Voices from the Panama Canal

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Smathers Library Gallery
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Curated by Margarita Vargas-Betancourt and Paul Losch

Part of the University of Florida Panama Canal Centennial Celebration

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Gold Roll Record
1947-1948
2001.017.002
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Burt and Carol Mead
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI005417/00001

Silver Roll Record
1944-1946
2001.017.004
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Burt and Carol Mead
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI005419/00001

The division of gold and silver was first used when a U.S. firm built the Panama Railroad in the 1850s. During the construction of the Panama Canal, the scheme evolved into a system of segregation whose purpose was the efficient control of the heterogeneous groups that participated in the project.

By 1909, white United States citizens constituted the gold roll; West Indians, most Panamanian workers, and eventually other non-U.S. citizens, the silver. The silver wage scale received its pay in a different currency, their wages were lower, and they had no benefits. In addition, each group was assigned different jobs, housing and opportunities for entertainment and shopping.

Mint of the United States
Roosevelt Medal No. 2067 presented to C. Spencer
1906-08
1999.001.020
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Marc Quinn

Mint of the United States
Roosevelt Medal No. 389 with three bars presented to F. Kind
1905-1907, 1907-08, 1909-11, 1911-13
1999.001.015
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Marc Quinn

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt directed the Isthmian Canal Commission to create a medal to reward service by American citizens on the construction of the Panama Canal. The medal was awarded to those who had served continuously for two years between May 4, 1904 and December 31, 1914. Each bar above the medal represents two additional years of service. Over 7,000 medals were awarded to both men and women.

Keystone View Company (American company, 1892-1963)
Col. Goethals in Charge of the Panama Canal
c. 1910
Stereograph
2013.2.91
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of William P. and Barbara L. Angrick
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015211/00001

President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Colonel George Washington Goethals Chief Engineer of the Panama Canal in 1907. Goethals oversaw all aspects of Canal construction. The Canal was remarkably completed seven years after his appointment; two years ahead of schedule and under budget. He became the first civilian Governor of the Canal Zone in 1914.

[Medallion commemorating opening of Panama Canal showing steam shovel basket]
1912-1917
2003.063.018
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Chris Skeie

Ernest "Red" Hallen (American, 1875-1947)
518-Y13 - Gatun Upper Locks, East Chamber, Main Gates and Top of Intermediate Gates in foreground
March 12, 1912
Gelatin silver print
2000.029.023
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Ted and Patsy Norris
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI003204/00001

West Indians constituted the most numerous workforce. In 1912, their population in the Canal Zone was 62,000. They performed the most dangerous work during construction including dynamiting, digging, scaffolding, and fumigating. Thus, they suffered a high rate of casualties.

Isthmian Canal Commission and **Panama Railroad**
[Identification badge of Canal employee]
n.d.
2005.027.203
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Patricia Bjorneby
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI000640/00001

Ernest "Red" Hallen (American, 1875-1947)
58-I.- U.S. Marines on bridge built by them over Camacho Diversion at Bas.- Obispo
July 1911
Gelatin silver print
2001.074.001.023
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Doris and Ken Tuley

The first U.S. soldiers assigned to the Canal Zone arrived in 1911. Their mission was to protect the construction project. Until the 1990s, thousands of U.S. troops were based in Panama. The peak of their presence (approximately 65,000 troops) took place during World War II.

Construction crews in a lock chamber of the Panama Canal
1913
Gelatin silver print
2011.999.248
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Curtis Bliss
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00093708/00001

The construction of the Panama Canal required the labor of thousands of workers. To build the Canal, people migrated mainly from the United States and the Caribbean, but also from Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Barbados and Jamaica provided much of the workforce, but so did Antigua, Grenada, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Martinique, and Guadeloupe.

Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interocéanique de Panama (French company, 1879-1889)
[French bond for 500 Francs]
1885
2011.999.062.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries

The Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interocéanique de Panama undertook the first attempt construction of a sea level canal, i.e., without locks, in the Isthmus of Panama. Its founder, Ferdinand de Lesseps, also developed the Suez Canal. Lesseps' fatal mistake was to apply the engineering principles he had used in Suez to Panama, ignoring the geography of the region. Due to financial problems, the company was liquidated, and the United States took over the construction project.

Ernest "Red" Hallen (American, 1875-1947)
316-A2. Panama Canal. Isthmian Canal Commission. Administration Bldg. Culebra, C.Z.
1908
Gelatin silver print
2003.100.008.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Glen W. Brandl
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI009052/00001

The Isthmian Canal Commission (ICC) oversaw the construction of the Panama Canal from 1904 to 1914. It reported directly to Secretary of War William Taft.

