

## Exhibit Checklist

### Photographs

Photographs on display are drawn from the James A. Mills Photograph Collection in the AP Corporate Archives, which includes five photograph albums (1917-39) and approximately 80 photographs of Mills on assignment around the world. All other materials are also drawn from the collections of the AP Corporate Archives.

Mahatma Gandhi and entourage on the S.S. Rajputana, September 1931:

- Gandhi at the helm of the SS Rajputana with Captain H. Morton Jack.
- Gandhi resting on a wicker deck chair.
- Gandhi standing at the ship's rail.
- Gandhi posing with fellow passengers.
- Captain H. Morton Jack instructing Gandhi in the use of a sextant.
- Gandhi spinning cotton on deck with unidentified man.
- Gandhi facing the sea at the ship's rail.

Gandhi and Mills aboard the S.S. Rajputana, September 1931.

Mills traveling in a troubled area of Inner Mongolia with George C. Hanson, American Consul-General at Harbin, and unidentified man, 1933.

Mills standing next to seated Emperor Haile Selassie in Addis Ababa, [1935-36].

Mills seated in front of AP "war truck" in Dessie, Abyssinia during the Second Italo-Abyssinian War, 1936.

Mills photographing two Mongolian women near Kweiha in Suiyuan Province, ca. 1938.



Two disfigured World War I veterans play cards while wearing reconstructive masks made for them at the Red Cross Studio for Portrait Masks for Mutilated Soldiers in Paris, [1918]. James A. Mills Photograph Collection.

### Printed Materials

Typescript caption sheet, ca. 1918.

*Bell & Howell Filmo Topics*, Jan. 1932, Vol. 8, No. 1, "Filming Mahatma Gandhi" by James A. Mills.

"Scoop Hunting Around the World" by James A. Mills. Typescript, ca. 1937.

"Gandhi Pays Tribute to Deceased Reporter," Associated Press story, Mar. 31, 1942.

### Film

Mills interviewing Gandhi at Borsad, India. Fox Hearst Metrotone News [Vol. 2, no.26 – excerpt]. Distributed by Metro-Goldwyn Mayer, May 27, 1931.

### Artifacts

Graflex R.B. Series D, Folmer Graflex Corp., Rochester, NY, ca. 1928-1946.

### Cover Images:

Mills traveling in a troubled area of Inner Mongolia with George C. Hanson, American Consul-General at Harbin, and unidentified man, 1933.

Mills seated in front of AP "war truck" in Dessie, Abyssinia during the Second Italo-Abyssinian War, 1936.

### Inside Image:

Mills interviewing Gandhi at Borsad, India, 1931.

Mills standing next to seated Emperor Haile Selassie in Addis Ababa, ca. 1935-36.

# Scoop Hunting with Mr. Mills, 1917-1939

An Exhibit from the AP Corporate Archives



“Why Mr. Mills, if I should die and start to enter heaven I should expect to see you waiting to interview me at the gates.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

The Corporate Archives recently acquired five photograph albums spanning the years 1917 to 1938 that document the career of legendary AP foreign correspondent James A. Mills (1883-1942). The thousand photographs contained in these albums, most of them taken by Mills, provide a fascinating window into the many worlds that he traversed in the course of his career as a reporter, photographer, and aid worker for the Red Cross. In his twenty years as a foreign correspondent Mills became “one of the most traveled men in The Associated Press service.” He was intrepid and tireless in the pursuit of the news and was known for using any mode of travel necessary including train, boat, airplane, automobile, railway, horseback, oxen-cart, donkey, rickshaw, and on foot. When civil war flared up in Greece in 1935 Mills traveled into the country and emerged three days later on the Yugoslav border with his latest dispatch. According to his obituary, “[o]n his 80 mile trip Mr. Mills had lost his automobile over a cliff, ridden a horse until it had given out, and then trudged the remaining miles.” Mills was equally at home in a yurt with Mongolian nomads or in the palaces of King Zog of Albania or Emperor Haile Selassie. His tenacity impressed Mahatma Gandhi, with whom he developed a relationship tinged with mutual respect and affection. Both Gandhi and Haile Selassie wrote tributes about Mills upon his death.

Mills joined the AP in New York in 1905 and worked in an administrative capacity until taking a temporary leave of absence in August 1917 in order to join the World War I relief operations of the Red Cross in France. He returned to the United States in 1920 and after a stint on the AP Foreign Desk, launched his career as foreign correspondent. Mills served as bureau chief in Moscow (1924-27, 1929-30), Vienna (1927-29), Bombay (1931-32), and Tokyo (1936-38) and ranged throughout Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East, Africa, India, and the Far East before retiring due to ill health in 1940. He died of a stroke at age 58 in Ventura, California.

--AP Corporate Archives  
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