Summary Information

Call number: AC401
Repository: Princeton University. Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
            Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.
            Princeton University Archives.
            65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA
Size: 1.79 linear ft.
      4 boxes
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: Alan Windsor Richards was a freelance photographer known for the images he captured of people and events associated with Princeton University from the mid-1940s through the late 1960s. The collection consists of photographic negatives and a very few photographic prints of images captured by Richards of Princeton University athletes and sports events.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at the Mudd Manuscript Library.
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**Series 1: Alan W. Richards Photographs of Princeton University Athletics, 1946-1970**
Biography/History

Alan Windsor Richards was a freelance photographer known for the images he captured of people and events associated with Princeton University from the mid-1940s through the late 1960s. Richards was born in Scotland in 1899, the son of a steel magnate. He served in the Royal Air Force during World War I, and immigrated to the United States after the war.

Richards worked as an accountant for several decades after his arrival in the United States. During this period, Richards learned photography from Thomas Edison's personal photographer in exchange for giving the man, a Lithuanian, English lessons. At first, Richards treated photography as just a hobby, but around 1944, he applied for a position as a photographer in Princeton's Palmer Laboratory, which was then home to work being conducted under the Manhattan Project. The University hired him, and Richards' new career as a Princeton-based photographer was born when, his very first night in town, the University Gymnasium burned down and Richards was there photographing the blaze. Richards' position in Palmer Lab ended along with the end of World War II, but he found steady employment doing freelance photography in the Princeton area. His primary client was the University's new public relations department, but he also took photographs for publications, industrial clients, and scientific researchers.

Over the next quarter century, Richards' prolific work included thousands of images of buildings, celebrations, sporting events, and people associated with Princeton. Some of Richards' most popular images are from his photo shoots with Albert Einstein; these include the last portrait of Einstein before his death, and iconic images of Einstein walking between his home and his office at the Institute for Advanced Studies. Richards is also credited with having captured the only known image of Presidents Hoover, Truman, and Eisenhower together; the three posed for him at an event celebrating Princeton's bicentennial in 1947.

The subject that Richards' photographed most consistently, however, was Princeton University football. Over the more than 20 years leading up to his announced retirement in 1965, he missed photographing only five Princeton varsity football games. In addition to photographing nearly every varsity game, Richards shot images of junior varsity, freshman and 150-lb. division football, he made individual and team portraits of players and coaches, and he captured images of activity at Princeton's Blairstown training camp. His subjects during this period included Heisman trophy-winner Dick Kazmaier and beloved head coach Charles W. Caldwell. When Caldwell Field House was dedicated in 1963, over 100 of Richards' photographs decorated its walls. Richards died in February 1984.

Description

Alan W. Richards Photographs of Princeton University Athletics, 1946-1970 consists of photographic negatives and a very few photographic prints of images captured by Alan W. Richards of Princeton University athletes and sports events. Approximately 3/4 of the images are related to Princeton University football. These include shots of individual players, coaches, and staff, as well as action shots of games and activities at Blairstown training camp. The Princeton University varsity, junior varsity, freshman and 150 lb. football teams are represented. The remaining 1/4 of the images are
related to 16 different Princeton University sports: baseball, crew, cricket, cycling, fencing, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, squash, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball and wrestling.

Access and Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

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Related Materials

Related Archival Material

Over 800 of Richards' photographs of events and activities on the Princeton campus, including some additional sports photographs, may be found in AC112, the Campus Life series of the Historical Photograph Collection.

Over 200 of Richards' photographs of the Princeton University campus may be found in AC111, the Grounds and Buildings series of the Historical Photograph Collection.

Smaller numbers of Richards' photographs can also be found in AC181, the Class Photographs series of the Historical Photograph Collection and in AC107, the Individuals series of the Historical Photograph Collection.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Alan W. Richards Photographs of Princeton University Athletics, Box Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Works Cited

The following news articles, which were found in Richards' file in AC107 Faculty and Professional Staff files were consulted during preparation of biography of Alan W. Richards: "Richards Steps Out


Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 created from MARC record via MarcEdit and XSL stylesheets in 2012.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

- Richards, Alan Windsor, 1899-
- Princeton University -- Baseball.
- Princeton University -- Football.
- Princeton University -- Golf.
- Princeton University -- Hockey.
- Princeton University -- Rowing.
- Princeton University -- Rugby football.
- Princeton University -- Soccer.
- Princeton University -- Sports.
- Princeton University -- Swimming.
- Princeton University -- Tennis.
- Princeton University -- Track and field.
- Princeton University -- Volleyball.
- Princeton University -- Wrestling.
- Cricket.
- Cycling.
- Fencing.
- Lacrosse.
- Squash (Game).
- Black-and-white negatives.
- Photographic prints.
- Princeton University

Size: 1.79 Linear feet

Size: 4 boxes

Description: Series 1: Alan W. Richards Photographs of Princeton University Athletics, 1946-1970 consists of photographic negatives and a very few photographic prints of images captured by Alan W. Richards of Princeton University athletes and sports events. Approximately 3/4 of the images are related to Princeton University football. These include shots of individual players, coaches, and staff, as well as action shots of games and activities at Blairstown training camp. The Princeton University varsity, junior varsity, freshman and 150 lb. football teams are represented. The remaining 1/4 of the images are related to 16 different Princeton University sports: baseball, crew, cricket, cycling, fencing, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, squash, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball and wrestling.

Arrangement: The items in Series 1: Alan W. Richards Photographs of Princeton University Sports, 1946-1970 are arranged primarily by sport. Within each sport, the images are usually labeled with some additional information, such as a specific subject or date, but they have not been rigorously arranged.

  Box: 1

- Photographs of Princeton University Football, Including Blairstown and Dick Kazmaier, circa 1950-1969  
  Box: 2

- Photographs of Princeton University Football Players, 1949, 1957-1965  
  Box: 3

- Photographs of Princeton University Football Players, 1947-1956  
  Box: 4

"Valuable Football" Photographs, circa 1950-1965  
Box: 4