Ira L. Swett Cyanotype Collection

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2017
**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Ira L. Swett Cyanotype Collection  
**Dates:** 1880-ca. 1912  
**Collection Number:** 2017_07  
**Creator/Collector:** Swett  
**Extent:** 4 linear inches; 2 boxes.  
**Repository:** Sherman Library and Gardens  
Corona del Mar, California 92625  
**Abstract:** The collection consists of primarily of photographs of various towns, communities and people in Arizona Territory, California, and Sonora, Mexico.  
**Language of Material:** English  
**Access**  
Materials are open for research.  
**Publication Rights**  
Property rights to the physical object belong to the Sherman Library. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where The Sherman Library do not hold the copyright.  
**Preferred Citation**  
Ira L. Swett Cyanotype Collection. Sherman Library and Gardens  
**Acquisition Information**  
The collection was donated to the Sherman Library by Ira L. Swett in 1974.  
**Arrangement**  
The collection is arranged into the following series:  
- Arizona Territory (Boxes 1-2)  
- 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.  
**Scope and Content of Collection**  
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.  
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).  
**Indexing Terms**  
Arizona  
Photographs - Cyanotype  

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**Cyanotype Photographs**  
**Physical Description:** 2 boxes
Cyanotype Photographs

Box 1

Arizona Territory, Benson - Tucson
Benson, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, numbers: 134

Bisbee, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
7 pieces, numbers: 154-159, 161 (appears twice)

Bowie, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 130A

Casa Grande, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 181

Charleston, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 140

Chloride, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, number: 12 (appears twice)

Congress, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
5 pieces, numbers: 52, 54-57

Fairbanks, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 137

Flagstaff, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
5 pieces, numbers: 21-23, 312, 318

Geronimo, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 121 numbers:

Globe, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
15 pieces, numbers: 75, 98, 100, 106, 108-111, 113-115, 310, 325-327

Jerome, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
11 piece, numbers: 25, 27, 29 (appears twice), 32, 34, 39-40, 328-329, 331

Kingman, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
3 pieces, numbers: 10-12
Marvel, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 358, 361

Mesa, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 73 numbers:

Phoenix, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
5 pieces, numbers: 61, 63 (appears thrice), 64

Pima, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 124-125

Pioneer, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 103

Prescott, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
4 pieces, numbers: 46-49

Safford, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 128-129

San Carlos, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
3 pieces, numbers: 117, 119-120

Seligman, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 13

Tempe, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
4 pieces, numbers: 6667, 69, 320

Tombstone, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
8 pieces, numbers: 141-144, 147-148, 150-151

Tucson, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
7 pieces, numbers: 174, 176-180, 322

Arizona Territory, Benson - California, Ventura
Wilcox, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 131-132
Williams, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
4 pieces, numbers: 16-18, 18 (appears twice)

Yuma, A.T.
Scope and Content Note
5 pieces, numbers: 184, 186-187, 192, 224

Nogales, A.T./Sonora, Mex.
Scope and Content Note
4 pieces, numbers: 162, 168, 170, 172-173

Arizona scenes
Scope and Content Note
5 pieces, numbers: 82, 105, 221, 323-333

Blake, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 355

Escondido, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
3 pieces, numbers: 367 (appears thrice)

Fillmore, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 236, 280

Hueneme, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 303

Long Beach, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
3 pieces, numbers: 243-245

Los Angeles, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
22 pieces, numbers: 265, 272-277, 278 (appears thrice), 291-292, 344, 346, 384-385, 376, 378, 388-391

Mojave, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, numbers: 279

Monrovia, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 342

Needles, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 1, 4
Randsburg, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
6 pieces, numbers: 365 (appears 5 times), 366

Oxnard, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
4 pieces, numbers: 237, 238 (appears thrice)

Redondo Beach, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 246

San Diego, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 368 (appears twice)

San Francisco, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
8 pieces, numbers: 260-264, 266, 269-270

San Juan Capistrano, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
4 pieces, numbers: 233, 419, 421, 424

San Pedro, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 247

Santa Monica, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 227, 235

Santa Ana, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 231-232

Santa Barbara, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 293, 296

Summerland, Calif.
Scope and Content Note
2 pieces, numbers: 230, 241

Ventura
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 236

Calif. Scene
Scope and Content Note
1 piece, number: 255