes a chapter on the 1939 World's Fair.


Part III deals with the history of lighting at fairs from 1880-1939; Ch. 8 covers European representations at the 1939 New York fair.


   Ch. 12: "All's Fair, World's Fair."


   Ch. 7, "'I Have Seen the Future:' The New York World's Fair as Science Fiction"


Reports on the insurance of the New York World's Fair in April 1939. Organization of the fair in seven zones; Expenditures on insurance protection.


**Videos**

The 1939 World's Fair touted the beginnings of a utopian future with radical changes in science, technology, manufacturing, etc. Over a 30 year period (1935-1965) radical changes were also seen in global competition, fashion, art, music, and consumerism defining what modern was during that period.

By 1939 Americans were still struggling to end the Great Depression. Their dreams of peace and prosperity were celebrated at World's Fairs in New York and San Francisco, but prosperity did not come in peacetime. Millions fled the "dust bowl" states to finally find work in new defense industries. While the New Deal changed America forever, it was war that ended the Great Depression. Primarily uses interviews and historical film footage to portray the era.
Art Deco style swept the world from the 1920's to the 50s. The first major art movement with a 20th century pulse, it was found everywhere. It influenced fashion, textile, ceramic and interior design; advertising and industrial design. There were even Art Deco cars. In America, Deco streamline skyscrapers and gas stations rose up everywhere. The great ship Normande and the 1939 World's Fair epitomized the style that dominated the years between the wars.

A news magazine format with segments on topics of interest to the deaf community. Includes highlights from the National Association of the Deaf Day at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Focuses on the critical years of the early 30's and the leadership of Franklin D. Roosevelt in enacting measures to meet the challenge of the Great Depression. The film climaxes with the opening of the 1939 World's Fair in New York on the eve of World War II.

Originally a television program, this video tours in 1939 New York World’s Fair showing the exhibits "Moto-man" the robot, woman vs. dishwasher, the microvivatium, the junior science labs, and a television show.

An oral history interview with Pearl Primus documents her early years, dancing career, and anthropological pursuits. Primus tells of Trinidad, growing up in New York City, and her family. She also discusses how she was first introduced to dance and about her performance in the 1939 World's Fair.

This film examines the development of the power of television to sway public opinion and unite the world. Includes televised coverage of the 1939 World's Fair in New York City among other important events captured on television.

Includes footage of early television broadcasts, including President Roosevelt’s at the 1939 World’s Fair in New York City.

Includes newsreel footage about the 1939 World’s Fair in New York City.

Rare footage from the 8mm films of Eugene Livernois, featuring some of New England's, and even the world's, most famous trains, showing some exhibited at the 1939 World’s Fair in New York City.

The World of Tomorrow. Dir. Lance Bird and Tom Johnson. 1984. VHS. Santa Monica, California: Direct Cinemas. 33 min.
Views the 1939 New York World's Fair and the more than forty million people who attended it.

The first work contains a full overview of the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair, including the Sky Ride, Enchanted Isle, Tunisian Village, Wings of a Century pageant, Ford Exposition, the Rotunda, historic cars, Avenue of Flags, World's Biggest Thermometer, G.M. and Chrysler pavilions, Midget City, and the Federal Building. 1933's focus was a look backward, while 1934 looked forward. The second work shows scenes of the New York World's Fair of 1939-1940, including the Trylon and Perisphere, sculpture and fountains, pavilions (U.S. Government, Westinghouse, Goodrich, Chrysler, G.M.), the Ford Exposition Building, Walter Dorwin Teague's Garden Court, Albert Kahn's Road of Tomorrow, and the amusement section.
World’s Fair World. 1939; 2002. VHS. Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago. 10 min.

Experimental film. In 1939, Westinghouse made a film about a small-town family visiting the New York World’s Fair. Trapped inside that film was a completely different film that shows a mysterious alternate universe, revealed by Bryan Boyce’s own patented brand of narrative deconstruction and evisceration. The outcome is a chilling family drama with hints of communism and pedophilia.

