



**Themes in our photographic collections:
The Cape Town Pier (1913 – 1939)**

In the early part of the 20th century Cape Town had a long promenade pier. Memories of this distinctive Cape Town landmark are now retained only in historic photographic and postcard images of Cape Town's harbor area and shoreline. In this origami booklet, you will see number of photographs and reproductions of historical postcards that feature views of the Cape Town Pier drawn from the Archive's photographic collection.

Built at the end of Adderly Street and extending out into Table Bay, the Pier was opened on 21 November 1913. In addition to a long walkway for strollers to take in views of Cape Town from the seas, the Pier also had a pavilion that provided a space for open-air concerts and gatherings.

The Pier was eventually demolished in late 1939. The combined effects of costal winds and battering from the sea on the structure saw the Pier become increasingly derelict and costly to maintain. In 2017, during building works to expand Cape Town International Convention Centre part of the pier's structural remains were uncovered.

The demolition of the Pier made way for a large land reclamation project to create what is now Cape Town's foreshore area, as well as additional berths for the Duncan Dock. A total of 194 hectares land was reclaimed from the sea on the southern and south-eastern shore of Table Bay, permanently altering the shoreline along the City Centre, as well as the shorelines of Woodstock and Paarden Eiland. Managed by the Dutch firm Hollandse Aanneming Maatschappij, the project began in 1937. Owing to hostilities of World War II (1939-45) the initial completion date was extended from 1941 to 1945.

The expansion of Cape Town, made possible by the foreshore project, altered the skyline and architectural profile of the City. Large mid-20th century buildings rose on the foreshore area in the decades following



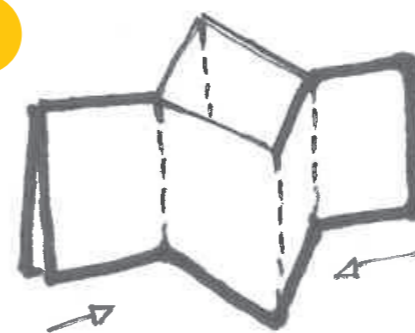
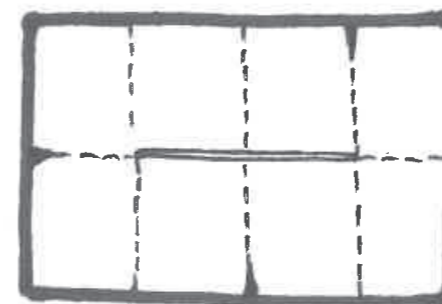
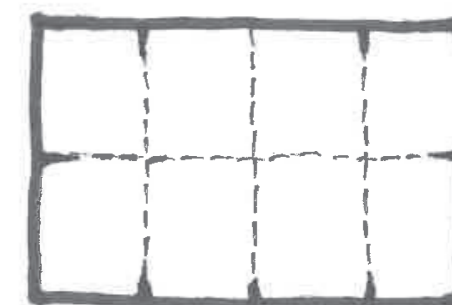
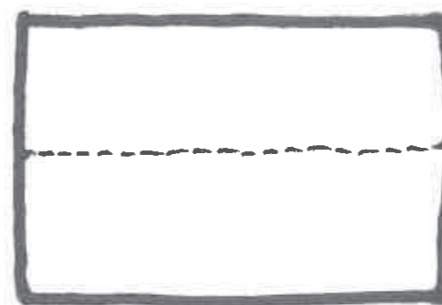
the reclamation project's completion, including: the Culemborg, an extensive goods station; and the Paul Sauer Building, the southern headquarters of the Railway Administration. The Sanlam Centre, also built on the foreshore, was for several years the tallest building in Southern Africa.

**instructions for printing and folding the booklet:
How to make your own origami booklet**

No glue is needed to make this booklet. It is shaped by folding and cutting the paper alone.

The instructions on this side of the paper will disappear once the booklet is folded, only the images will be visible.

