

DeKalb History Center

George Coletti / Elias Nour Collection

Scope and content: The George Coletti Elias Nour Collection contains primarily information on Elias Nour, the “Old Man of the Mountain, and spans the early 1900s to 1995. The collection’s high point is the photographs which range from Butterfly McQueen at Stone Mountain Park, Elias Nour’s family, the city of Stone Mountain and the 1970 park dedication. There are numerous newspaper clippings from 1913 to the 1980s as well, including the succession of sculptors needed to complete the confederate memorial on the side of the mountain, attractions in the park, and many of the various people rescued by Nour. There are also 1990s-era reports on the stability and repair of the carving.

Provenance: Gift of George Coletti, 2001, 2008. (Accession # 2001.16, 2001.18, 2001.26, 2008.52, 2008.56)

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the Archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citations should be made as follows:

Description of specific item; Coletti Nour Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Jill Sweetapple, Archivist, 2011.

Size: 5 document boxes, 1 scrapbook box

Biographical Sketch of Elias Nour (1914-1993): Elias Nour was the son of Lebanese immigrants who owned a Stone Mountain bowling alley, restaurant and souvenir store, and he himself managed the family-owned filling station and garage. Demetris Elias Nour was a native of Betron, Lebanon and came to the United States in 1892 and ran a souvenir store at the foot of Stone Mountain for 23 years. His son Elias had an air conditioning and refrigeration business in Stone Mountain, but is most known to DeKalb County residents as the “Old Man of the Mountain,” for his rescue of 36 people from Stone Mountain between 1927 and 1963, for which he received the Carnegie Hero medal in 1953, following the rescue of a Georgia Tech student and his wife. Nour also rescued trapped animals and received medals from the Humane Society. Nour moved to Daytona Beach, Florida in 1963 to work in a refrigeration business with his brother Tony, but there are still numerous articles on Nour and his rescues from newspapers there in this collection.

Description: The George Coletti Elias Nour Collection includes many photographs, correspondence from admirers of Nour’s rescues, including letters from Cascade School children thanking him for a visit, promotional materials such as brochures and maps from several different eras of the park’s history, various newsletters that contain Stone Mountain articles and a signed letter from sculptor Gutzon Borglum written to a friend in

Liverpool. There is a vast array of information on Stone Mountain, the carving, the park and the town. There are newspaper clippings, magazines and various receipts from the time.

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main Entry: Nour, Elias (1914-1993)

Subject/Added Entries: DeKalb County (Ga.)
 Stone Mountain (Ga.)
 Nour, Tony
 Nour, Marie (nee Tueni)
 Nour, Demetris Elias (-1961)
 Carnegie Hero Fund
 Bottinelli, Theodore F.
 Stone Mountain Park (Ga.)
 Borglum, John Gutzon de la Mothe, 1867-1941
 Lukeman, Augustus, 1871-1935
 Hancock, Walker Kirtland, 1901-

Folder List

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
1	1	Ft. McPherson Thanksgiving	1942
	2	Georgia Tour guide	1958
	3	Service to Mankind Award	1960
	4	Scenic map	1961-1962
	5	Atlanta tourism calendar	1988
	6	Salute to Elias Nour	1988
	7	<i>A Brief History of Stone Mountain And the Confederate Memorial</i>	
	8	<i>Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine</i>	Jan 23, 1966
	9	Booklet: <i>The Great Locomotive Chase</i>	
	10	Books on Stone Mountain 1 of 2	
	11	Books on Stone Mountain 2 of 2	
	12	<i>The Caravan</i>	Oct 1958
	13	Correspondence – Carnegie Hero And third party	
	14	Correspondence – Cascade School	1962
	15	Correspondence – George Coletti	
	16	Correspondence – Incoming – Nour 1 of 3	
	17	Correspondence – Incoming – Nour 2 of 3	
	18	Correspondence – Incoming – Nour 3 of 3	
	19	Correspondence – Outgoing – Nour	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
2	1	Correspondence – Incoming – Marie Nour	
	2	<i>The D.P. Cue Magazine</i>	1956
	3	Decatur Flower Show	1961
	4	<i>The Eagle</i> (Tucker)	1959-1963
	5	<i>Ford Times</i>	1948-1970
	6	Georgia Department of Commerce Newsletter	1954-1958
	7	<i>Guide to National Forests, Parks, Monuments and Historic Sites</i>	1966
	8	Gutzon Borglum signed letter (original)	
	9	Magazines 1 of 2	
	10	Magazines 2 of 2	
	11	Maintenance activities, carving	1993
	12	Maintenance and photogrammetric Activities, carving	1995
	13	Maps	
	14	Miscellaneous	
	15	Miscellaneous – Nour	
	16	<i>Never Too Late</i> theater program	
	17	Newsletters	
3	1	Newspaper Articles	1900-1919
	2	Newspaper Articles	1940s
	3	Newspaper Articles 1 of 2	1950s
	4	Newspaper Articles 2 of 2	1950s
	5	Newspaper Articles 1 of 2	1960s
	6	Newspaper Articles 2 of 2	1960s
	7	Newspaper Articles	1970s
	8	Newspaper Articles	1980s
	9	Newspaper Articles – undated	
	10	Official and government documents	
4	1	McCurdy photographs	
	2	Negatives	
	3	Photographs 1 of 8	
	4	Photographs 2 of 8	
	5	Photographs 3 of 8	
	6	Photographs 4 of 8	
	7	Photographs 5 of 8	
	8	Photographs 6 of 8	
	9	Photographs 7 of 8	
	10	Photographs 8 of 8	
	11	T. F. Bottinelli photographs and documents	

Box	Folder	Contents	Date(s)
5	1	<i>Pictorial Edition – Stone Mountain</i>	1923?
	2	Postcards	
	3	Reader's Digest	Sep 1958
	4	Receipts	
	5	Receipts – Banking	1963
	6	Reconnaissance Examination, carving	1992
	7	Robert and Company Architects report	
	8	<i>Round the Mountain</i>	
	9	Scenic railroad business cards	
	10	<i>Scenic South</i>	Jul 1958
	11	Sculptor's models	
	12	<i>Sculpture by Steffen Thomas</i>	1951
	13	Stability analysis, carving	1995
	14	<i>The Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial</i>	
	15	Stone Mountain pamphlets	
	16	<i>Stone Mountain</i> , sheet music	1926
	17	Top Value stamp books	
	18	Tourism brochures	
	19	Tribute to Scott Candler	1951
6	1	Scrapbook	
		Oversized items: <i>National Examiner</i> magazine	Sep 1, 1987
		Italian newspaper <i>La Domenica del Corriere</i>	Dec 21, 1924
		<i>The Syrian Lebanese Star</i> (2 photocopies)	Oct 1987