Websites

Drawing the Future: Design Drawings for the 1939 New York World’s Fair

The Iconography of Hope: The 1939-1940 New York World’s Fair
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~1930s/DISPLAY/39wf/front.htm. Discusses the 1939 New York World’s Fair and its “cultural legacy,” with particular regard to the fair’s commercial aspects. Includes a map of the fairgrounds with links to brief descriptions of each building.

New York World’s Fair Theme Song: William Grant Still Exhibition

San Francisco 1939: Golden Gate International Exposition

Bibliography


Contains photographs by Charles Hayes, Peter Stackpole, and others taken during Rivera's creation of the Pan American Unity mural. The mural was commissioned by the Art in Action program at the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition.

Ch. 6 focuses on the Exposition.


**Videos**

By 1939 Americans were still struggling to end the Great Depression. Their dreams of peace and prosperity were celebrated at World's Fairs in New York and San Francisco, but prosperity did not come in peacetime. Millions fled the "dust bowl" states to find work in new defense industries. While the New Deal changed America forever, it was war that ended the Great Depression. Primarily uses interviews and historical film footage to portray the era.

History of the 1939-40 San Francisco Golden Gate International Exposition.

Two silent documentary films exploring the sights of the Golden Gate International Exposition of 1939-1940. The first film is in black and white, with English subtitles and covers highlights of the fair. The second untitled newsreel is in color and also examines the sights at the fair closing with spectacular photos of the fair at night illuminated by colored lights.
Once and Future Fair.  1989.  VHS.  San Francisco: KRON.  60 min.  
Television show on the 1939-1940 San Francisco Golden Gate International Exposition.

Tales of Treasure Island Fair.  199-.  VHS.  Hayward, California: Hayward Area Historical Society Museum.  
History of the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition.

VHS.  [San Francisco]: BLTNP.  63 min.  
Built on a man-made island in San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate International Exposition was created to celebrate the completion of the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges. Drawing on a wealth of archival footage, this documentary tells its story. The Tower of the Sun, statue of Pacifica, two elephant towers, Federal Building, and Arch of Triumph are among the impressive constructions featured.

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Brussels 1958:  
Exposition universelle et internationale de Bruxelles (Expo '58)

Bibliography


Reprint of an article that first appeared in Diplomatic History 20:4.


**Videos**


*The Brussels World’s Fair.* 1958. 16mm Film. New York: Castle Films. 10 min. A visit to the 500-acre fairground at Brussels, showing the modern buildings, colorful fountain displays, futuristic exhibits, the nine-sphere Atomium, and the pavilions of the United States, Russia, France, and others. Includes a bird's-eye ride in the unique cable car system spanning the fairgrounds.

*Herman Miller at the Brussels Fair.* 1958. Film. United States: Charles Eames. 4 min. Shows an exhibit of Herman Miller furniture at the Brussels World's Fair in 1958.

Websites

Atomium
http://www.atomium.be/HTMLsite/EN/Welcome/Welcome.html. The Atomium was the central point of the Brussels Expo. This website shows how the Atomium was designed and provides information on the social and political environment of the 1950s. A number of images of the building as well as from the 50s in general. Site available in English, French, and Dutch; the links and bibliography are primarily for European resources.

Expo 58
http://www.expo58.tk. Lots of images of the Expo as well as of souvenirs. Most notable feature: the ViewMaster Expo Tour. Also includes some official statistics and links.

Seattle 1962: Seattle World's Fair (Century 21 Exposition)

Videos

*The House of Science.* Dir. Charles Eames. 16mm Film. 1962. Seattle: Charles Eames and Ray Eames. 15 min.
A single-screen version of the multi-screen introduction to the United States Science Exhibit at the Seattle World's Fair, 1962, showing the role of contemporary scientists, their work, and their laboratories.

A couple of bush pilots find themselves grounded in Seattle at the annual World's Fair. One thing leads to another and they help an abandoned girl and make the acquaintance of a beautiful nurse.

