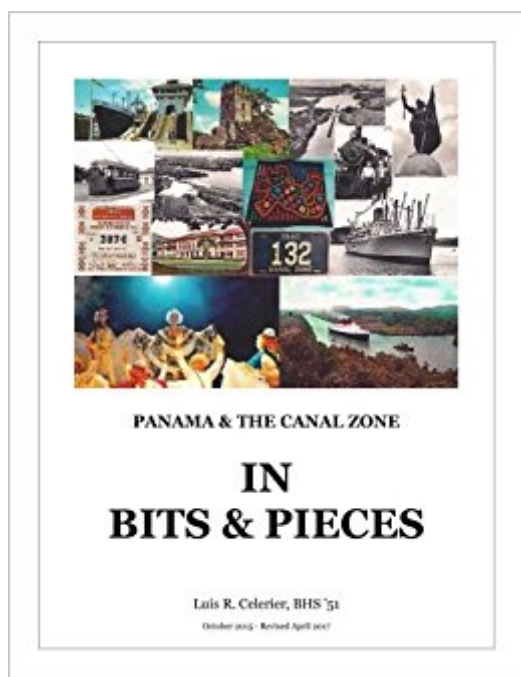


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# Panama & The Canal Zone IN BITS & PIECES



## Synopsis

A collage of short articles about the history of Panama and the Canal Zone based on personal experiences, shared experiences with contemporaries and research about the times in the area. Sources and credits are given, whenever possible, at the end of each one of the articles included.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Luis R. Celerier Luis "Louie" R. Celerier was born in Panama City, capital of the Republic of Panama on the Pacific coast of the Isthmus. He attended school in Panama the first 5 years and transferred to American schools in the Canal Zone in 1943 in order to learn English. He graduated from Balboa High School in 1951 and from Texas A&M University in 1955. Forced to move to the United States in order to find work, he began a long time career with Axelson, Inc., a designer, manufacturer and marketer of equipment for the oil and gas industries. He joined the Texas National Guard, served in the U.S. Army and was a Pilot and Cadet Program Officer in the USAF Civil Air Patrol for several years. He retired from Axelson in 1996. In 1997 he began a search for BHS Classmates and arranged 5 Class Reunions during the next 10 years. He also initiated a newsletter, The Panama & Canal Zone JUNCTION, in which he included many articles of his own, as well as that of other contributors, pertaining to the history of Panama and the Canal Zone. The encouragement of Julius Grigore, Captain, USN (Ret.), and other fellow writers, led Louie to format most of his articles into this book, Panama & The Canal Zone IN BITS & PIECES, a collage of short historic stories that take us to a place and past we knew, experienced, or heard about. Louie lives in Longview, Texas, with his wife Etheleen. October 2015.

This welcomed book collects some of the academically sound historical essays written by Panama-born and raised Luis R. Celerier, Although not a trained historian his curiosity, his honesty and his determination to dredge up the truth has produced a lively and living history. To collect further data for his writings and insure their integrity, he sought the advice of others to complete and thereby enhanced his vignettes. Many who lived in the Isthmus of Panama in the 20th century will love this large, very beautiful book. There are hundreds of vintage pictures many in striking color. This collection captures the excitement and drama of everyday life for those who lived and worked in the Canal Zone as well as those from the Republic of Panama. Those realities are revealed in vivid detail. The collection, footnoted and with additional suggested readings, portrays many of the realities Panama experienced -- be they Balboa's trekking across the Isthmus in 1519 to claim the vast Pacific, which he named the South Sea, for the Spanish King and Queen, or how Colombia's turbulent conflicts affected the Isthmus and the contributions of the North American and other pioneers who built and maintained the canal for decades. The Second World War and its real life dramatic memories are highlighted in various episodes. It's hard to believe that such a small swath of land hosted so many varied significant events. Historians will be pleased to have these reliable vignettes collected in a single publication. Those who lived in Panama, "Old Panama Hands," former Zonians, those who visited, those who have studied Panama will be astonished by the variety and richness of these essays. Many will find themselves chuckling and perhaps even shedding a tear or two as memories, long buried, spring forth. The collection, historically sound and balanced, is further enhanced by the memories of Celerier's personal reminiscences. They provide a warm social history fabric frequently ignored by historians. But then again this is a labor of love, an attempt to capture a few of the amazing chapters of life on the unforgettable Isthmus of Panama. Celerier succeeded famously and we are in his debt. The book's cover is beautiful and inviting. The book has 387, eight by nine inch, pages many festooned with remarkable pictures. These selections appeared originally in Celerier's electronic Newsletter "Bits & Pieces." On page one of this book he graciously offers the reader the opportunity to receive future Newsletters free of charge. In short, this is a well-written, tastefully presented interesting read. It's a great gift for the holidays, including one for your own library.

Having spent 2 years in Panama and the Canal Zone in the late 1960s I developed an interest in the history and other aspects of the area. Mr. Celerier's collection of works provides one with glimpses of history, life, etc. I understand he is still producing his Bits & Pieces. I hope we will not have to wait

too long for the sequel.

My husband and I were born and raised in the Panama Canal Zone. We also went to school with the author. He has managed to compile story after story of events from our days growing up as well as those from before. I would suggest this book as a must read to enjoy knowledge of the early days of the Canal. Well done Louie

A special collection of articles with historical them, also about times and places that have changed over the years. Don Luis and a select group of collaborators have dedicated time and effort to accomplish this worthwhile task, providing research and facts on topics related to the history of Panama and the Canal Zone. A labor of love for those who are fond of history and shared with the world through this interesting book. I highly recommend it.

Well written and selected materials in a book that has no competition. An area of the world and a time frame that I do not know of a competitor.

A perfect gift for anyone who grew up in Panama, or worked there, or just passed through.

Very nice

To step into the pages of this book is to be welcomed to Panama as family-sharing history, cultural contributions, images, and memorable insights. Senor Celerier has created an impeccably researched must have book whether you are seeking to remember Panama or, more importantly, you are going for a visit with moving to this beautiful crossroads in mind. I feel this book should be included in every welcome package by every realtor for newcomers. Thank you Luis for capturing the rich, complex history of a unique culture.

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