

Personal Space: Stereoscopic Nevada Collection CAE2220

Introduction/Abstract

The "Personal Space" project and exhibition is an extensive and scholarly collection of stereoscopic material about the Western United States including Nevada.

Biographical Note: Bryan McCormick

Bryan McCormick is a photographer and historian who currently lives in Toronto, but spent a decade in Las Vegas where, along with collaborator San Francisco-based photographer Geoffrey Ellis, he ran the Las Vegas Camera Club, a community photo classroom and shop specializing in instant photography (primarily Polaroid cameras).

Scope and Content

The archive "Personal space: Stereoscopic Nevada" contains stereoscopic cards focused on Nevada and United States history, mounted stereo slides, and View-Master reels. The "Personal Space" project was assembled during the ten years that photographer Bryan McCormick lived and worked in Las Vegas. The project was exhibited at the Nevada Humanities Las Vegas office in Spring 2019. The stereoscopic views include side-by-side images on cards, starting with the Powell Expedition on the Colorado River in the 1860s through View-Master circular cards in the late 1980s. Topics include the coming of the railroad to Nevada, mining, the construction of Boulder Dam, the growth of the Las Vegas Strip and Reno, and depictions of Native Americans. The collection numbers about 150 objects that fit into four display cases and 40 ephemera pieces and labels that were on the walls. This appears to be the most complete and scholarly collection of stereoscopic material about Nevada that has been assembled.

Equipment includes Stereopticons, stereo cameras, stereo viewers, a Graphoscope, a Victorian era card rack, a Roto-Vue with cartridges, mounting tools (tape, film cutters, mounts, etc.), an Airequipt viewer, a Stereo-Vivid projector, 3-D glasses, many View-Masters of various makes from multiple countries, and medium format stereo viewers.

This archive is currently in process.