1. Print the booklet on A3 paper. Print on both sides of the same sheet of paper: select the "print on both sides" option and then "print along the short edge" option.
2. Fold the paper in half lengthwise. Fold the paper so that the images show outwards when the paper is folded. Unfold. **[A]**
3. Fold the paper in half crosswise so that the images show. Fold again in half again on each side of the first fold to create a concertina. Unfold. **[B]**
4. With a pencil, mark the center line down the lengthwise fold along where the two middle panels meet down the long lengthwise center fold. This is where you will cut a slit into the paper. **[C]**
5. Cut the slit. Be careful to not cut right to the edges of the paper. Only cut along the two middle panels..
6. Fold the booklet in half down the lengthwise fold. You should now have a long strip of images on both sides of the folded paper. **[D]**
7. Pinch the two outer edges of the folded strip together to make a diamond shape in the middle of the paper. The slit you have cut will allow the paper to open. **[E]**
8. You may need to refold some of the folds you have already made. This is quite okay, it will help to make the booklet's pages fall into place so that it makes the pages of the booklet.
9. Fold the cover image (image of the Pier AG 14447, which runs across 2 panels) around the outside of the pages to form the book. **[F]**



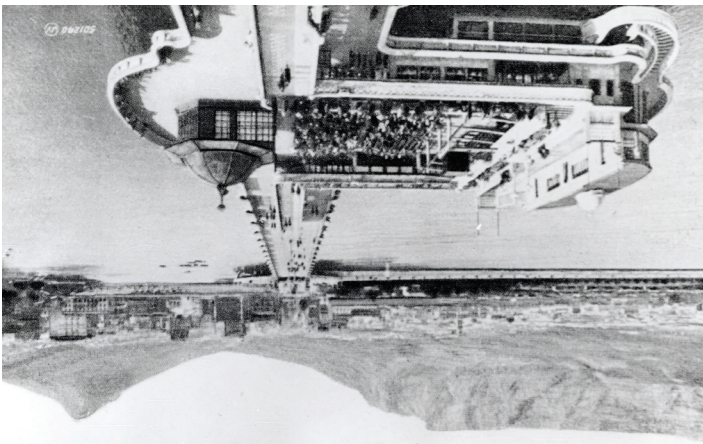
With acknowledgement and thanks to Paul Johnson's "A book of one's own: developing literacy through making books" (1992, Hodder & Stoughton, pg. 39) for inspiration and guidance in creating the illustrative instructions for the origami book.

Mary Minicka for the Western Cape Archives and Records Service, July 2025, Email: mary.minicka@westerncape.gov.za, WCARS Preservation Section

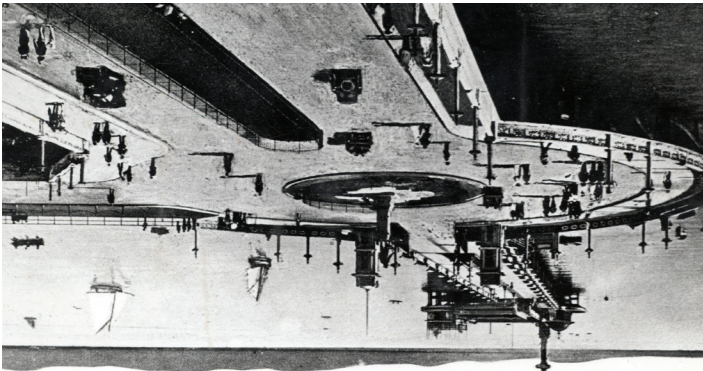
Additional thanks to WCARS Photographer, Frank Pople for assistance with sourcing and curating images.

Copies of the images in this booklet can be ordered from the Archives, contact the Archives' Reading Room at reading.room@westerncape.gov.za.

For more information on our other publications or educational activities, please contact our Outreach Archivist, Helen Joannides at Helen.Joannides@westerncape.gov.za

