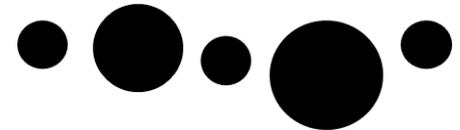


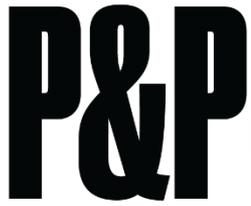
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Double Take Webinar Series

“White House or Not?”

Welcome! We'll get started at 4PM ET.

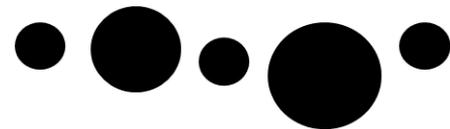




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Welcome! We're glad you're here! Use the chat box to introduce yourselves. Let us know:

- **Your first name**
- **Where you're joining us from**



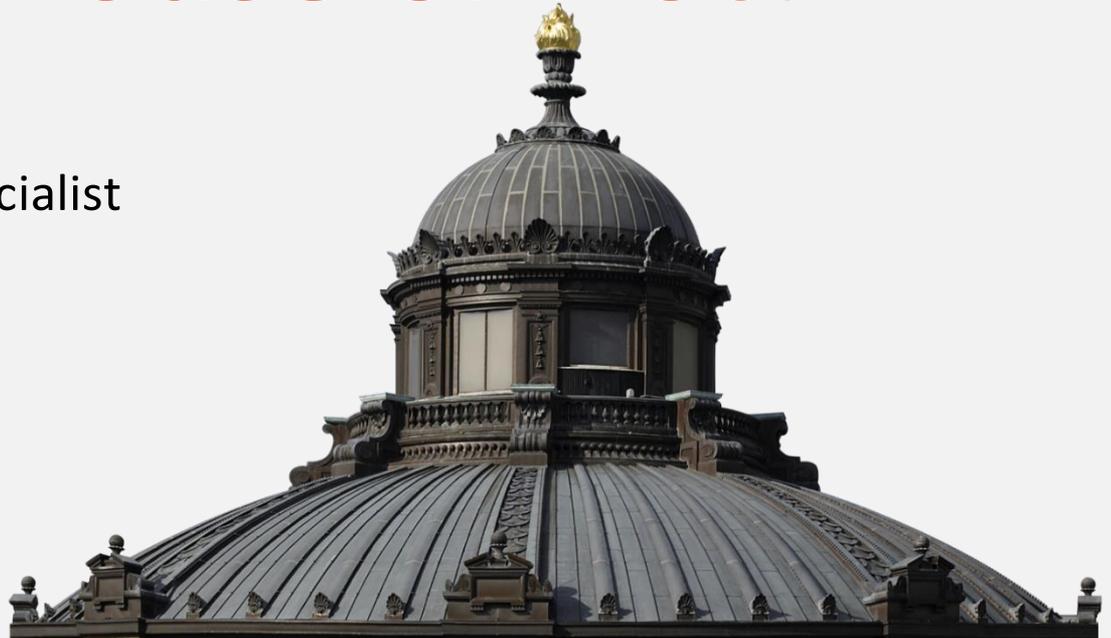


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January 28, 2021

Double Take: White House or Not?

Kristi Finefield, Reference Specialist
Prints & Photographs Division
Library of Congress



Look Closely

- Look closely, front and back.
- Zoom in on details, if digital.
 - Describe what you see.
- Take note of unusual features.
- Take note of what's present and what's missing.

What do you see in this photo?



Title – names of people

Horse & carriage



Mirza Ali Kuli Khan & wife. Photo by Bain News Service, 1913 May 28.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ggbain.13137>

Seek and explore context

Read accompanying information:

- on the object,
- in the catalog description, and
- about the collection, if known.

Consider the sources of information that came with the photograph. Are they reliable?

Bibliographic Record in the Prints & Photographs Online Catalog



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Mirza Ali Kuli Khan & wife

About This Item

Obtaining Copies

Access to Original

Title: Mirza Ali Kuli Khan & wife

Creator(s): Bain News Service, publisher

Date Created/Published: 1913 May 28 (date created or published later by Bain)

Medium: 1 negative : glass ; 5 x 7 in. or smaller.

