

**Emilie Clarkson Moore Lantern Slide Collection (1888-1932)**  
**MSS 216**  
**6.5 linear feet**

**Biographical**

Emilie V. Clarkson was one of a handful of female photographers who showed talent and promise in an artistic medium that in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was male-dominated. E. V. Clarkson was born in 1863 in Potsdam NY into the wealthy family that included Thomas S. Clarkson (namesake of Clarkson University). Clarkson studied art in New York City as a young woman and took an interest in photography by 1888. She graduated from the Chautauqua School of Photography and spent the next several years honing her craft and entering photographic expositions, exclusively as an amateur. Her work was noticed by various photographic journals such as *American Amateur Photographer* and *Photographic Times*. Emilie was active in the Society of Amateur Photographer of New York and was affiliated with several other amateur clubs in major U.S. cities. She became a confidant of Alfred Stieglitz, and their correspondence is in the Alfred Stieglitz / Georgia O'Keeffe Archive at Yale. Her work was captured, primarily, on lantern slides, and it was exhibited at shows in New York City and in Europe. The 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition, however, would be Emilie V. Clarkson's final showing. Later in 1901, Miss Clarkson returned to Potsdam and married businessman William Moore and did not continue her career as a photographer and artist.

After her husband's death in 1922, Mrs. Moore became well known in Potsdam and area as a philanthropist, providing a large land bequest to Clarkson College and assisting countless students with monetary help necessary for them to stay in school. She also contributed much to Trinity Episcopal Church, Potsdam Hospital, and Ives Park in the village.

**Scope and Content**

The collection contains some 470 glass lantern slide images, most of which were taken by Emilie V. Clarkson (Moore) in the 1890s when she was an amateur photographer. Some of the lantern slides are images produced by other photographers. Also included are numerous medals awarded to Miss Clarkson at various domestic and international exhibitions she entered. Other materials in the collection include dozens of playbills, promotional photos and other memorabilia of the many theater shows Miss Clarkson attended as well as scrapbooks, portfolios, albums and loose leaf books of photos, papers, and cards. A few glass plate negatives are also included

**Provenance**

The materials were donated to St. Lawrence University by John and Sondra Castle of Potsdam, New York in December, 2017

**Box Listing**

- Box 1- 10      Lantern slides by Emilie V. Clarkson, other photographers, organized by number
- Box 11      Photography medals and awards won by Emilie V. Clarkson
- Box 12      Glass plate negatives, prints, Correspondence with Alfred Stieglitz
- Box 13      Contents of two 3-ring binders; Concert and theater programs
- Box 14-15    Scrapbooks, photo albums
- Box 16      Oversize materials, mounted photos, sheet music

**Box 1**      Lantern slides, ECM 010-057

- Box 2** Lantern slides, ECM 058-104
- Box 3** Lantern slides, ECM 105-152
- Box 4** Lantern slides, ECM 153-202
- Box 5** Lantern slides, ECM 204-254
- Box 6** Lantern slides, ECM 255-300
- Box 7** Lantern slides, ECM 301-342
- Box 8** Lantern slides, ECM 343-393
- Box 9** Lantern slides, ECM 394-431
- Box 10** Lantern slides, ECM 439-491
- Box 11** Emilie V. Clarkson Moore photography medals (all items inscribed to Miss E. V. Clarkson, except number 12 and number 22.)
- No. 6 -- Prize medal, silver sunburst pattern with blue ribbon, "Monthly Competition, No. 66"
  - No. 7 -- Prize Medal, silver, "1894 Photographic Exhibition"
  - No. 8 – Prize Medal, silver plaque, "Photo Club de Paris".
  - No. 9 – Prize Medal, silver plaque, "Premier Exposition d'Art Photographique, Photo Club de Paris, 1894"
  - No. 10 – Prize Medal, bronze, "A.A.P. Lantern Slide Competition 1894" (landscapes)
  - No. 11 – Prize Medal, 1 Troy oz. gold sunburst pattern, grosgrain ribbon "Lantern Slide Competition 1893"
  - No. 12 – Prize Medal, silver, undated. Two figures with "Let Nature Be Your Teacher"
  - No. 13 – Prize Medal, silver, "1894, Earl of Elgin, Viceroy of India, Countess of Elgin. Presented by His Excellency the Governor General"
  - No. 14 – Prize Medal, bronze, "American Institute, New York. The Medal of Superiority, 1891"
  - No. 15 – Prize Medal, bronze, "1894 Geldersche Amateur Photography Vereeninging" (from the Netherlands)
  - No. 16 – Prize Medal, 1 Troy oz. gold, "Presented by Nawab Sir Ahsun Ollah, 1898"
  - No. 17 – Prize Medal, bronze, "Seascape Competition, 1894. The Photographic Times"

