



# CANAL GATOR TALES

August 2018

## Join the 2019 Cruise!



We are thrilled to report that we have had an excellent response for the 2019 Fundraising Cruise, which is a seven-night cruise to Cuba and the Eastern Caribbean on Royal Caribbean's *Empress of the Seas* with the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection. At this point a total of 37 people have signed up for the cruise, which is scheduled for January 27 - February 3. We're hoping to increase the size of our group, but the travel agent says space is limited. So if you haven't already booked your cruise, now is the time! The cruise schedule and booking information is available in the [2019 Cruise Flyer](#).

## The Work Behind the Scenes

We continue to make excellent progress on a multi-year project to comprehensively review and rearrange the PCMC. Started in 2017, one of the primary goals of the project is to complete an inventory of the collection. It is fairly common for libraries, archives, and museums to conduct inventories sporadically to ensure that everything is stored properly in the correct locations. This is the first complete inventory conducted since the collection arrived at UF in 2012. A second goal of the project is to rearrange the collection and to upgrade archival storage containers for many of the materials. We are sorting the collection according to format and media (e.g., photographs, post cards, recordings, textiles, etc.), and also by subject whenever possible (e.g., construction photos, school photos, etc.). We are purchasing new archival boxes and folders to ensure that the collection is stored in the best manner possible. A third goal is to improve the descriptive information for all of the objects in the [online database](#). We are systematically reviewing all of this data and editing as needed. As a result, researchers are better able to discover and engage with the historical materials in the PCMC.

We are fortunate to have a strong relationship with the UF Museum Studies Program, and we have relied on the work of multiple graduate students throughout the project. Most of these activities are occurring behind the scenes, and the majority of the researchers and visitors interacting with the collection won't even be aware of the significant effort underway to better preserve and provide access to the collection. We anticipate the first two goals will be achieved by the end of 2018, and the third goal will be completed in 2019. Of course, much of this good work will continue well past the end of the current project because we're always seeking to improve our management of the PCMC.

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## Wanted! Historical Treasures

We actively collect a wide variety of historical materials in order to expand and strengthen the PCMC, and we rely greatly on donations from Zonians. The following is a list of some of our "most wanted" objects:

1. Diaries, journals, memoirs, firsthand accounts, oral histories, and other types of personal narratives that offer unique perspectives and stories.
2. Correspondence such as letters, telegrams, and postcards.
3. Home movies, films, and audio or video recordings. In general, we collect audiovisual materials that were not produced commercially.
4. Photographs in all formats and types: prints, slides, negatives, aerial photos, panoramic, stereographs, etc.
5. Scrapbooks. In general, we do not collect scrapbooks full of newspaper clippings. Please do not assemble archival materials into a scrapbook before donating.
6. Ephemera such as brochures, pamphlets, programs, menus, and travel guides. We already have a lot of these in the PCMC and we do not collect duplicates, but we do want to collect ephemera that we have not already preserved.
7. Although we have a large number of yearbooks already, we are missing: the 1919 *Caribbean*; *El Pacifico* for 1952-1953; and the 1916-1919 and 1923 volumes of *Zonian*.

For many of the objects listed above, we do accept digital reproductions if donors are not willing to donate the original objects,

All potential donations are reviewed by a Collection Committee, as mandated by the [PCMC Collection Development Policy](#). We ask prospective donors to please provide a short description of the item(s) along with any images or contextual information. In the case of larger groups of materials, we often ask for an inventory. This information is particularly helpful to the committee as they discuss potential gifts. For more information about donating items to the PCMC, please contact John Nemmers at 352-273-2766 or [jnemmers@ufl.edu](mailto:jnemmers@ufl.edu).

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## 2019 Anniversaries

2019 is a year of several important anniversaries: the 20th anniversary of the transfer of the Canal to the Republic of Panama, the 30th anniversary of Operation Just Cause, the 40th anniversary of the treaty and end of the Canal Zone, and the 55th anniversary of the 1964 riots over Panamanian sovereignty. The 2019 exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery at the University of Florida will examine the decades leading up to the transfer of the Canal to Panama in 1999, focusing on the viewpoints and actions of U.S. and Panamanian citizens, as well as U.S.-Panama relations. The exhibition in the Gallery is scheduled for March 2019-February 2020. Additionally, the PCMC exhibit at the Panama Canal Society Annual Reunion in 2019 will focus on Operation Just Cause, and we also plan to create online exhibits related to these anniversaries.

As always, these exhibits will feature a wide variety of objects from the PCMC, displayed along with oral histories that tell stories relating to these significant historical events. If you have interesting stories to share, please contact Liz Bouton at [dizliz@ufl.edu](mailto:dizliz@ufl.edu) or 352-273-2685. We are particularly interested in hearing from individuals who were children during one or more of these years.

In conjunction with these exhibits, the George A. Smathers Libraries will present a series of public lectures and panel presentations throughout 2019-2020. Speakers and panelists will discuss the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, the twenty-year transfer process, and personal experiences during all of these significant historical events. Information about these public events will be announced in future issues and also on the [PCMC home page](#) and [PCMC Blog](#).

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## Consider a Planned Gift

Many of you are already supporters of the PCMC, and your generosity ensures that the historical materials in the Panama Canal Museum Collection will be accessible to future generations. If you haven't already, please consider including the PCMC in your estate plans. Planned gifts, including bequests and living trusts, support the collection in perpetuity and strengthen our research services and education programs. For more information or assistance, please call the UF George A. Smathers Libraries Office of Development at (352) 273-2505 or visit the UF Foundation Gift Planning home page.

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## Exhibition Sponsorship

The goal of the Panama Canal Museum Collection exhibition program is to educate and raise awareness about the American era of the Panama Canal. Exhibition sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to support this goal.

Through gallery, online, and traveling exhibitions, we share the memories and stories preserved in the PCMC, and introduce audiences to the treasure trove of distinctive and historically significant objects. Exhibitions are curated in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery on the University of Florida campus and at the Panama Canal Society Annual Reunion. Online exhibitions are accessible freely at any time to a worldwide audience, and traveling exhibitions enable education in diverse locations.

We invite individuals, groups, and corporations to sponsor PCMC exhibitions. All sponsors receive acknowledgment in exhibition materials, including: invitations, programs, exhibition catalogues, signage, flyers, press releases, the UF PCMC website and e-mails sent to Friends members. Complimentary curator tours are also provided for sponsors and their guests. If you are interested in sponsoring an exhibition or would like more information, please contact John Nemmers, [jнемmers@ufl.edu](mailto:jnemmers@ufl.edu), 353-273-2766.

## Save These Dates

### **January 27 - February 3, 2019**

7-Night Cuba and Eastern Caribbean Fundraising Cruise on Royal Caribbean's Empress of the Seas with Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection. For more information, see the [2019 Cruise Flyer](#).

### **March 16, 2019**

Joint meeting of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection and Panama Canal Society at the University of Florida's Smathers Library in Gainesville, FL. Includes the grand opening of the 2019 exhibition in the Albert H. Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery and a speakers panel.

**July 3-7, 2019**

Exhibit, Auction and Cultural Seminar at the Panama Canal Society Reunion at the Orlando Marriott World Center. It's never too early to start identifying items that you would like to donate to the auction! Please contact Kathy Egolf (pankee@aol.com) if you have items to donate. Please note that the 2019 auction may be our last annual auction.

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