One of the challenges American women faced in the Panama Canal Zone was to cook with native ingredients. Panamanians bought fresh produce in the local farmers' market, like the one at Colon where vendors included not only Panamanian but also immigrant farmers. In the recipes of the book *Tropical Cooking: A Handbook of Tropical Foods and How to Use Them*, Gladys R. Graham explains to American women how to cook with local ingredients. Even though they could always go to the commissary, if they wanted to find familiar ones.

Colon Market
1939
Gelatin silver print
2003.088.002.007
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Doris Hutchinson
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI008754/00001

Gladys R. Graham
Tropical Cooking: A Handbook of Tropical Foods and How to Use Them
1948
Panama American Press
TX725 .G73 1948 c.2
Latin American & Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Panama Canal Museum

Native Foods Devotee Tracks Down Author of Tropical Cooking-Object Second Edition
September 2, 1979
Star and Herald
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Panama Canal Museum

At first the ICC discouraged the migration of women to the Canal Zone. However, during the first two years of construction, the constant turnover of workers made it difficult to organize an efficient system of labor. In 1906, the ICC realized that men would be happier and more productive workers if they had their families in the Canal Zone. Thus, they began to encourage the migration of women and children. Women defied the inhospitable environment to create homes. Initially, the ICC only hired female relatives of male workers, but single women also migrated to the Canal Zone in search of jobs. There, women worked as nurses, schoolteachers, stenographers, clerks, dietitians, timekeepers, telegraph operators, and storekeepers.

The Isthmian Nurses Association (Canal Zone, 1951-1970)
The Tropical Sentinel: The Official Publication of the Isthmian Nurses Association
October 1957
2005.080.002.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Mildred Seeley Hammond

The greatest concentration of female employees was in the hospitals. Nurses had come from the beginning of construction, and had fought yellow fever and other epidemic diseases. Their lives were different than men's. They lived in "female-only-housing," had special curfews, and were under more scrutiny. In addition, hospitals presented extreme challenges. It was difficult for them to labor in a male environment and to work in wards that were divided by gender, race and nationality. However, their skill and scarcity empowered them.

The Cristobal Woman's Club
Twenty-Five Years of Club work on the Isthmus of Panama, 1907-1932
c. 1932
2005.096.006
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Deakins Family

The Cristobal Woman's Club was the only federated club to continue to exist after Canal construction was completed. Early on, its members considered extending their outreach activities to the Republic of Panama. Like other clubs, learning Spanish was one of their goals. They even proposed the teaching of Spanish in Canal Zone schools. During World War I, the club organized a Red Cross unit that sent supplies to Europe. In 1920, the club opened a free health clinic to provide healthcare, food, and supplies to the destitute of Colon and Cristobal. After World War II, its members conducted an educational program for children and their families to become good citizens and good neighbors. By 1959, Panamanian women were also club members.

Commissary Employees
n.d.
Gelatin silver print
2004.007.092
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Richard (Pat) Beall
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI009412/00001

In 1905, Canal Zone Governor Charles Magoon and Chief Engineer John F. Stevens established a commissary system that would sell goods at cost to the inhabitants of the Panama Canal Zone.

Goods sold at the commissary included food, medicines, clothing, and supplies to meet the basic needs of the work force and their families. Eventually, luxury items like silk, lace, and perfume were added. The commissary also sold items for the crews of the ships that crossed the Canal, such as linen, stationery, silverware, cleaning supplies, tobacco, and food. By the 1940s the commissary resembled a department store. Both women and men staffed the commissary.

13-c-45 (14) New Gold Commissary, Gatun, C.Z.
April 1943
2014.52.1
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00023918/00001

One of the main concerns for American families in the Canal Zone was to raise and educate their children within the culture of the United States. In 1906, the ICC established a centralized school system for the Canal Zone. Women's clubs also promoted the creation of American clubs and athletic leagues for their children. In the Canal Zone, young people grew up with the activities that American children experienced in the United States, but with some changes due to the social and natural environment. They celebrated the same holidays as in the States but also became aware of local festivities. They scouted in the lush tropical forests and learned to enjoy the water that surrounded them, holding cayuco (large canoe) races in the Canal, and becoming excellent swimmers.