Reproduction Number: LC-DIG-ggbain-13137 (digital file from original negative)

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

Notes:

- Title and date from data provided by the Bain News Service on the negative.
- Forms part of: George Grantham Bain Collection (Library of Congress).
- General information about the George Grantham Bain Collection is available at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.ggbain>

George Grantham Bain Collection

Bain Collection

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[President William H. Taft, ca. 1910.](#)

Search All

Search This Collection

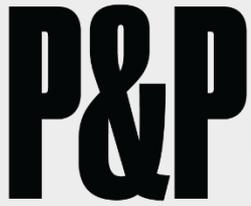


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About the George Grantham Bain Collection

The George Grantham Bain Collection represents the photographic files of one of America's earliest news picture agencies. The collection richly documents sports events, theater, celebrities, crime, strikes, disasters, political activities including the woman suffrage campaign, conventions and public celebrations. The photographs Bain produced and gathered for distribution through his news service were worldwide in their coverage, but there was a special emphasis on life in New York City. The bulk of the collection dates from the 1900s to the mid-1920s, but scattered images can be found as early as the 1860s and as late as the 1930s.



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Is this the White House or not?

**None of the current info we
have answers this question.**

What would you do next?

Seek and explore context

- Seek out related photographs – by subject matter, time period, collection. Use these photos to question assumptions made at first glance.
- Search for textual info in newspapers, periodicals, etc.

Find related photographs



Easter Egg Rolling, White House. Photo by Harris & Ewing, 1914.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.03961>

Find related photographs

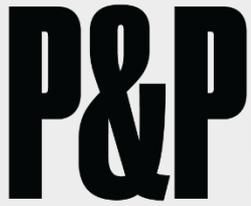


Look closely



Is this the same building?





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Conclusion:
This is not the White House.

How could we determine
what building it actually is ?

Review what I know:

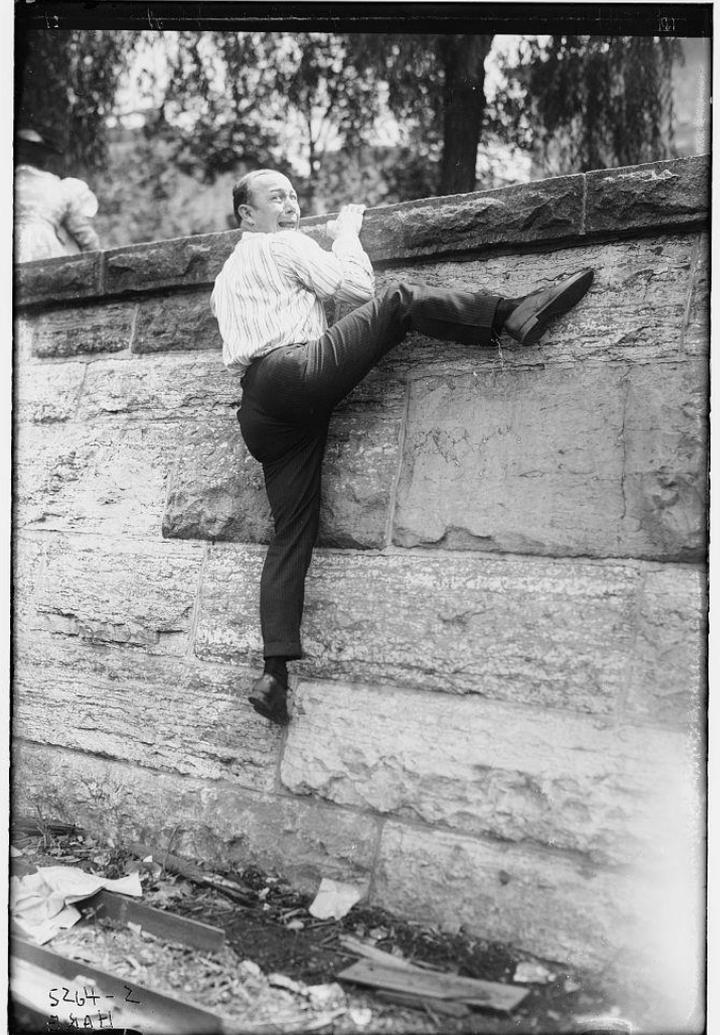
- The man in the photo is involved in political affairs which would bring him to Washington, D.C.
- The building is consistent with D.C. architecture
 - Possibly a government or institutional building
 - And the real challenge:

I know nothing that lends itself to keyword searches

Getting over brick walls during research requires persistence, and help!

- **Ask for help!** Consult experts like librarians, archivists & historians
- Be willing to browse and be patient

Hare. Photo by Bain News Service, betw 1915 and 1920.
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ggbain.31029>



Souvenir Viewbooks

They picture street scenes, new and notable buildings, and majestic views. The book featured below takes us on a tour of *General Government and State Capitol Buildings of the United States*. Every state in the union is covered in the Souvenir Viewbooks Collection, though some were yet to be states at the time of publication. Sadly, Delaware and Nevada are underrepresented with only one viewbook each.