- No. 18 – Prize Medal, silver, “Medal for Home Portraiture, 1894. The Journal of the Amateur, the Professional & the Trade. Photography”
- No. 19 – Prize Medal, silver, “1894, Society of Amateur Photographers, New York
- No. 20 – Prize Medal, silver, “1893 Members Exhibition, Society of Amateur Photographers, New York
- No. 21 – Prize Medal, bronze, “Hand Camera Competition, 1893, The Photographic Times”
- No. 22 – Prize Medal, undated and uninscribed. Two figures over top “Let Nature Be Your Teacher”
- No. 23 – Prize Medal, 1 Troy oz. Niepce award, 1895, “Presented by The Amateur Photographer, Lantern Slide Competition”, with bust of Nicephore Niepce

**Box 12**

Glass plate negatives:

- ECM 001      Holcroft house porch
- ECM 002      Portrait of Emile V. Clarkson
- ECM 003      Holcroft porch
- ECM 004      North side view of Holcroft
- ECM 005      portrait of unidentified man
- ECM 006      Mr. Moore fishing, Catalina Is.
- ECM 007      Portrait of T. Streatfield Clarkson (Emilie’s father)
- ECM 008      Unidentified man
- ECM 009      Holcroft back porch and yard

Unnumbered glass plate of Entrance to the Homestead (Clarkson campus)

Glass plate of an unidentified river scene

Developed photos and other items:

- Unidentified young girl
- Photo of city block apartments (perhaps New York?)
- Dam at Higley Flow
- Small painting of Mr. & Mrs. T.S. Clarkson home, NYC
- Unidentified child portrait
- Unidentified portrait
- Portrait of two boys (Moore? – Lloyd family?)
- Potsdam Fire Department with truck donated by Mrs. Moore (1930s)
- Emily and sister Anna with chauffeur at Grand Canyon
- Photo of trees
- Christmas booklet with photos from Moore family in Seattle
- Portrait of “Les” (Moore family?)
- Images of famous paintings (Seattle Moore?)
- Back of Woodstock Lodge?

- Picture of sheep by water (Photo by E.V.C.?)
- Allen's Falls (photo by E.V.C.)
- Unidentified place
- Print of Federal Hall, New York City
- Travel pictures—Egypt
- Travel pictures—Greece
- Miscellaneous items
- Comb-bound scans of correspondence between Emilie Clarkson and Alfred Stieglitz, 1893-1897 (original documents housed at Beinecke Rare Book Room at Yale University)

**Box 13**

Contents of 3-ring binders and theater-related items

- Mounted prints of Emilie Clarkson's award-winning photos
- Prints of various NYC locations, 1850s and earlier
- Prints of NYC locations, 1800s
- New York City locations and people
- Post cards from travels, mostly US and Canada
- Post Cards, Lake Placid (Olympics), Saranac Lake, snapshots of Mr. & Mrs. Moore
- "Inspirational" images
- Holcroft House
- New York Hippodrome; Carnegie Hall Souvenir Books (1910's)
- Opera and theater programs, ca. 1915-1920 (2 folders)

**Box 14**

- Scrap book: "My Nights at the Play"
- Scrap book: Theater Record
- Wooden photo album book with Cabinet Card photos of stage actors

**Box 15**

Scrap book labeled "Collection of images Emilie liked (and possibly copied)"

**Box 16**

Oversize items:

- Sheet music
- Binder from "Camera Club of New York" containing Emilie's award winning photos
- State Department permit authorizing overseas travel by Mr. & Mrs. Moore, dated 1904 (stamped in Egypt and Turkey)
- Egyptian passport document
- Photo of Emilie, her parents and uncle
- Photo of Trinity Episcopal Church, Potsdam
- Other photos and prints