Guide to the E. E. Rutter Photography Collection

Brooklyn Public Library
Grand Army Plaza
Brooklyn, NY 11238

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Finding aid prepared by Ivy Marvel
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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.
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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:


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

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

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