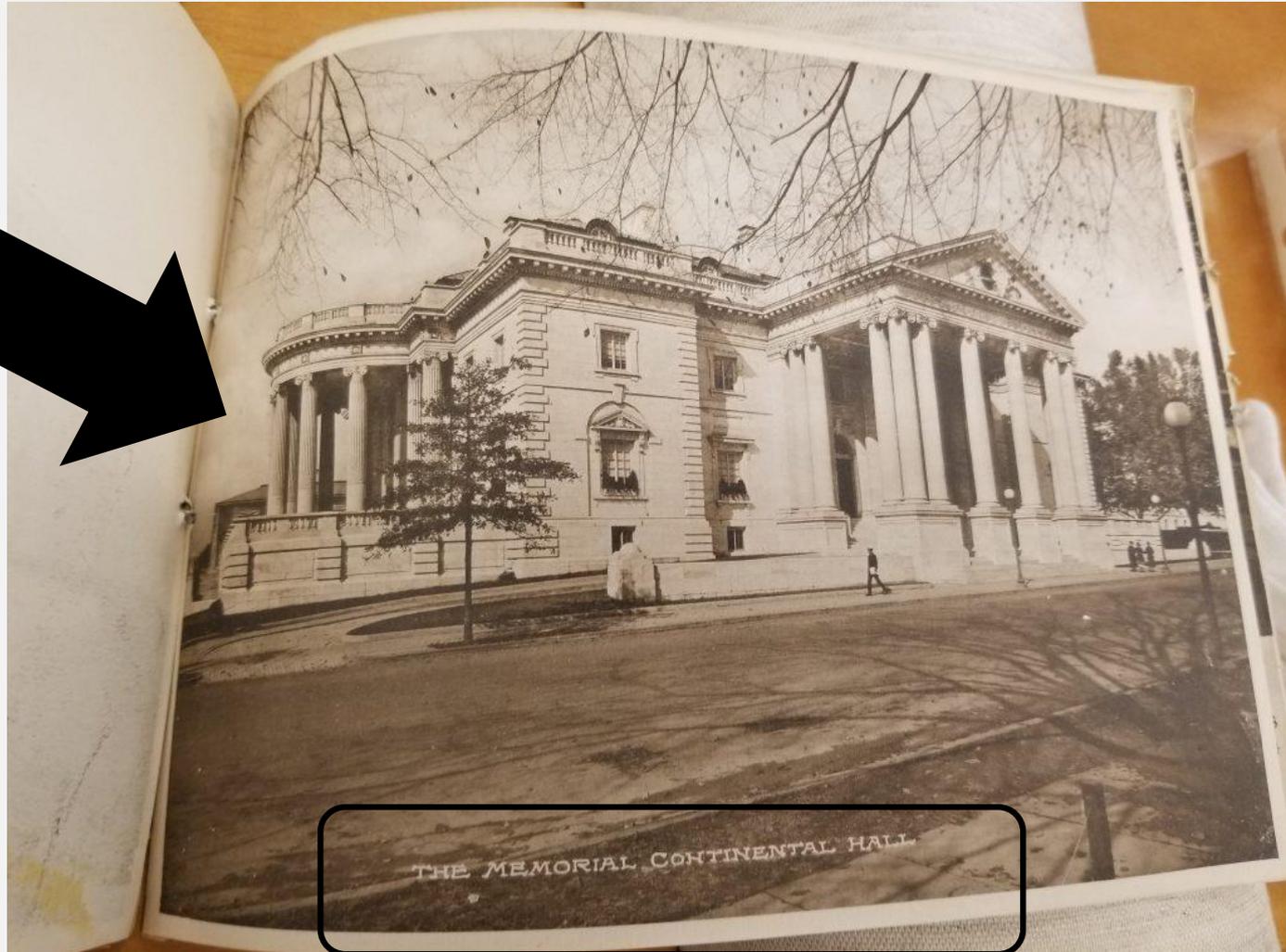


General Government and State Capitol Buildings of the United States. Souvenir viewbook published by Allen & Ginter, copyrighted by The Gast Lith. & Eng. Co., 1890. Photo by Jan Greci, March 2017.



Interior page of *General Government and State Capitol Buildings of the United States*. Souvenir viewbook published by Allen & Ginter, copyrighted by The Gast Lith. & Eng. Co., 1890. Photo by Jan Greci, March 2017.

Eureka!