Donald A. Schmechel interviews Robert J. Block about his life, education and the many civic projects he has been involved with including the Seattle World's Fair.
   Description of the design, building and workings of the International Fountain built for the 1962 World's Fair.

   Tells a bit about the location and prospects of the city of Seattle. Tells all the facts about the building of the Space Needle, symbol of the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle, and the attractions of the Space Needle.

   Recording of a talk given on April 6, 2002 for the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Seattle World’s Fair. Panelists former mayor Gordon Clinton, KOMO reporter, Art McDonald, publicist, Jay Rockey, and public relations specialist, C. David Hughbanks reminisce about the background of the 1962 World's Fair, the behind the scenes deals and amusing anecdotes.

Websites

Seattle History: A Fair to Remember


Bibliography


**Videos**


Part futuristic exhibition, part glittery strip mall, the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair was planned amid the optimism of the late 1950s, but the Fair's two year run often mirrored the chaos of the 1960s. This film, set to a historical backdrop of world events, draws on the memories of fairgoers who found hope for the future in an understanding of other cultures presented at the Fair.

*Americans on Vacation Exhibit Videotapes.* 1990. VHS. [Dearborn, MI]: Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village.

Includes home movies illustrating sightseeing vacations including one to the 1964-65 World's Fair in New York City.


Images of the Unisphere and pavilions of the 1964 New York World's Fair are the touchstones for a woman's remembering the racial and ethnic myths taught her in childhood. Home movies and archival footage from the Fair underscore these early experiences with friends and her own Italian-American family.


Includes footage of Eames/Saarinen IBM Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's fair.


Presents business film shorts produced from 1941 through 1964, including one concerning hair fashion at the 1964 New York World's Fair.
New York Elevateds in the 1950s. Dir. Frank Pfuhler. Massachusetts: Sunday River Productions. 60 min. Includes scenes of some of New York's early elevated railroads including the Worlds Fair Blue Bird specials of 1964-65, the Polo Grounds Shuttle, the Dyre Avenue, Myrtle Avenue, Flushing and Brighton Beach lines.

The New York World's Fair 1964-65. Dirs. Bob Considine and Robert Moses. 1963. Film reel. New York: New York World’s Fair Corporation. 12 min. Made before the actual opening, the film has Bob Considine narration and interviewing Robert Moses, in charge of the Fair, while displaying the many models of building and exhibits to be included. Shows clips of the 1939 New York World's Fair as well as the groundbreaking ceremonies for Shea Stadium and the Lincoln Center complex to be built in conjunction with the Fair. Footage of Presidents Hoover, Truman, and Eisenhower, endorsing the Fair, are included.


World’s Fair Report: And, To the Fair. Dir. Jack Tobin. 1965. VHS. New York: Presented by the New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation. In 'World's Fair Report', Lowell Thomas shows the construction of the fair, as well as what exhibits will be there. "To the fair" follows two girls, a family and others as they visit the different sights of the fair. Offers rare glimpses inside many of the exhibits.

Websites

New York 1964 World's Fair
http://naid.sppsr.ucla.edu/ny64fair/index.html. Pictures, articles, and an interactive map of the fairgrounds. An older site with some features no longer active.
Montréal 1967: Expo 67
Universal and International Exhibition of 1967

Bibliography


Videos

   Traces Canada's history in the sixties and the seventies. Highlights include Quebec's Quiet Revolution, youth movement, the introduction of a new Canadian flag, Canada's role in Expo '67, 1970 FLQ/War Measures Act crisis, energy shortage and the election of Trudeau as Prime Minister.

Expo '67 in Montreal, Canada. 1967. VHS. 14 min.
   Footage of the Montreal Exposition of 1967 with shots of the fairgrounds and attractions.

Exposition. 1969. 16mm. Film. Santa Monica, California: Pyramid Films. 10 min.
   Presents an abstract treatment of sights and sounds at Expo '67 and shows some reactions of the spectators to these sights and sounds. Includes original music from the Mosaic wall of the Czech Pavilion.

