
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Library and Archives
(520) 617-1157

ahsref@azhs.gov

PC 208**Leo Goldschmidt, 1852-1944
Photograph Collection, 1885-ca. 1920****DESCRIPTION**

Photographs taken by Leo Goldschmidt of Tucson citizens and landscapes; Florence, Arizona; mines in Mexico; and everyday life in Arizona between 1885 and 1920. The photographs are black-and-white and the bulk of the images were made from glass plate negatives.

1 box, .5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The Leo Goldschmidt collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society by the estate of Phyllis Mansfeld Sanders (Goldschmidt's niece) in 1944 and 1950.

RELATED MATERIALS

See also Arizona Historical Society: Eagle Milling Company records, 1888-1917, MS 236.
See also Arizona Historical Society: Mansfeld papers, 1864-1959, MS 1095, especially photo album (in Box 7) made by Leo Goldschmidt inscribed in Goldschmidt's hand, "L.H. Manning and myself on one of our frequent trips to the El Grupo Mines in Sonora about 1892 or 1893." See also "The Mansions of Main Street" by Janet Ann Stewart, *Journal of Arizona History*, Summer 1979.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society-Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

Dena McDuffie processed the collection in November 2001.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged topically.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Leo Goldschmidt was born in Hamburg, Germany on September 15, 1852. His father, Samuel Hertz Goldschmidt, was manager of the Hamburg branch of the Copenhagen Bank (during the financial crisis of 1857, the bank failed and Goldschmidt became a manufacturer), and his mother was Frederika Lichtenhein Goldschmidt, who was also from a banking family. They had 10 children. Eight of the children emigrated to U.S.: Gertrude (the oldest; married William Florsheim; when widowed, she moved to Tucson and lived with Leo); Mathilda (married Aaron Zeckendorf. When he died in Santa Fe, Matilda returned to Germany); Henry S. (attorney in Chicago); Eva (married J.S. Mansfeld in 1878 and had 4 children: Hanna Fredricka [1879-1942], Samuel Jacob [1881-1867], Phyllis [1883-1949], and Moses Montifore [1884-1959]); Adolph (was associated with Leo's business for a time, but died in 1899); Leo; Helen (married Morris Leventhal of Los Angeles); and Alfred J. (married Louise Harris; after Louise's death in 1927, he also lived with Leo; died in 1935)

In 1870, during the Franco-Prussian War, then-17-year-old Leo immigrated to America, joining his brother Henry in Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1870, Leo moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where his sister, Mathilda, who was married to Aaron Zeckendorf, lived. (Zeckendorf and his brothers came to Tucson from Albuquerque in 1868 and founded a store at the southwest corner of Main at Pennington. . .the store eventually became the Albert Steinfeld store.) In July 1878, Leo and brother Adolph moved to Tucson where another sister, Eva Mansfeld was moving. Her husband had established Tucson's first news and magazine store, The Pioneer News Depot. Goldschmidt had been friends with Albert Steinfeld (nephew of the Zeckendorfs) in Hamburg where the two lived and worked together for a time. The two friends worked at the L. Zeckendorf Store (predecessor of the Alfred Steinfeld Company).

The Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in Tucson in 1880, creating a boom economy. Around that time, Goldschmidt borrowed money from his brother-in-law Aaron Zeckendorf and opened the first large furniture store in Tucson at the northwest corner of Main at Pennington. When the first store burned down, it was reopened at Main and Ott streets. Goldschmidt sold the store to Zeckendorf in 1888 and bought and operated, with E. N. Fish, the Eagle Flour Milling (founded by John Y.T. Smith in 1871; this mill is still in existence, known today as Arizona Milling Company) for the next 34 years. Leo also owned milling companies in Phoenix, ???, and Safford.

Like just about everyone in the Arizona Territory, Goldschmidt was interested in mining. He made numerous trips to Mexico, presumably scouting for mining prospects. This is evidenced in the photographs he made in Sonora, which are dated May 1895, July 1896 and February 1897. One trip, which he made with Levi Manning, is documented in a photo album contained in the Mansfeld papers (MS 1095); the album is inscribed in Goldschmidt's hand, "L.H. Manning and myself on one of our frequent trips to the El Grupo Mines in Sonora about 1892 or 1893."

During this time, an interesting alliance was forming. In 1886, Goldschmidt, along with a number of other single men (among them, Dr. W.H. Fanner, W.T. Gibbon, Charles Roach, Charles Howell, M.M. Butler, Frank Hereford, W.P. Freeman, L.M. Jacobs, Levi Manning, and Herbert Tenney), formed an organization originally called "The Mess." Fenner later changed the club's name to The Owls and in 1900 they built a home in Tucson's "Snob Hollow," now the El Presidio Historic District. They supposedly named it the Owls Club because of their late night habits. There, they hosted dinner parties, fetes and masked balls. They also played poker, visited Carillo's and Levin's gardens and Silver Lake, and staged an occasional fencing match. They hired Woo Sing as their cook and purchasing agent and chose the motto "*dum vivimus, vivamus*," "let us live while we live."

The original Owl's Club Mansion, at 300 N. Main Ave. (corner of Broadway and Stone), was built in California mission revival style. This building was a gentleman's club for some of Tucson's most eligible turn-of-the-century bachelors. Designed by Henry Trost, Tucson's most noted architect, it had double parlors and bedrooms opening to a gallery around a palm garden and ground floor servants' quarters and trunk rooms to accommodate the Owls' traveling equipment. They lived there two years, until Levi Manning bought the house for himself (today, this house is known as the Steinfeld Mansion) and commissioned Trost to build another house on the next block, at 378 N. Main Ave, for the Owls.