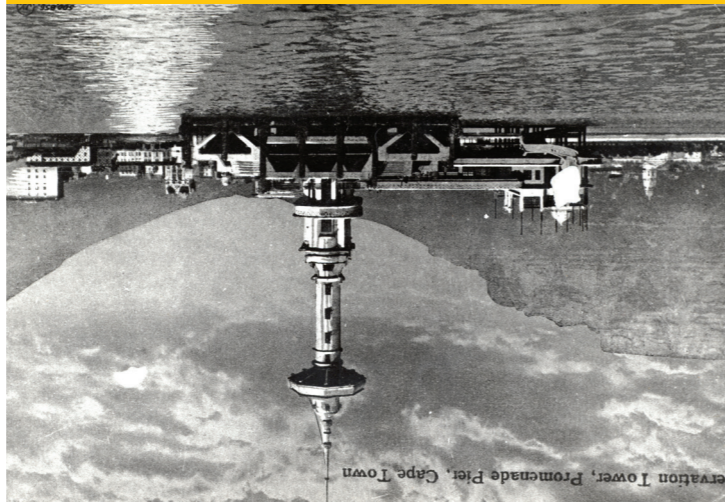


PROMENADE PIER, TABLE MOUNTAIN AND LION'S HEAD, CAPE TOWN



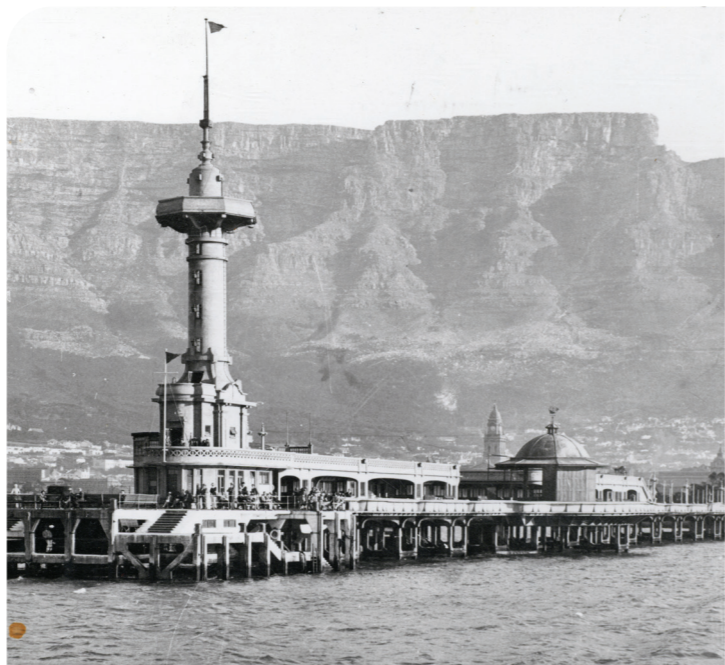
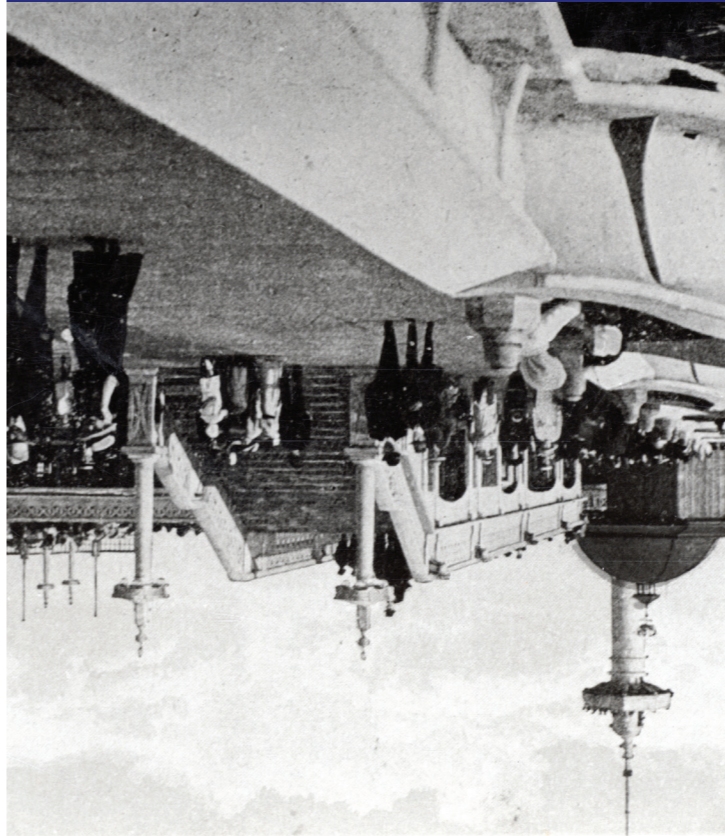
The Circus and Promenade Pier, Cape Town

Historic postcard images of the Pier:
 AG6432 (top) "The Circus and Promenade Pier, Cape Town";
 AG 8002 (middle) "Observation Tower on Pier from Table Bay, showing Table Mountain and Lion's Head";
 AG 6442 (bottom) "Promenade Pier, Table Mountain and Lion's Head, Cape Town";



Observation Tower, Promenade Pier, Cape Town

AG 12658 Crowds walking on the Pier, showing Table Mountain and the premises of Garlicks (a retail shopping center).
 J 3518 Cape Town Pier, showing the promenade (walkway) and pavilion in the background.



Western Cape Archives and Records Service
 Photographic Collections
 Images of Cape Town's Pier (1913 - 1939) from the Archive's photographic collections



AG 15002 View of the Cape Town Pier from Rogge Bay, with fishing boats pulled up onto the Rogge Bay beach in the foreground.



AG 6613 View of the Cape Town Pier Devil's Peak and Table Mountain from Table Bay.

Contact us for visits or more information

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