

IRA L. SWETT CYANOTYPE COLLECTION

c.1880 – 1912?

FINDING AID

The Sherman Library
614 Dahlia Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
(949) 673-1880

Administrative Information

Extent: 2 small photo boxes.

Date Span: c.1880 – 1912?

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Sherman Library by Ira L. Swett in 1974.

Citation information: [identification of item], Item [#], Box [#], Ira L. Swett Cyanotype Collection, Sherman Library, Corona del Mar, California.

Processed by: Jennifer Martinez Wormser, April 2007.

Historical Note

Cyanotypes were a photographic process in use until 1920. Occasionally produced 1840-1880, most were created between 1880 and 1920. Distinctive for their bright blue image color, cyanotypes have a matte surface and do not have a binder layer. Most cyanotypes were the work of amateur photographers, as little commercial or portraiture work was done using the medium.

Although the exact dates of these photographs are unknown, they were likely taken before February 1912, when Arizona became a state. The photos may have been taken by the father of the donor of the collection, interurban railway historian Ira L. Swett (1913-1975).

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of primarily of photographs of various towns, communities and people in Arizona Territory, California, and Sonora, Mexico. Most of the images are of street scenes or of buildings, but there are also some photographs of piers, oil wells, and mining sites. Several of the photographs feature people in them. The cities and towns most heavily represented in the collection include Globe, Jerome, and Tombstone, Arizona, and Los Angeles and San Francisco, California.

Each one is labeled with a caption written at the bottom and an identification number in the upper right-hand corner. In some cases, the identification numbers are used multiple times on different photographs; these have been noted in the container list below. Additionally, some of the numbers were crossed out and replaced with a new number; only the new number appears on this list. All the photographs in the collection measure 4 x 5 inches.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series:

1. Arizona Territory (Boxes 1-2)
2. California (Box 2)

Each series is then arranged in alphabetical order by city or town name, with a few exceptions at the end of each.

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Pieces</u>	<u>Number(s)</u>
1	1	Benson, A.T.	1	134
1	2	Bisbee, A.T.	7	154-159, 161 (appears twice)
1	3	Bowie, A.T.	1	130A
1	4	Casa Grande, A.T.	1	181
1	5	Charleston, A.T.	1	140
1	6	Chloride, A.T.	2	12 (appears twice)
1	7	Congress, A.T.	5	52, 54-57
1	8	Fairbanks, A.T.	1	137
1	9	Flagstaff, A.T.	5	21-23, 312, 318
1	10	Geronimo, A.T.	1	121
1	11	Globe, A.T.	15	75, 98, 100, 106, 108-111, 113-115, 310, 325-327
1	12	Jerome, A.T.	11	25, 27, 29 (appears twice), 32, 34, 39-40, 328-329, 331
1	13	Kingman, A.T.	3	10-12
1	14	Marvel, A.T.	2	358, 361
1	15	Mesa, A.T.	1	73
1	16	Phoenix, A.T.	5	61, 63 (appears thrice), 64
1	17	Pima, A.T.	2	124-125
1	18	Pioneer, A.T.	1	103
1	19	Prescott, A.T.	4	46-49
1	20	Safford, A.T.	2	128-129
1	21	San Carlos, A.T.	3	117, 119-120
1	22	Seligman, A.T.	1	13
1	23	Tempe, A.T.	4	6667, 69, 320
1	24	Tombstone, A.T.	8	141-144, 147-148, 150-151
1	25	Tucson, A.T.	7	174, 176-180, 322
2	1	Wilcox, A.T.	2	131-132
2	2	Williams, A.T.	4	16-18, 18 (appears twice)
2	3	Yuma, A.T.	5	184, 186-187, 192, 224
2	4	Nogales, A.T./Sonora, Mex.	4	162, 168, 170, 172-173
2	5	Arizona scenes	5	82, 105, 221, 323-333
2	6	Blake, Calif.	1	355
2	7	Escondido, Calif.	3	367 (appears thrice)
2	8	Fillmore, Calif.	2	236, 280
2	9	Hueneme, Calif.	1	303

2	10	Long Beach, Calif.	3	243-245
2	11	Los Angeles, Calif.	22	265, 272-277, 278 (appears thrice), 291-292, 344, 346, 384-385, 376, 378, 388-391
2	12	Mojave, Calif.	1	279
2	13	Monrovia, Calif.	1	342
2	14	Needles, Calif.	2	1, 4
2	15	Randsburg, Calif.	6	365 (appears 5 times), 366
2	16	Oxnard, Calif.	4	237, 238 (appears thrice)
2	17	Redondo Beach, Calif.	1	246
2	18	San Diego, Calif.	2	368 (appears twice)
2	19	San Francisco, Calif.	8	260-264, 266, 269-270
2	20	San Juan Capistrano, Calif.	4	233, 419, 421, 424
2	21	San Pedro, Calif.	1	247
2	22	Santa Monica, Calif.	2	227, 235
2	23	Santa Ana, Calif.	2	231-232
2	24	Santa Barbara, Calif.	2	293, 296
2	25	Summerland, Calif.	2	230, 241
2	26	Ventura	1	236
2	27	Calif. scene	1	255

Subjects

Arizona – Photographs.

California – Photographs.

California, Southern – Photographs.

Cyanotypes – 19th century.

Cyanotypes – 20th century.