[Children's Concert at the Balboa Elementary School]
n.d.
Gelatin silver print
2000.048.158
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Kathy Egolf
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI003792/00001

Thanksgiving Play, Ancon
1924
Gelatin silver print
2004.007.081
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Richard (Pat) Beall
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI009401/00001

In 1908, women at Gorgona's Anti-Cigarette League helped establish the Boy Scouts. In 1913, the Camp Fire Girls were established; only one year after the organization was formed in the United States. By 1939, there were approximately fifty Boy and Girl Scout troops in the Canal Zone.

Canal Zone Council Boy Scouts of America (1947-1979)
1955 Scoutcapade
1955
Program
2003.059.003
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Bob and Marguerite Zumbado

Green Merit Badge Sash with Merit Badges
n.d.
2003.066.001.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Mickey Fitzgerald

Gatun Locks Boys Band of 1920
c. 1920
Gelatin silver print
2004.055.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Nellree Berger
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI010315/00001

[Canal Zone Baseball Team (presumably Balboa High School)]
c. 1920s
Gelatin silver print
2001.020.007.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of James "Buster" and Jeanne Burgoon
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI005510/00001

Union Sunday School, Culebra, Canal Zone
December 31, 1911
Gelatin silver print
2001.074.001.015
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Doris and Ken Tuley
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI006136/00001

In the early twentieth century, representatives of different Christian denominations decided to work together to form Union churches in the Canal Zone. This unique endeavor was considered the most effective way to foster faith and religious work.

Balboa High School
The Nineteen Hundred Forty-Six Zonian
1946
St. Petersburg Printing Co.
Latin American & Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Libraries
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00093678/00036

The first Canal Zone high school opened as a traveling school in 1907, and at times it was located in Culebra, Cristobal, Gatun, and Ancon. Students took the train to attend. In 1916, plans were drawn up for the construction of permanent high schools in Balboa and Cristobal.

Escuela Secundaria de Paraíso / Paraiso Jr. Sr. High School
Emilio Parris, editor
El Pacifico. Volumen XXVIII
1976
Asociación Estudiantil de la Escuela Superior de Paraíso Zona del Canal
Latin American & Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Libraries
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00015058/00001

West Indians attended separate Canal Zone schools. At first these schools only extended to middle grades, since there was an explicit effort to retain Afro-Antilleans as workers rather than professionals. In 1946, high school education was made available to West Indians. There were two West Indian high schools: on the Atlantic side, Silver City Occupational High School (later known as Rainbow City Occupational High School); and, on the Pacific side, La Boca High School (later known as Paraíso when it relocated). In 1954, Spanish replaced English as the instruction language at these schools, and their names were also translated to Spanish. Segregation in Canal Zone schools ended in 1978, long after it had ended in the United States.

In the first decade of the twentieth century, people from all over the world migrated to Panama for work. The U.S. government established labor-recruiting offices in Europe and in the

Caribbean. They focused special attention on Barbados where the local sugar plantation economy offered no hope of overcoming impoverishment. Approximately, twenty thousand Barbadians signed contracts to work in the Canal, and thousands more went without a contract. West Indian workers from other Caribbean countries migrated to the Canal as well. After overcoming the initial shock of canal working conditions, West Indian workers, like others in the silver roll, found ways to protest.

While men were the first to make the voyage, women later followed, where they found work in the growing service industry. The money that they sent or took back home, helped to develop a local middle class, and the migration experience helped to foster national identities in the Caribbean.

Ernest "Red" Hallen (American, 1875-1947)
236. Sleeping quarters for Negro Laborers
n.d.
Gelatin silver print
2000.029.020
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Ted and Patsy Norris
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI003201/00001

Interior view of restaurant showing proprietress
n.d.
Gelatin silver print
2003.017.030.002
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Patricia Hall
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI008135/00001

While American workers lived in more comfortable settlements, West Indian employees lived in labor camps. The food they received in ICC cafeterias was often unappetizing and eaten standing up. For this reason, many West Indians preferred to find their own food and accommodations. This benefitted West Indian women who opened their own businesses to meet those needs.

Meal Time at an ICC Kitchen- Upper Rio Grande
n.d.
Gelatin silver print
2001.074.001.016
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Doris and Ken Tuley

Errors on Rolls
May 1915
2000.029.126
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Ted and Patsy Norris
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014744

This 1915 document gives an idea of how this dualistic system came to be an accepted part of life in the Canal Zone, especially by those U.S. citizens it privileged. The document was prepared to evaluate the accuracy of different clerks in the payroll office (who were all gold roll employees). The handwritten comments explain that, from the clerks' point of view, keeping the silver roll was a relatively easy job, since there were no benefits to be calculated and little variation in hourly wage.

