

Guide to the Percival Farquhar Papers

MS 205



compiled by Manuscripts and Archives Staff

December 1999

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New Haven, CT 06520-8240
(203) 432-1735
(203) 432-7441
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 205

CREATOR: Farquhar, Percival, 1864-1953

TITLE: Percival Farquhar papers

DATES: 1893-1967

BULK DATES: 1919-1945

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: The papers are in English and Portuguese.

SUMMARY: The papers consist of the business files and correspondence of Percival Farquhar. They document his role in the economic development of Brazil, in particular the Itabira Iron Ore Company. Correspondents include mining engineer Alexander Malozemoff, businessmen J. F. Trippet and Alexander MacKenzie, and aide J. Armstrong Read. Also included in the papers are the research materials used by Charles Gauld, Farquhar's biographer, in the writing of *The Last Titan: Percival Farquhar, American Entrepreneur in Latin America*.

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Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0205>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Charles Gauld, 1962, 1965-1967.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Percival Farquhar Papers (MS 205). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Percival Farquhar was born in York, Pennsylvania on October 19, 1864. He graduated from Sheffield Scientific School in 1884 and joined his father's New York based export company, which shipped machinery to Latin America. In 1885, Farquhar studied law briefly at Columbia Law School. After serving as an assemblyman in the New York state legislature from 1890 to 1892, he joined a friend's company developing electric railroads and real estate in New Jersey. In 1898, Farquhar began a long career of financial operations in Latin America to modernize tramways. From 1907 to 1914, he directed his attention and resources to the improvement of the ports and railroads of Brazil, in particular, the Madeira-Mamoré Railway and the Port of Para. He also established the Brazil Railway Company. From 1919 to 1941, Farquhar managed the Itabira project, designed to revive the Itabira Iron Ore Company and to build a railway to a new port near Vitória. Thwarted by nationalistic opposition and financial losses, the Itabira project did not succeed in his lifetime. Farquhar died in New York City on August 4, 1953.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of the business files and correspondence of Percival Farquhar. They document his role in the economic development of Brazil, in particular the Itabira Iron Ore Company. Correspondents include mining engineer Alexander Malozemoff, businessmen J. F. Trippet and Alexander MacKenzie, and aide J. Armstrong Read. Also included in the papers are the research materials used by Charles Gauld, Farquhar's biographer, in the writing of *The Last Titan: Percival Farquhar, American Entrepreneur in Latin America*.

Arrangement

Arranged by topic.

Collection Contents

Inventory, 1893-1967

The papers consist primarily of business records from various companies with which Percival Farquhar was involved. The files attest to Farquhar's entrepreneurial ambitions in Brazil and those for the Itabira Iron Ore Company/Itabira Railway are particularly voluminous. The business papers are arranged alphabetically by company name and may contain correspondence; memoranda; reports; surveys; legal and financial documents; and related items. Farquhar's original arrangement of papers has been maintained. Correspondence with family members, listed alphabetically, is both personal and professional in nature, as Farquhar's family participated in his business ventures. There is also a small amount of memorabilia and photographs. Papers relating to Charles Gauld contain interviews, correspondence, research notes, and drafts compiled for the biography of Farquhar. Unpublished biographical material by Vivaldo Coaracy is also included in the papers.

Farquhar, Percival

b. 1, f. 1	Autobiography ["Notas Autobiográficas"] A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1936
Business papers		
b. 1, f. 2-5	General [primarily negotiations with lenders to raise capital]	1928-1943
b. 1, f. 6-14	Brazil Railway Company A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1901-1946, 1956
b. 2, f. 15-22	Brazil Railway Company	1932-1943
b. 2, f. 23	Brazilian Iron Ore Company	1940
b. 2, f. 24-28	International Products Corporation	1931-1942
Itabira Iron Ore Company/Itabira Railway		
b. 3, f. 29-41	1919-1930 April	1919-1930 April
b. 4, f. 42-57	1930 May-1940 April	1930 May-1940 April
b. 5, f. 58-71	1940 May-1944 September	1940 May-1944 September
b. 6, f. 72-85	1919-1945	1919-1945
b. 7, f. 86-97	1920-1942	1920-1942
b. 8, f. 98-111	1920-1943	1920-1943
b. 9, f. 112-124	1920-1946, 1954, 1963	1920-1946, 1954, 1963

Farquhar, Percival > Business papers > Itabira Iron Ore Company/Itabira Railway (continued)

b. 10, f. 125-136	1919-1953, undated	1919-1953, undated
b. 11, f. 137-150	1922-1947	1922-1947
b. 12, f. 151-163	1911, 1920-1953	1911, 1920-1953
b. 13, f. 164-179	1921-1954, 1963	1921-1954, 1963
b. 14, f. 180-198	1927-1953	1927-1953
b. 15, f. 199-205	1933-1943, 1954, 1963	1933-1943, 1954, 1963
b. 15, f. 206	1938	1938
b. 15, f. 207	Madeira-Mamoré Railway	1937-1951
b. 15, f. 208-211	Port of Para	1906-1943
b. 15, f. 212	Rio de Janeiro Tramway Light and Power Company	1935-1954
Correspondence		
b. 16, f. 213-215	General, 1893	1929-1953
b. 16, f. 216	Coaracy, Vivaldo Includes partial draft of unfinished biography of Farquhar.	1943, undated
b. 16, f. 217	Farquhar, Cathya [wife]	1942-1943
b. 16, f. 218-221	Farquhar, Donald [son]	1939-1953
b. 16, f. 222	Farquhar, Francis [brother]	1932-1944, 1951, undated
b. 16, f. 223-236	Farquhar, George [son]	1930-1939
b. 17, f. 237-241	Farquhar, George [son]	1940-1951
b. 17, f. 242	Farquhar, Gordon [son]	1942-1948
b. 17, f. 243-244	Gomes, Olivo	1942-1951
b. 17, f. 245	Memorabilia	1920, 1929, 1940-1945
b. 17, f. 246-247	Photographs/negatives [includes Farquhar, Itabira]	1913, 1929-[194?], 1950, undated
b. 18, f. 248-267	Gauld, Charles [correspondence, writings, and research materials, pertaining to the biography of Percival Farquhar]	1915-1967
b. 19	Oversize	

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.

Subjects

Americans -- Brazil
Railroads -- Brazil

Geographic Names

Brazil
Latin America
South America

Genres / Formats

Biographies (documents)

Occupations

Capitalists and financiers

Names

Farquhar, Percival, 1864-1953
Gauld, Charles Anderson, 1911-
Mackenzie, Alexander
Malozemoff, Andrew, 1910-1952
Read, J. Armstrong
Russell, T. O.
Trippet, J. F.

Corporate Bodies

Brazil Railway Company
Ferrovia Madeira-Mamoré
Itabira Iron Ore Company
Rio de Janeiro Tramway Light and Power
Company