

Guide to the E. E. Rutter Photography Collection

Brooklyn Public Library
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: E. E. Rutter
Title: E. E. Rutter Photography Collection
Date Span: 1919 – 1954, with bulk of the collection 1919 – 1924
Abstract: Edgar E. Rutter served as the official photographer for the borough of Brooklyn in the early 20th century. The photographs in the collection are almost exclusively from his work in that capacity, although some photographs are from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* archives. The collection is arranged in two series. Series I consists of loose images that the Brooklyn Collection acquired in several batches. These are arranged by subject. Series II consists of 100 photographs from April 1924 that were bound in a volume for the office of the borough president. Their original order has been maintained.
Quantity: 582 photographic prints
Location: Map Room, Cabinet 10.3
Repository: Brooklyn Public Library – Brooklyn Collection
Call Number: BC 0082

Biographical History

Edgar E. Rutter – who went by E. E. Rutter, or just Rutter, professionally – was born in Maryland in 1883. Census records variously set his birthdate at 1880, 1881, and 1884, but the 1883 birth date was found on his World War II Draft Registration card, and is verified by a Social Security Death Index record. He had a photography studio at number 8, 4th Avenue (among other locations) and was the official photographer for the Borough of Brooklyn in the early part of the 20th century. In the 1920 census he was living on State Street with his wife, Ellen; he is listed as a "Photographer" with his place of work a "Photo Studio."

Little is known about Rutter beyond those basic details. In his capacity as borough photographer, he traveled all over Brooklyn to document street parades, public building opening ceremonies, and road and subway construction. Census records indicate that he lived in Brooklyn as late as 1940. E. E. Rutter passed away in New Jersey in July 1964.

Scope and Content

The 582 photographs in this collection were largely taken in Rutter's official capacity as borough photographer. Some images date as late as 1954, but the bulk of the collection is from 1919 – 1924. The photographs document functions of government and civic life such as ribbon-cutting ceremonies, street parades, and road and subway construction projects. Notable subject areas within the collection include the Coney Island boardwalk, the Pigtown neighborhood (<http://brooklynology.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/post/2009/03/05/Pigtown.aspx>), sewer construction, and photographs of then-borough president Edward Riegelmann. Most of the prints in the collection are original; however, several of the Coney Island photographs are reprints from digital scans of originals.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

Collection is located in the Brooklyn Collection at the Central Branch at Grand Army Plaza. The collection may only be used in the library and is not available through interlibrary loan. Requests to view the collection must be made at least 48 hours in advance of visit.

Many of these images can be viewed online via our online catalog. Call numbers are listed for all photographs, when applicable. These numbers refer to the number assigned to each image in our online catalog. Records for these individual photographs, including many digital scans of the photographs themselves, can be found by visiting <http://catalog.brooklynpubliclibrary.org>, choosing "Call Number" from the drop-down menu to the left of the search box, and typing in the desired call number (i.e., RUTT 0001).

Use Restrictions

While many items in the Brooklyn Collection are unrestricted, we do not own reproduction rights to all materials. Be aware of the several kinds of rights that might apply: copyright, licensing and trademarks. The borrower assumes all responsibility for copyright questions.

Access Points

Subject Topics:

[Amusement parks -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)
[Bay Ridge \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Borough Park \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Brooklyn \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Brooklyn Borough Hall \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Brooklyn Heights \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Coney Island \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Courthouses -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)
[Crown Heights \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Flatbush \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Harbors -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)
[Municipal buildings -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)

[Municipal officials and employees -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)
[Park Slope \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Railroads, Elevated.](#)
[Street-railroad tracks -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)
[Streets -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)
[Sunset Park \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)
[Waterfronts -- New York \(State\) -- New York.](#)
[Williamsburg \(New York, N.Y.\)](#)

Administrative Information

Provenance

Purchased in several batches, although some Rutter images came from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* archives.

Preferred Citation

This collection should be cited as the E. E. Rutter Photography Collection, Brooklyn Public Library – Brooklyn Collection.