The second Owl's Club Mansion was built in 1902 and was also designed by Henry Trost in the mission-revival style, albeit with a great deal of ornamentation. This impressive mansion replaced the Steinfeld Mansion as home to the bachelors of the Owl's Club.

In 1912, the year Arizona became a state, Goldschmidt, the only remaining bachelor member of the Owls Club, bought out the others' shares and made it his residence. His sister Eva Mansfeld (and her daughters Hannah and Phyllis) and Eva's son, a widower (and his daughters Ann-Eve and Leonor), all moved in with him.

Goldschmidt was a bit of a Renaissance man. During World War I, he managed Tucson's Liberty Loan Drive; after retiring from active business in 1922, Goldschmidt remained involved in cattle and mining ventures, and served as director of the Consolidated National Bank. He supported musical and cultural activities in the town, especially the Saturday Morning Musical Club and, in 1922, he gave the Temple of Music and Art an organ worth over a thousand dollars. He collected fine art and subscribed to art catalogs and the then-new *National Geographic* magazine. He was also connected with Scottish Rite Masons, BPOE, Tucson Golf and Country Club, and was a charter member of the Old Pueblo Club. After retiring, he made his only return trip to Europe, visiting his homeland.

When Leo Goldschmidt died on January 25, 1944, at age 91; he had lived in Tucson for 66 years.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The photographs of Leo Goldschmidt (1852-1944), an amateur photographer, span the years 1885 to ca. 1920. The collection chronicles the 1890s and early 1900s in Tucson, Arizona and the surrounding area. Although Goldschmidt was a businessman, most of his images are of a personal nature. Among the highlights of the collection are: portraits of early Tucsonans; excellent documentation of the towns of Tucson and Florence, Arizona; mining sites in Mexico; and images of the Tucson convento at its late stage of ruin, the Owls Club library, the original Tucson City Hall (also known as the Bell Tower).

SERIES NOTES

This collection has been arranged in three series: Series 1 contains Portraits. Many of the early Anglo settlers in Tucson are depicted in these portraits, among them are members of the Mansfield, Strauss, Ford and Steinfeld families. These images are arranged in alphabetical order according to the last name of those photographed; Series 2 contains images of specific Places. These images are arranged in alphabetical order by name of the places represented. One curiosity of the collection is the volume of photographs taken in Florence, Arizona where, for a time, Goldschmidt operated a mill; Series 3 contains various Subjects. These images are arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

BOX & FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Portraits

- F. 1 Portraits—Bagley, Helen and Jack, 1896
- F. 2 Portraits—Butler, A.W., 1890
- F. 3 Portraits—Cameron, Brewster, 1897
- F. 4 Portraits—Chick, Mary E., ca. 1912
- F. 5 Portraits—Coker, Elmer C., n.d.
- F. 6 Portraits—Comstock, Mrs., n.d.
- F. 7 Portraits—Ford, Rochester, n.d.
- F. 8 Portraits—Goldschmidt, Bertho, 1889-1891 (Adolph Goldschmidt's son)
- F. 8a Portraits—Goldschmidt, Leo, n.d.
- F. 9 Portraits—Gotthelf, Helene & Mariana, 1886
- F. 10 Portraits—Hamm, Grace, 1895
- F. 11 Portraits—Hemme, Miss & Blake, Mr., n.d.
- F. 12 Portraits—Hereford, Frank, 1885-1896
- F. 13 Portraits—Howe, Charles, 1887
- F. 14 Portraits—Jeulendorf, William & Family, 1887
- F. 15 Portraits—Mansfeld, Eva, Hannah F. and Phyllis, 1895-ca. 1923
- F. 16 Portraits—Prince (dog), 1889
- F. 17 Portraits—Steinfeld, Harold & Lester, 1887-1896
- F. 18 Portraits—Strauss, Ruth, 1887
- F. 19 Portraits—Woo, Sing, 1894
- F. 20 Portraits—Unidentified

Series 2: Places

- F. 21 Places in Arizona—Florence-Buildings, ca. 1910-ca. 1920
- F. 22 Places in Arizona—Florence-Landscapes, ca. 1915
- F. 23 Places in Arizona—Florence-People, ca. 1915
- F. 24 Places in Arizona—Gila River, ca. 1915
- F. 25 Places in Arizona—Pearce
- F. 26 Places in Arizona—Ray
- F. 27 Places in Arizona—Sonora (near Ray)
- F. 28 Places in Arizona—Tucson-Buildings. Included in this folder are: 1) the original Tucson City Hall (also known as the Bell Tower), built in 1881. The A-shaped building housed the Justice of the Peace and polling for elections on the first floor; telephone office on the second floor; and the city's fire bell on the third floor. 2) Grace Episcopal Church, at Broadway and Stone, in 1914;
- F. 29 Places in Arizona—Tucson-Landscapes
- F. 30 Places in Arizona—Tucson-People
- F. 31 Places outside Arizona—Sonora, Mexico-la Campana Mill
- F. 32 Places outside Arizona—Sonora, Mexico-Miscellaneous
- F. 33 Places-Unidentified

Series 3: Subjects

- F. 34 Subjects—Blacksmith
- F. 35 Subjects—Constitutional Convention
- F. 36 Subjects—Landscapes
- F. 37 Subjects—Miscellaneous
- F. 38 Subjects—Missions-San Xavier del Bac
- F. 39 Subjects—Montezuma's Well
- F. 40 Subjects—Native Americans-Papago
- F. 41 Subjects—Owls Club
- F. 42 Subjects—Prospector
- F. 43 Subjects—Ranches & Mills
- F. 44 Subjects—Schools
- F. 45 Subjects—Transportation