

Ms
Coll.
773A

Joseph de Brettes Collection

Joseph de Brettes (1861-1934) Collection

Dates:

1886-1909

Extent:

2 boxes (.3 metres)

Biographical note:

Joseph de Brettes (1861-1934) was a French explorer, surveyor, and author, as well as a businessman and delegate. De Brettes made two geographical explorations to the interior regions of Gran Chaco in South America, first in 1886, and again in 1888. From 1892 to 1893 he was exploring Colombia and making sociological and ethnographical observations of the Arhuaco and the Kogi Peoples in the Sierra Nevada region. After a sojourn in France, he returned for further exploration in Colombia from 1895 to 1898.

Scope and content:

Contains archival materials pertaining to French explorer Joseph de Brettes' (1861-1934) expeditions to South America including two to Gran Chaco. Collection includes a steel cranial measuring device; a steel archaeological specimen; two offprint accounts written and illustrated by De Brettes describing his expeditions in South America; and an offprint bibliographical outline of De Brettes' extensive explorations in South America and elsewhere as well as his naval and army service.

Also includes album of autographs collected while in South America; 3 photographic identification cards; his personal library bookplate; an offprint poem signed and dedicated by French poet Jehan Rictus; as well as correspondence connected with his efforts as Vice-President of a Portuguese railway company, in particular dealing with a meeting with the King, including 3 manuscript telegrams sent from Lisbon September 1905 and 2 manuscript letters dated 1905.

Contains series:

- Series 1: Works by Joseph de Brettes
- Series 2: Material pertaining to De Brettes' work in Portugal
- Series 3: Bibliographical and other personal materials
- Series 4: Objects

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Notes:

Folder descriptions are taken directly from notes written by Voyager Press – Rare Books & Manuscripts [see box 1 folder 11].

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France also holds a collection of photographs, manuscripts and published works from De Brettes' career.

Arrangement

Shorthand notations are used throughout the finding aid and are to be translated as follows:

MS: manuscript

ALS: Autograph letter signed (signed by the author of the letter, handwritten)

ANS: Autograph note signed (shorter note, card, postcard, etc.)

AN: Autograph note not signed

Language:

All text is in French.

SERIES 1: Works by Joseph de Brettes			
BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
1:1	De Brettes' own working copy of his title: <i>Mission Géographique dans le Chaco (Amérique du Sud)</i>	This working copy contains an account of De Brettes' travel through the Formosa province of Argentina and the Gran Chaco plains, partly along the Pilcomayo River. Small 8vo 44-pages, titled wrappers. Contains De Brettes' annotations for a revised edition.	1889
1:2	<i>Les Indiens Arhouaques-Kaggabas. Réponses au questionnaire de sociologie et d'ethnographie de la Société d'anthropologie</i> by: Joseph de Brettes.	Rare offprint from the proceeding of the Anthropological Society of Paris, 1903. 8vo, 36 pages with in-text illustrations, titled wrappers. Includes a manuscript caricature drawing at back of book.	1903
SERIES 2: Material pertaining to De Brettes' work in Portugal			
Contains correspondence relating to De Brettes' work in Portugal regarding developing railroads.			
BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
1:3	1 ALS: Albert Girard to Joseph de Brettes	Signed manuscript letter from Albert Girard, whose office was at the king's court in the Palace of Necessidades [Palácio das Necessidades], Lisbon. The correspondence mentions Commander D. Fernando de Serpa, and official to the King of Portugal, who, on behalf of the king, presents De Brettes with a scientific publication for review.	27 April 1905

1:4	1 ALS: Joseph de Brettes to Monsieur Maurice Rouvier	Signed manuscript letter by De Brettes addressed to Monsieur Maurice Rouvier, Minister of France, written at a hotel in Lisbon, stating that the King of Portugal [King Carlos I of Portugal – The Martyr] will be receiving him at the palace for a meeting the following day.	8 Sep. 1905
1:5	Telegrams (3)	Three (3) manuscript (ANS) telegrams written in Lisbon, also dealing with De Brettes' meeting with the king.	1905
SERIES 3: Bibliographical and other personal materials			
BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
1:6	Copy of: 'Etats de Services de M.L.J.C. de Brettes – Explorateur'. Paris: Éditions de Luxe, 1910.	A detailed offprint bibliographical sketch of De Brettes' extensive explorations in Argentina and Columbia (1895), Tunisia, and elsewhere, as well as his naval and army service. Also lists meetings with monarchs and delegates, military assignments, and other information relating to his work.	1910
1:7	Photographs of Joseph de Brettes (3)	Three (3) photographs of De Brettes mounted to various forms of identification.	1929-1933
1:8	Copy of <i>La "Frousse"</i> by: Jehan Rictus, [1907?]	Includes copy of offprint poem <i>La Frousse</i> by Jehan Rictus [at the head of title: "Oeuvres Nouvelles"], pseudonym of Gabriel Randon of Saint-Amand, initially Gabriel Randon [French poet]. Signed and dedicated by Jehan Rictus with an inserted note (1 ANS) by Rictus addressed to De Brettes.	[1907-1909]
1:9	Joseph de Brettes bookplate	Joseph de Brettes personal library bookplate.	n.d.
1:10	Photograph of family gravesite	Photograph (1) of Joseph de Brettes' family gravesite affixed to a manuscript note.	n.d.

1:11	Information about collection	Contains documentation about collection written by Voyager Press Rare Books and Manuscripts	
1:12	Album of autographs	<p>Guest book in which De Brettes collected autographs and greetings from 1890-1893. Approximately half of this book contains signatures and inscriptions made in South America, whilst De Brettes' visited Puerto Cabello in Venezuela, and Riohacha, Santa Marta, and Bogotá in Colombia.</p> <p>Of particular interest is a dedication written and signed at Curaçao on 7 January 1891 by Giuseppe [Joseph] Chiarini (1823-1897), an influential circus director of international fame, who early in 1890, had returned to Central and South America, and under the Royal Spanish Circus, toured extensively through Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras, and San Salvador over a seven-year period.</p>	1890-1893
SERIES 4: Objects			
BOX: FOLDER	TITLE	CONTENTS	DATE(S)
Box 2	Steel cranial measuring device	<p>Nineteenth-century cranial measuring device – clamp-styled metal apparatus in original condition, measuring 28 cm tall when closed and 33 cm wide when fully extended.</p> <p>This type of craniometry tool was used in the field of physical anthropology during the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century.</p>	[1892-1893]
Box 2	Archaeological specimen	An ornate archaeological specimen made of heavy steel and measuring approximately 8.5 x 3 x 1 cm.	n.d.