   Charts the changes and events in Canadian society during the 1960s and early 1970s, including Expo '67 in Montréal.
This Solitude Through Which We Go...Is I. Dir. Paul MacDonald. 1968. 16mm. Film. Toronto: Religious Television Associates. 26 min. Presents a view of the Christian Pavilion at Expo ’67 in Montreal.

Websites

Expo 67 – Montreal’s World’s Fair

Osaka 1970: Japan World Exposition (Expo ’70)

Bibliography


Videos

Noguchi: A Sculptor’s World. 1972. 16mm. Film. Arnold Eagle Productions. 28 min. Sculptor Isamu Noguchi talks about his life and work as he is shown in different countries working on projects. Shows examples of his work as exhibited in various museums, and presents photographs of his ballet set designs and fountains at the Osaka World Exposition in 1970.

Spokane 1974: Expo '74
The International Exposition of the Environment

Bibliography


Websites

Expo '74, The Spokane World’s Fair
http://expo74.brandx.net. Written by someone who was at the fair, this site includes some history and background, information about the pavilions, and a list of performers, as well as some reminiscences. Last updated in 2000.

Knoxville 1982: Knoxville International Energy Exposition

Bibliography


Videos


Describes the Gas Energy Pavilion at the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair, which depicted the present and future role of gas energy in the United States and in other countries. Shows fair attendees and participants using the pavilion's facilities.
A World of Energy. 1982. VHS. Breeder Reactor Corporation. 14 min. A global view of breeder reactor technology and applications is explored, with the setting at the 1982 World's Fair at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Websites

The 1982 Knoxville World’s Fair
http://users.vnet.net/schulman/1982/fair.html. Background information about Knoxville and the fair, whose theme was “Energy Turns the World.” Also includes a page where attendees may post their memories of the fair. [Last updated in 1999]

New Orleans 1984: Louisiana World Exposition

Videos

Footage of the 1984 New Orleans World's Fair.

Interviews, photographs, and film footage about people and places in the recent past of New Orleans, including the 1984 World's Fair.

Takes the viewer on the Southern Pacific Daylight 4449 from Portland, Oregon to the 1984 New Orleans World's Fair and back. Also presents a recounting of the locomotive's history and its restoration.

Highlights of the 1984 World's Fair held in New Orleans.
A World’s Fair to Remember. Dir. Peggy Scott Laborde. 2003. DVD; VHS. New Orleans: WYES Producers Circle. 60 min. An excursion through what was the 1984 New Orleans World's Fair. Includes interviews with noted participants and an examination of how the fair revitalized the city's waterfront.

Vancouver 1986: The 1986 World Exposition (Expo '86)


Seville 1992: Exposición Universal de Sevilla (Expo '92)

Bibliography


Videos


Lisbon 1998: Exposição Mundial de Lisboa (Expo '98)


Hannover 2000: Expo 2000

Bibliography


Videos


This video documents the design and construction of a column-free hall covered by a tension-suspended steel roof in Hanover, Germany for the 2000 World’s Exposition there. It follows the project from the destruction of an existing structure to the planning and building of the new hall and highlighting its weightless appearance.
Aichi 2005: Expo 2005

Bibliography


Websites

*Expo 2005 Aichi Japan*

The official site of the 2005 World’s Fair. Includes general information, participating countries, scheduled events, and much more.
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World English is the English language as it is variously in different countries around the world. For a simple graphic of Braj Kachru's circle model of World Englishes, visit page eight of the slideshow World Englishes: Approaches, Issues, and Resources. Author Henry Hitchings has observed that the term World English “is still in use, but is contested by critics who believe it strikes too strong a note of dominance” (The Language Wars, 2011). Although world English is varied, certain varieties and registers are fairly tightly controlled, often through standardized patterns of use . . . . Thus, there is a marked uniformity in the following arenas: (Tom McArthur, The Oxford Guide to World English. Oxford University Press, 2002).