

MS-181

The Museum of Northern Arizona
Harold S. Colton Memorial Library
3101 N. Fort Valley Road
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(928)774-5213 ext. 256

Title

John A. Frost collection

Dates

1956-1958, 1997-1998

Extent

1.25 cm textual material, 105 photographic images (105 prints)

Biographical History

John A. (Jack) Frost (1897- December 1958) was born in Oklahoma. In 1935, he joined with Norman Nevills, who was a pioneer of commercial river-running in the American Southwest. From Mexican Hat, Utah, they built a wooden boat and ran the San Juan River together. This experience affected Frost so much that even though he would continue to work for the United States Geological Survey as the district engineer, he spent the summer months running a river rafting expedition company out of Artesia, New Mexico with his son, Frank (Jack Jr.). During his expeditions he noticed a lot of petroglyphs along the canyon walls. He began corresponding with the Museum of Northern Arizona and others about his findings and eventually started documenting them. Before the Glen Canyon Dam was constructed, Edward B Danson, director of the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA), got permission from the Bureau of Reclamation to raft the dam-site to record the petroglyphs before the area was flooded; Frost led the expedition in 1957.

Frost passed away in December of 1958.

Scope and Content

Collection includes correspondence, mainly concerning petroglyphs along the San Juan and Colorado Rivers and the MNA sponsored expedition of the Glen Canyon Dam site, between Frost and Katharine Bartlett, L.P. Wylie, Harold Colton, Robert Weber, Waldemere Bejnar, Robert Zeller, Charles P. Myers (son-in-law), and William C. Miller. Also included are photographic prints of the expedition, 1956-1957. The correspondence from 1997 and 1998 is from Ruth E. Myers (Frost's daughter) and Susan Deaver Olberding (MNA) concerning Frost's papers and a planned exhibition of on Glen Canyon at MNA. Collection also includes brochure for Frost Expeditions circa 1946.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Materials donated by John A. Frost in 1958 (Accession #MS-181). Correspondence was received and added to this accession by Katharine Bartlett (1958) and Susan Deaver Olberding (1998) of the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Publication Note

Frost sent a copy of a newspaper article about his finding of a petroglyph to Katharine Bartlett:

Peterman, O.L. 1955. "Rare Indian Pictograph Found By Geologist, River Enthusiast." *Artesia Daily Press*, September 25.

Frost's interest in petroglyphs began with an article by William C. Miller:

Miller, William C. 1955. "Two Possible astronomical pictographs found in Northern Arizona." *Plateau* 27, no. 4: 6-12.

Description Control

Finding aid written by Eileen Hogan using *DACS*, 21 July 2010

John A. Frost collection				
File #	File Description	Date(s)	Extent	Box/Folder
MS-181-1	Correspondence	1956-1958, 1997-1998	1 cm textual, 31 prints	Asst. Box 9.6
MS-181-2	Photographs	1956-1957	0.25 cm textual, 74 prints	Asst. Box 9.7

LCSH Access Points

Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)
Glen Canyon Dam (Ariz.)
Glen Canyon (Utah and Ariz.)
Mexican Hat (Utah)
Petroglyphs
San Juan River (Colo.-Utah)
Supernovae