

Guide to the Western US surfing ephemera collection

WA MSS S-4560



by Janet Lopes

March 2025

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-4560

CREATOR: McStotts, Brian , collector

TITLE: Western US surfing ephemera collection

DATES: 1972-1987

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Western US surfing ephemera collection includes photographic prints taken by surfer and photographer Brian McStotts. These images of surfers were captured primarily off Manhattan Beach Pier, among other popular surfing spots.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.surfing>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.surfing>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Royal Books on the Walter Jennings Memorial Fund, 2025.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Western US surfing ephemera collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Western US surfing ephemera collection. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Biographical / Historical

Brian McStotts (1957-2023) was a photographer who grew up surfing the beaches of Southern California. He captured the essence of surf culture in his images taken during the 1970s-80s. Many of his photographs feature intricate details of surfers--riding the waves of Manhattan Beach and beyond--with the purpose of capturing the unique world of life on the ocean.

Content Description

The Western US surfing ephemera collection includes photographic prints taken by surfer and photographer Brian McStotts. These images of surfers were captured primarily off Manhattan Beach Pier, among other popular surfing spots.

The collection also contains correspondence, announcements, clippings, decals, and other printed material related to surfing competitions, film festivals, and other activities. Also included are mailers for events and competitions from the South Bay Longboard Association and the Dapper Dann Surfing Association, along with announcements from the Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Committee and the Old Wave Surfing Association.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series: I. Photographic prints, 1972-1986. II. Correspondence and clippings, 1979-1987. III. Flyers and other ephemera, 1982-1987.

Collection Contents

Series I: Photographic prints, 1972-1986

This series contains photographic prints of surfers with a significant number of shots taken near Manhattan Beach pier.

Materials in this series are arranged in chronological order.

b. 1, f. 1	MB Pier, black and white, 9.5 x 6.5 prints	1972
b. 1, f. 2	Manhattan Pier, north and south sides, 8 x 10 prints	1972
b. 1, f. 3-4	MB Pier, color, 8 x 10 prints <i>2 Folders</i>	1974-1978
b. 1, f. 5	Surfers, color, 7 x 5 prints	1975, undated
b. 1, f. 6-9	Surfers, color, 4 x 6 prints <i>4 Folders</i>	1976-1986
b. 1, f. 10	21st Street, 8 x 10 prints	1978 April
b. 1, f. 11	Todos Santos Island, Urchin Point, black and white, 8 x 10 print	1984 November
b. 1, f. 12	Surfing, black and white, 3.5 x 5 prints	undated
b. 1, f. 13-14	Surfing, 8 x 10 prints <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 1, f. 15	Blown-up film negative	undated

Series II: Correspondence and clippings, 1979-1987

This series includes correspondence with Brian McStotts regarding his photography work, newspaper clippings related to Southern California surfing, and a newsletter detailing surfing news.

Materials in this series are arranged in chronological order.

b. 2, f. 1	Correspondence	1979-1986
b. 2, f. 2	Newspaper clippings	1986
b. 2, f. 3	<i>Pure Beach</i> , newsletter	1987

Series III: Flyers and other ephemera, 1982-1987

Materials in this series includes competition flyers, announcements, decals, and forms related to surfing events. Also included are several mailers and announcements from organizations including the South Bay Longboard Association, the Dapper Dann Surfing Association, the Manhattan Beach Cultural Arts Committee, and the Old Wave Surfing Association.

Materials in this series are arranged in rough chronological order.

b. 3, f. 1	Surfing contest entry forms	1982-1987, undated
b. 3, f. 2	Flyers	undated
b. 3, f. 3	Decals	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Occupations

Surfing

Genres / Formats

Correspondence

Ephemera

Fliers (printed matter)

Newspaper clippings

Photographic prints

Photographic prints -- 20th Century

Subjects

Documentary photography -- United States