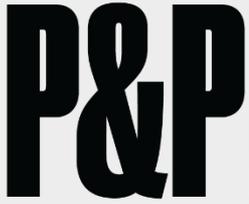


To the online catalog!



DAR Hall. [Photo shows Memorial Continental Hall, 1776 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.] Photo by National Photo Co., betw. 1910 and 1919.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/npcc.19245>



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Bonus round!

**Do you think the couple is visiting
Memorial Continental Hall?**

Why or why not?

Look closely



Mirza Ali Kuli Khan & wife. Photo by Bain News Service, 1913 May 28.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ggbain.13137>

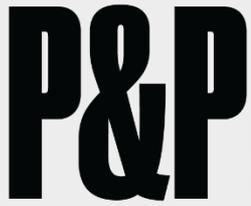
Look closely



DAR Hall. [Photo shows Memorial Continental Hall, 1776 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.] Photo by National Photo Co., betw. 1910 and 1919.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/npcc.19245>





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More Bonus round!

**How can we figure out where the
couple is standing ?**

Find related photographs



MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF D.A.R. FROM STEPS OF PAN AMERICAN UNION. Photo by Harris & Ewing, 1917.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.08697>

....and look closely



Detail of MEMORIAL CONTINENTAL HALL, NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF D.A.R.
FROM STEPS OF PAN AMERICAN UNION. Photo by Harris & Ewing, 1917.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.08697>

Note position relative to building.



Mirza Ali Kuli Khan & wife. Photo by Bain News Service, 1913 May 28.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/ggbain.13137>

Seek out broader context



WASHINGTON MONUMENT. VIEW OF PAN AMERICAN UNION AND N.W. FROM MONUMENT.
Photo by Harris & Ewing, betw. 1913 and 1918.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.10496>

...and look closely



Detail of WASHINGTON MONUMENT. VIEW OF PAN AMERICAN UNION AND N.W. FROM MONUMENT. Photo by Harris & Ewing, betw. 1913 and 1918.

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/hec.10496>



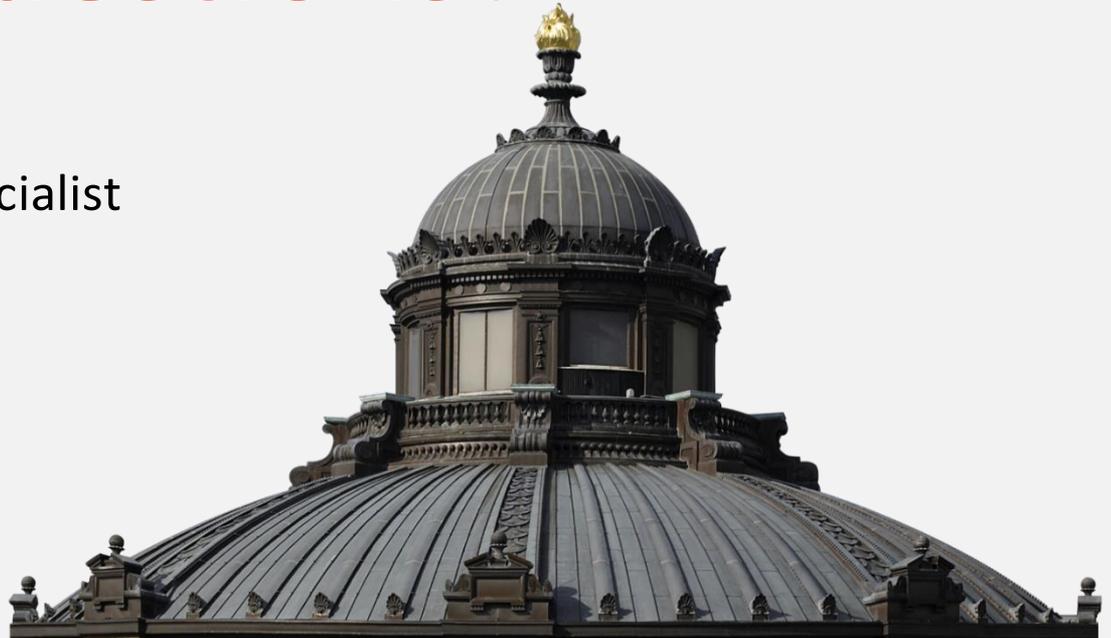
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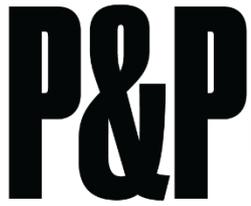
January 28, 2021

Thank you!

Questions?

Kristi Finefield, Reference Specialist
Prints & Photographs Division
Library of Congress





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