

Miles Poindexter photograph collection, 1880s-1940s

Overview of the Collection

Collector	Poindexter, Miles, 1868-1946
Title	Miles Poindexter photograph collection
Dates	1880s-1940s (inclusive) 1880 1949
Quantity	Photographs and albums (11 boxes plus 1 oversize folder)
Collection Number	PH0174
Summary	Photographs of the family, life, and career of Miles Poindexter, a Superior Court Judge in Washington State, a Congressman, a United States Senator, and a United States Ambassador to Peru
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Miles Poindexter, attorney, member of Congress from Washington State, and diplomat, was born in 1868 in Tennessee and grew up in Virginia. He attended Washington and Lee University (undergraduate and law school), receiving his law degree in 1891. He moved to Walla Walla, Washington, was admitted to the bar and began his law practice. He entered politics soon after his arrival and ran successfully for County Prosecutor as a Democrat in 1892. Poindexter moved to Spokane in 1897 where he continued the practice of law. He switched to the Republican Party in Spokane, where he received an appointment as deputy prosecuting attorney (1898-1904). In 1904 he was elected Superior Court Judge.

Poindexter became identified with progressive causes and it was as a progressive Republican and a supporter of Theodore Roosevelt that he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1908 and to the Senate in 1910. He was an outspoken member of the progressive Republican bloc, known as "insurgents," who revolted against the leadership of Congress between 1909 and 1912. After Roosevelt's split from the Republican Party during the 1912 presidential campaign, Poindexter reluctantly joined the Progressive Party. Dissatisfaction with Wilson's foreign policy and his own loss of enthusiasm for reform measures coincided with his return to the Republican Party in 1915. His efforts

on behalf of tariff reform and the regulation of the railroads, banks and other "interests" pleased his political supporters in Washington State, and he won another term to the Senate in 1916.

During his tenure as Senator, Poindexter served on the Interstate Commerce, Judiciary, Mines and Mining, Naval Affairs, Post Office and Post Roads, Pacific Islands and Puerto Rico, and Indian Depredations committees, as well as Committees on Expenditures in the Interior Department and the War Department. One of Poindexter's more notable legislative proposals dealt with the problem of unemployment in a manner that foreshadowed the New Deal. In 1913 he introduced a bill which would have created an "industrial army" to construct public works. He was also a proponent of military preparedness and favored expansion of the Navy.

Poindexter was intensely nationalistic and worked to suppress opposition to America's entry into World War I. He favored wartime censorship, the Sedition Act, and considered pacifism disloyal. He also spoke strongly against "alien slackers," immigrants who turned in their first citizenship papers to avoid the draft. After the war he was an outspoken critic of President Wilson and the League of Nations. He believed Wilson was sympathetic to Bolshevism and criticized the administration for leniency in handling the prosecution of radicals. His position against labor unions and radical groups contributed to the "Red Scare" of 1919-1920.

Poindexter received national recognition, in particular, for his stand against the League of Nations and being pro-American and anti-anarchists/Bolsheviks. This national recognition was one factor in his decision to run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1920. He was the first Republican to declare his candidacy (October 26, 1919) but lost the nomination to Warren G. Harding.

After the 1920 election Poindexter became a Harding Republican, favoring business interests over those of labor and farmers. In 1922, he lost his Senate re-election bid to C.C. Dill, a progressive Democrat. In 1923 President Harding appointed Poindexter ambassador to Peru, where he served until 1928. He made another unsuccessful attempt to regain his Senate seat that year. After the death of his wife in 1929 he returned to Virginia. Following his retirement from political life, Poindexter produced three manuscripts about the Inca civilization, two of which (*The Ayar Inca and Peruvian Pharaohs*) were published. He died in Virginia in 1946.

Content Description

Photographs from the life and career of Miles Poindexter. The majority of the collection is comprised of photographs of receptions, ceremonies, other diplomatic functions, and landscapes of Peru during the years Poindexter was ambassador to Peru (1923-1928). Also included are photographs from Washington state and Alaska (including Poindexter's 1911 trip to Alaska with Gifford Pinchot) and Poindexter family photographs.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Restrictions may exist on reproduction, quotation, or publication. Contact Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries for details.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arranged in 17 series.

Ambassador to Peru photographs, 1923-1928
Unidentified photographs, undated
Poindexter family photographs, 1927
South American landscapes and cities, circa 1923-1928
World War I, circa 1917-1920
Washington and Alaska, 1911-1929
Miles Poindexter portraits, undated
Ambassador to Peru photographs, 1923-1928
Poindexter family photographs, undated
Constituent correspondence and photographs, 1916-1922
Washington and Alaska, undated
Unidentified photographs, 1890s, undated
"Centenario de la Batalla de Ayacucho" photograph album, 1924
Mt. Rainier photograph album, circa 1920
"Irrigacion Pampas del Imperial" photograph album, 1926
Peru photograph album, circa 1920s
Oversize photographs, undated

Processing Note

The photographs were relocated from the Miles Poindexter Papers, Accession No. 3828 in the repository, in 1987 and 2006.

Separated Materials

Material Described Separately:

[Miles Poindexter Papers \(Manuscript Collection 3828\)](#)

Detailed Description of the Collection

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
1	Ambassador to Peru photographs	1923-1928
1	Unidentified photographs	undated
1	Poindexter family photographs	1927

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2	South American landscapes and cities	circa 1923-1928
2	World War I	circa 1917-1920
2	Washington and Alaska Includes 103 black and white photographs (4 x 6 ½ inches) of Poindexter's trip to Alaska with Gifford Pinchot, circa 1911 (photographer unknown) and 6 photographs (3 x 4 inches) of Poindexter's trip to Alaska with Gifford Pinchot taken by Levi Chubbuck, September 1911. Includes images of homesteading, farming, mining, and other miscellaneous photographs.	1911-1929
2	Miles Poindexter portraits	undated
3-5	Ambassador to Peru photographs	1923-1928
5	Poindexter family photographs	undated
5	Constituent correspondence and photographs	1916-1922
5-6	Washington and Alaska	undated
6-7	Unidentified photographs	1890s, undated
8	"Centenario de la Batalla de Ayacucho" photograph album	1924
9	Mt. Rainier photograph album	circa 1920
10	"Irrigacion Pampas del Imperial" photograph album	1926
10	Peru photograph album	circa 1920s
11	Oversize photographs	undated
Folder:Oversize		
Oversize Folder	Oversize Photographs	undated

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Miles Poindexter photograph collection, 1880s-1940s
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv09161>

Ambassadors--United States--Photographs
Ayacucho, Battle of, Peru, 1824--Photographs
Cities and towns--South America--Photographs
Landscapes--South America--Photographs

Personal Names :

Poindexter, Miles, 1868-1946--Archives
Poindexter, Miles, 1868-1946--Family--Photographs
Poindexter, Miles, 1868-1946--Photographs

Geographical Names :

Alaska--Photographs
Colville Indian Reservation (Wash.)--Photographs
Pampas (Huancavelica, Peru)--Photographs
Rainier, Mount (Wash.)--Photographs
Washington (State)--Photographs

Form or Genre Terms :

Photograph albums
Photographs

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Visual Materials Collections (University of Washington)

2009 (Last modified: 4/10/2018)



<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>

About Creative Commons Licenses in Archives West:

<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/cc-zero.shtml>