Summer Interns Add to Library Collections

Wendi A. Maloney

Now in its fifth year, the Junior Fellows Summer Interns Program has unearthed many valuable resources amid previously uncataloged materials deposited in the Library of Congress through the copyright registration system. Last summer, Copyright Office interns sorted through thousands of registration records for 1899. Their finds included photographs of President McKinley with Admiral Dewey following the Spanish American War, images of immigrant Chinese children by a pioneering woman photographer, and the picture shown here of Engine Number 241 of the Rutland Railroad, registered by Vermont photographer Louis Frederick Brehmer.

The Rutland and Burlington was one of four separate railroads chartered by the state of Vermont in 1843; it began operating in 1849 between Burlington and Rutland and between Ludlow and Bellows Falls, with a 25-mile gap. Railroads in 19th-century Vermont enabled the export of valuable resources—including lumber, granite, marble, and dairy products—to booming markets in northeastern cities. The Rutland and Burlington, reorganized as the Rutland Railroad in 1867, grew to span 278 miles. Its most prosperous years were between 1901 and 1915, by which time it extended from Bellows Falls to Ogdensburg, New York, carrying freight to and from the Great Lakes. From the start, the Rutland struggled financially, but it continued operating until 1961, when it closed following a drop in revenue and a bitter strike. Today, much of the Rutland Railroad system is operated by Green Mountain Railroad, which hauls freight and operates tourist excursions.

Louis Frederick Brehmer, 1868–1949, was a professional photographer of Vermont scenery and architecture. The American Museum of Photography reports that he published more than a dozen illustrated books as well as postcards and a series of panoramic landscape photographs. In the 1920s, he photographed President Calvin Coolidge at Coolidge’s family home in Rutland. Some of Brehmer’s images are available in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. Thanks to the 2008 junior fellows, Brehmer’s photo of Engine Number 241 is now also available to the collection.

From June 1 to August 7 this summer, college students from across the country will once again participate in the Junior Fellows Summer Interns Program. Two of the 50 interns will be assigned to the Copyright Office and will work under the supervision of George Thuronyi, assistant chief of the Information and Records Division, and Rosemary Kelly, head of the division’s Records Research and Certification Section.