[*Parade of West Indians]*
1916
Gelatin silver print
2009.039.014
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Ruth Catherine Walker (Taylor)
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI011782/00001

West Indians worked hard in the Canal, but they also celebrated life. They brought to Panama their politics, culture, food, and music, adding a Caribbean touch to Panamanian culture.

Gerardo Maloney (Panamanian, 1945-)
El canal de Panamá y los trabajadores antillanos. Panamá 1920, cronología de una lucha
1989
Ediciones Formato Dieciséis
F1569.C2 M341 1989
Latin American & Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Libraries

West Indian workers protested poor working conditions and low pay through subtle forms, such as changing jobs, residence, and names. They brought the traditions of British Empire trade unionism to Panama. In 1920 they organized a strike, which is the basis of Gerardo Maloney's book.

Wigniguiña C. Gonzalez (Panamanian)
Historia de Ogobsucun y Datos Relevantes de Kuna Yala
2011
Editorial Mariano Arosemena
F1566 .G66 2011
Latin American & Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Raúl Castro Zachrisson

The Guna Yala are the largest indigenous group in Panama. Before the arrival of the Spaniards, they lived in the Panama-Colombia region. When the Spanish arrived, they migrated to other places. In 1870, Colombia created a reservation or comarca for the Guna. After Panama's independence in 1903, they had to migrate again. They had violent encounters with the newly founded Panamanian government, especially during the rebellion of 1925. In 1938, the Panamanian government created the Guna District of San Blas. In the page shown above, the Guna Yala compare the struggle of Panamanians to acquire sovereignty in the Canal Zone to their own struggle for sovereignty in their comarca. In 2011, the Panamanian government acknowledged the petition of the Guna Yala to change their official name from Kuna to Guna, for this represents better the pronunciation of their name in their language.

[San Blas Indian Visiting Miraflores Locks]
1955
Gelatin silver print
2003.025.056.003
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Family of George & Mayno Walker
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI008565

Pollera and Montuno Dancers
n.d.
Gealtin silver print
2001.077.006.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Dorothy Hart Holder

Tembleques
n.d.
2011.008.003.002
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries

In colonial times, African women in Panama tried to recreate the dresses that the Spanish women wore. The result was the pollera (Panama's national costume), which consists of a white blouse

with two pompoms and an ample skirt. Both are elaborately embroidered. Also included in the attire are mosquetas, jewelry made with gold and pearls, and tembleques, head ornaments in the shape of flowers, like the one above.

Since its beginning, Panama's history has been intrinsically connected to the United States and the Panama Canal. After obtaining its independence from Colombia, Panama became a U.S. protectorate. In turn, the infrastructure that the U.S. built and the funds that it invested allowed the construction of a modern country in the midst of the tropics. However, in the 1930s an incipient middle-class educated with national ideals began to contest the lack of Panamanian sovereignty in the Canal Zone. Constant U.S. military presence only increased the tensions between the U.S. and Panama.

In 1939 Panamanian President Harmodio Arias signed a treaty with U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt. In it, the U.S. renounced its rights to intervene in Panamanian affairs. However, in the face of inequality, economic problems, and political instability, discontent grew worse and led to protests and violence. In September 1977, President Jimmy Carter and Chief of Government Omar Torrijos signed the treaties that recognized Panamanian sovereignty over the Canal Zone and that guaranteed the transfer of the Canal to Panama in 1999.

Canal Zone Non-Profit Public Information Corporation
Public Opinion Questionnaire on Proposed Panama Canal Treaties [with results marked in red]
1977
2013.15.54
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Panama Canal Museum

Canal Zone Non-Profit Public Information Corporation
Your Donations Help Us Keep You Informed
November 8, 1977
2013.15.38
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Panama Canal Museum

The Torrijos-Carter Treaties faced opposition in the U.S. and in the Canal Zone. Michael James, employee of the Panama Canal Company, and William R. Drummond, President of the Canal Zone Police Lodge and a union official of Canal Zone Federal employees, organized the Canal Zone Non-Profit Public Information Corporation to oppose the implementation of the Treaties. As a result of his activism, Drummond received several threats. On November 1, 1976, bomb explosions destroyed his car and two others. In 1977, Drummond and several U.S. representatives filed a suit questioning the President's authority to give away the Canal.