Related Materials

“Pigtown”, a blog post by Brooklyn Collection staff:

<http://brooklynology.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/post/2009/03/05/Pigtown.aspx>

“E. E. Rutter”, a blog post by Brooklyn Collection staff:

<http://brooklynology.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/post/2010/03/11/EE-Rutter.aspx>

Ierardi, Eric J. *Images of America: Brooklyn in the 1920s*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 1998.

Arrangement

The photography files are arranged in two series. Series I consists of loose images that were acquired by the library in several batches in no apparent order. These are arranged by subject, and new additions to the collection are added to this series routinely. Series II consists of 100 photographs from April 4 – 23, 1924 that were bound in a single volume for the borough president, *President, Borough of Brooklyn Photographs 5001 – 5100, vol. 51*. Their original order (chronological) has been preserved.

Call numbers are listed for all photographs when applicable. These numbers refer to the number assigned to each image in our online catalog. Records for these individual photographs, including many digital scans of the photographs themselves, can be found by visiting <http://catalog.brooklynpubliclibrary.org>, choosing “Call Number” from the drop-down menu to the left of the search box, and typing in the desired call number (i.e., RUTT 0001).

Series I Folder Listing

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u># of prints</u> | <u>call # range</u> |
|--|--------------------|---|
| 13 th Regiment Armory (showing collapsed railing) | 6 | RUTT 0173 – 0178 |
| 27 th Division Parade | 15 | RUTT 0179 – 0193 |
| Atlantic Avenue El | 8 | RUTT 0093 – 0095, 0194 – 0196, NEIG 0503 |

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|---|----|---|
| Borough Hall: Murals | 16 | RUTT 0001 – 0016 |
| Borough Hall: General | 12 | RUTT 0017 – 0021, 0197 – 0203 |
| Brooklyn Bridge | 5 | RUTT 0096, 0204 – 0207 |
| Brooklyn Museum Construction (new wing) | 2 | RUTT 0208 – 0209 |
| Brooklyn Public Library | 5 | CBPL 0019, RUTT 0210 – 0212 |
| Brooklyn-Queens Expressway | 5 | RUTT 0090 – 0092, 0097 – 0098 |
| Buildings | 13 | RUTT 0022 – 0029, 0033 – 0036, 0213 |
| Bush Terminal: Employees | 11 | RUTT 0037 – 0046 |
| Bush Terminal: Interiors | 7 | RUTT 0047 – 0053 |
| Bush Terminal: Manhattan | 1 | RUTT 0066 |
| Bush Terminal: Railway | 5 | RUTT 0054 – 0057 |
| Bush Terminal: Waterfront | 13 | RUTT 0058 – 0069, NEIG 1584, TRAN 0409 |
| Children's Court | 8 | RUTT 0031 – 0032, 0214 – 0215, 0219 – 0221 |
| Clarendon Road | 3 | RUTT 0216 – 0218 |
| Coney Island | 22 | RUTT 0070 – 0078, 0222 |
| Coney Island: Boardwalk I (reprints) | 14 | RUTT 0223 – 0236 |
| Coney Island: Boardwalk II (reprints) | 24 | RUTT 0237 – 0260 |
| Coney Island: Boardwalk III (reprints) | 11 | RUTT 0261 – 0271 |
| Coney Island: Boardwalk IV (reprints) | 18 | RUTT 0272 – 0289 |
| Coney Island: Boardwalk V (reprints) | 20 | RUTT 0290 – 0309 |
| Court Street | 5 | RUTT 0030, 0310 – 0312 |
| Disposal Plant | 13 | RUTT 0313 – 0325 |
| Domestic Relations Court | 5 | RUTT 0351 – 0355 |
| Exhibit of Bureau of Buildings | 2 | RUTT 0326 – 0327 |
| Flatbush Avenue Extension | 11 | RUTT 0079 – 0088, NEIG 0005 |
| Furman Street Wall | 2 | RUTT 0328 – 0329 |
| Hamilton Avenue | 1 | RUTT 0330 |
| Launching of the Murray Hulbert | 6 | RUTT 0331 – 0336 |
| Municipal Baths | 5 | RUTT 0337 – 0341 |
| Municipal Building | 8 | RUTT 0342 – 0349 |
| Murphy Park | 2 | RUTT 0099a – 0099b |
| New Utrecht Ave: 40 th – 46 th Sts. | 11 | RUTT 0100 – 0108 |
| New Utrecht Ave: 46 th – 51 st Sts. | 12 | RUTT 0109 – 0117 |
| New Utrecht Ave: 52 nd – 55 th Sts. | 10 | RUTT 0118 – 0122 |
| New Utrecht Ave: 56 th – 63 rd Sts. | 11 | RUTT 0123 – 0131 |
| Old 5 th Avenue Court | 2 | RUTT 0356 – 0357 |
| Pigtown I | 16 | RUTT 0144 – 0159 |
| Pigtown II | 13 | RUTT 0160 – 0172 |
| Ralph Ave. and Flatlands Ave. Sewer | 4 | RUTT 0358 – 0361 |
| Riegelmann, Edward I | 11 | RUTT 0362 – 0370 |
| Riegelmann, Edward II | 12 | RUTT 0371 – 0381 |
| Sewer Construction: 60 th Street | 9 | RUTT 0396 – 0404 |
| Sewer Construction: Miscellaneous | 9 | RUTT 0382 – 0390 |
| Sewer Construction: Ralph Avenue | 5 | RUTT 0391 – 0395 |
| Snyder Avenue Court House | 17 | RUTT 0350, 0405 – 0419 |
| Street Views | 9 | RUTT 0089, 0420 – 0426, TRAN 0481 |

