

# University of Miami Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Finlay B. Matheson Collection (ASM0216)

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Language of description: English

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# Finlay B. Matheson Collection

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** University of Miami Special Collections

**Title:** Finlay B. Matheson Collection

**ID:** ASM0216

**Physical description:** 43 boxes

**Language:** English

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

William J. Matheson was a philanthropist, agriculturalist, and pioneer developer in South Florida in the early 20th century. His agricultural experiments, social activities, travels, and estate are recorded in this collection and offer a unique visual history of Key Biscayne. Matheson served as commodore of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club from 1912 until 1923. His annual Chowder Party on the Key became a highlight event of the season. In the early 20th century, Matheson traveled on a world cruise with his friend Arthur Curtiss James aboard his yacht, Aloha. Matheson also supported the development of south Florida, and nearly one hundred maps, plans, and images document his visionary work - including architectural plans for three of his residences, two of which are no longer standing. In 1940, Matheson's children donated more than 800 acres to Dade County for what would become Crandon Park.

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## Scope and content

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The Finlay B. Matheson collection include more than 2,411 photographs; 112 maps, surveys, and architectural plans; and 13 books related to William John Matheson and his immediate family. Drawings, postcards, and some of the first aerial view photographs of Key Biscayne, Coconut Grove, the Miami River, and the Florida Keys are represented in the collection. The materials give a glimpse into the burgeoning social life of early inhabitants who gathered at the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club. The Florida landscape is captured throughout the various albums and scrapbooks and attests to a more leisurely lifestyle before the advent of skyscrapers and multi-lane highways.

## Notes

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### Title notes

### Immediate source of acquisition

Gift of Mr. Finlay B. Matheson.

### Arrangement

The collection is organized and arranged as follows: Maps and Plans, Photographs and Images, and Books and Printed Items.

### Related material

Ralph M. Munroe Family Papers, 1882-1995.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:1129

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## Access points

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- University of Miami -- Pictorial works
- Photographs (documentary form)
- Postcards (documentary form)
- Cities and towns -- Florida (subject)
- Hurricane damage -- Florida -- Miami (subject)
- Miami (Florida) -- Buildings, structures, etc. (place)

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## Series descriptions

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### Series id93258: Photographs

Publication status:

Published

File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
id93260	File - Hand colored Robinson photos	1917		1
id93261	File - Fifty ariel photographs of Key Biscayne and Coconut Grove			2
id93262	File - Hurricane damage showing damage at "Entrada", Hugh Matheson's estate, Coconut Grove and Key Biscayne	1926		3
id93263	File - G.W. Romer photographs of Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, "Swastika", Biscayne Bay Yacht Club Chowder Party	February 22, 1928		4
id93264	File - Photo album titled, "Trip to Jamaica, the Isthmus, Colombia and Costa Rica 1927" aboard steamship "Carillo"	1927		5
id93265	File - Photo album titled, "Trip to Jamaica, the Isthmus, Colombia and Costa Rica 1927" aboard steamship "Carillo"	1927		5A
id93266	File - Aloha Cruise 1912 - 1913, two volumes, Volume I	1912-1913		6
id93267	File - Aloha Around the World 1921 - 1922, Volume II	1921-1922		7
id93268	File - Off and On Calabash Florida Keys, Three weeks in April and May	1913		8
id93269	File - Pictures of "Swastika" and early shots of Coconut Grove, Florida Keys, etc.			9
id93270	File - Year 1927 album	1927		10
id93271	File - Photo album of Mashta construction, Key Biscayne, Dredge on Key Biscayne, Old House in Coconut Grove	1910-1919		12
id93275	File - Hurricane damage on Key Biscayne, Coconut Grove, Hugh M. Matheson's house, Swastika (Malcolm Matheson's house), Downtown Miami, BBYC Chowder Party on Key Biscayne, "Marmion", Coconut Grove Boat Yard, etc.	c. 1927		13
id93276	File - Year 1930 album	1930		14
id93277	File - Key Biscayne; dredging, land clearing, construction work, water wheel and artesian well, Hugh Matheson sitting on dredge pipe; additions to packing house; downtown Miami; construction of Mashta; cruising on Biscayne Bay; Larry Huntington at Chowder party, 1927; "Four Way Lodge"	1927		15
id93278	File - Coconut Grove, Key Biscayne, Biscayne Bay Yacht Club Chowder Party 1929, downtown Miami office; boats: "Chum" at Bimini 1928, "Marmion", "Snug", "Gilby" all 1928; postcards and	1928-1929		16

	pictures of Jamaica; Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas; "Marmion" race off Miami Beach 1928		
id93279	File - Photo album titled "Trinity 1938"	1938	17
id93281	File - Photos of "Seaforth" yacht owned by W.J Matheson; photos and postcards of Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, Tobago, British Guiana; postcards and photos of Miami, Huntingon, NY, Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, Manhattan, Marblehead, MA, and northeast harbor in Maine; whisky, rum, and beer labels at the back of the album; map showing the Caribbean cruise going to British Guiana and the West Indies	1929	18
id93282	File - Album titled, "Years 1928 & 1929"	1928-1929	19
id93316	File - Cruise on "Seaforth" leaving Miami April 21, 1929; Nassau, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. John's, Guadeloupe, Dominica, Martinique, St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada, Tobago, British Guiana, Trinidad, Curacao, Jamaica, Grand Cayman	1929	20
id93317	File - Tom Mitchell's wedding at St. Stevens in Coconut Grove, March 30th, 1925; Key Largo Club, Bimini, Coconut Grove, Swastika, Miami Beach, Key Largo; Biscayne Bay Yacht Club Chowder Party; Cloister Boca Raton, The Hollywood Hotel, Palm Beach, Sunny Isles Casino, Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, downtown Miami, Cape Florida Light House, Lignumvitae, Isla Morada, Julia Tuttle Apartment Hotel Miami Bayfront, The Everglades Hotel	1925-1926	21
id93318	File - Album titled, "Marmion Cuban Cruise - April 18th to June 7th, 1928"	1928	22
id93319	File - Album titled, "Hail Sailors Jack and Jill"		23
id93320	File - Album titled, "Florida Hurricane, September 17th - 18th, 1926 Rehabilitation"	1926-1927	24
id93321	File - Album titled, "Florida Hurricane, September 17th - 18th, 1926"	1926	25
id93322	File - Pictures of Mashta, Coconuts on Key Biscayne, Swastika, Mangroves		26
id93323	File - Album titled, "Various pictures - years 1903 to 1920"	1903-1920	27
id93325	File - Photographs	ca. 1927	29
id93414	File - Photos of Key Biscayne		30
id93415	File - Photographs of W.J. Matheson's yacht "Seaforth"		31
id93416	File - Photographs taken by G.W. Romer, Photographer	ca. 1927	32

id93417	File - Photographs by G.W. Romer, Photographer	1930	33
id93418	File - Album titles "Mashta-Key Biscayne, Virginia Key, Aerial view by Hoit"	1925-1930	34
id93419	File - Sepia photographs by Richard B. Hoit, photographer		35
id93420	File - Photographs by Richard B. Hoit, photographer		36
id93421	File - Album titled, "Cruise of Aloha, August 4th, 1925 to November 6th, 1925"	1924-1925	37
id93422	File - Photo album titled, "Sea and Land Cruise, 1928"	1928	38
id93423	File - Album titled, "Swastika, Coconut Grove Florida 1914"	1914	39
id93424	File - Album titled, "Marpesa"		40