Ana Elena Porras (Panamanian)
Historias canaleras: doce testimonios de la transición
2007
Universidad de Panamá,
Instituto de Estudios Nacionales
F1569.C2 P67 2007
Latin American & Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Libraries

These oral histories give the Panamanian point of view of the transfer and reveal that the process was neither smooth nor homogeneous. While some American officials began to mentor young Panamanians, others were much less cooperative. The process also brought to light problems in the Canal and its organization. Furthermore, the tense relationship between the U.S. and Panama due to Noriega's military dictatorship and U.S. military presence made the transfer even more difficult. These histories describe the creative way in which legal, administrative, social, and economic obstacles were surpassed as well as how the idea of the current Canal expansion began to take place.

Milton Martinez H. (Panamanian)
Panama 1978-1990, Una Crisis Sin Fin
1990
Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameño
F1566.5 .M37 1990
Latin American & Caribbean Collection, George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Panama Canal Museum

For Panamanians, the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties brought about a period of political, economic, and social upheaval. In 1968, Lieutenant Colonel Omar Torrijos seized power through a coup and became Chief of Government. The fight for sovereignty over the Canal Zone allowed Torrijos to create a project of national unity. Despite inflation, he had popular support. He justified his economic measures as the sacrifice that Panamanians had to endure in order for the Treaties to take place. Once the Treaties were implemented, Torrijos's ideological arguments lost validity, and people began to contest the military regime. The ensuing political and economic crisis, however, prevented the smooth transition to democracy. Torrijos died in 1981, and in the aftermath Manuel Antonio Noriega, his former spy unit commander, seized power. Noriega held that position until 1989 when he was ousted by an American invasion (Operation Just Cause).

Creat Ar
Quién Controla El Canal / Who Controls the Canal?
n.d.
2011.006.001
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of the Panama Canal Museum

The transference of the Panama Canal took place over a twenty-year period, during which Panama and the United States jointly operated the Canal. Before the Treaties, Panamanians could only aspire to middle-management in the Canal. Because of the Treaties, American administrators of the Canal began to train bright, young Panamanians into upper-management positions. In terms of operation, the result was successful. But in social terms, it was a traumatic experience both for the residents of the Canal Zone and for Panamanians.

The closing of the Canal Zone in 1979 forced the displacement of people who for generations had considered it home. From 1977 to 1979, people had to decide whether to leave, retire, or stay in a different position. Many people left. Panamanian employees, including West Indian descendants, were also affected. In Panama, the Treaties caused a political crisis with economic and social ramifications.

Joseph Wood (American born Panama, 1937-)
[Letter from Joseph Wood]
September 30, 1979
2013.25.1
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Joseph J. Wood Jr.
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00019281

Joseph J. "Joe" Wood Jr. was born in Panama City, Republic of Panama. Son of a Panamanian mother and an American employee of the Panama Canal, he grew up in the Canal Zone. He is a graduate from Balboa High School (1955), Canal Zone Junior College, and the University of Florida. After serving in the U.S. Army National Guard, he started his career at the Panama Canal as a Graduate Intern. In 1995 he retired after serving fourteen years as Director, Office of Executive Administration. For nine months in 1989, he served as the Canal's Deputy Administrator for Administration. He volunteered in many Canal Zone organizations and was a founding member of the Panama Canal Museum in Seminole, FL.

Wood played an important role in the transfer of the Museum's collections to the University of Florida.

Mireya Moscoso (Panamanian, 1946-),
Presidenta de la Republica de Panama (r. 1999-2004)
Invitación al Acto de Transferencia del Canal de Panamá
1999
2002.010.007
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries
Gift of Charles Hummer
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/PCMI006473

Before the actual transfer of the Panama Canal on December 31, on December 14, 1999, Panamanian President Mireya Moscoso, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, and other heads of state participated in a symbolic and moving ceremony of transfer.

Angus Grover Matheney (American, born Panama)
[Photographs of Transfer ceremony of the Panama Canal Zone to Panama at Miraflores Locks]
1999
Dye coupler prints
Panama Canal Museum Collection, Special & Area Studies Collections,
George A. Smathers Libraries

1. *[Billboard commemorating Panama Canal transfer]*
2009.003.020.022
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014747/00024

2. *[Presidents Moscoso, Carter, and other dignitaries at lock]*
2009.003.020.033
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014747/00035

3. *[Dignitaries at Miraflores Locks]*
2009.003.020.040
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014747/00041

4. *[Canal transfer ceremony crowd]*
2009.003.020.042
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014747/00043

5. *[Presidents Mosoco and Carter]*
2009.003.020.043
http://ufdc.ufl.edu/AA00014747/00044