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|---|---|------------------|
| Thomas Jefferson High School Groundbreaking | 3 | RUTT 0427 – 0429 |
| Victory Loan Drive | 4 | RUTT 0430 – 0433 |
| Williamsburg: Boerum Street | 7 | RUTT 0133 – 0136 |
| Williamsburg: Johnson Avenue | 4 | RUTT 0137 – 0138 |
| Williamsburg: Leonard Street | 8 | RUTT 0139 – 0143 |
| Williamsburg: Lorimer Street | 1 | RUTT 0132 |

Series II Folder Listing

From *President, Borough of Brooklyn Photographs 5001 – 5100, vol. 5, April 4 – 23, 1924*

| <u>Folder Title</u> | <u># of prints</u> | <u>call # range</u> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bound Photographs I Contents include: Coney Island boardwalk, Van Pelt Manor, Washington Avenue | 10 | RUTT 0434 – 0443 |
| Bound Photographs II Contents include: Coney Island boardwalk, Foster Avenue overflow | 10 | RUTT 0444 – 0453 |
| Bound Photographs III Contents include: Foster Avenue overflow, Hamilton Avenue | 10 | RUTT 0454 – 0463 |
| Bound Photographs IV Contents include: Hamilton Avenue | 10 | RUTT 0464 – 0473 |
| Bound Photographs V Contents include: East 18 th Street, East 27 th Street – East 29 th Street in Flatbush and Midwood | 10 | RUTT 0474 – 0483 |
| Bound Photographs VI Contents include: East 29 th Street, New York Avenue, East 10 th Street in Flatbush and Midwood, and 64 th Street in Bensonhurst | 10 | RUTT 0484 – 0493 |
| Bound Photographs VII Contents include: 64 th Street, Dahill Road, 12 th Avenue, 24 th Avenue, and 81 st Street in the Bensonhurst, Borough Park and Bath Beach neighborhoods. | 10 | RUTT 0494 – 0503 |
| Bound Photographs VIII Contents include: 81 st Street, 76 th Street, and 16 th Avenue in Bensonhurst. | 10 | RUTT 0504 – 0513 |
| Bound Photographs IX Contents include: 16 th Avenue in Bensonhurst, Delamere Place (now East 23 rd Street) in Midwood. | 10 | RUTT 0514 – 0523 |
| Bound Photographs X Contents include: Delamere Place (now East 23 rd Street), Elmore Place (now East 22 nd Street), and Mansfield Place (now East 24 th Street) in Midwood. | 10 | RUTT 0524 – 0533 |