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## Guide to the Edward Vischer Papers 921

Finding aid prepared by Russell Michalak, 2008; revised by Lisa L. Crane, MLIS, 2011

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Edward Vischer Papers

**Dates:** 1804-1933

**Bulk Dates:** 1860-1878

**Collection number:** 921

**Creator:** Vischer, Edward, 1809-1878

**Extent:** 2.58 Linear feet(2 document boxes and 25 items of printed materials)

**Repository:** Claremont Colleges. Library. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library. Claremont, CA 91711

**Abstract:** Includes four published portfolios, The Mammoth Tree Grove (1862), The Washoe Mining Region (1862), Pictorial of California Landscape (1870), and Missions of Upper California (1872), along with an important file of original Vischer drawings and paintings; two scrapbooks of California scenes; numerous volumes of California scenes; and items about Vischer. Many items from this collection have been digitized and can be found in the "Edward Vischer Drawings, Photographs and Other Material" collection in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library (CCDL) - <http://ccdlibraries.claremont.edu/col/vdp>.

**Physical Location:** Please consult repository.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English, Spanish and German

### **Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Publication Rights**

All requests for permission to reproduce or to publish must be submitted in writing to Special Collections.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Edward Vischer Papers. Special Collections, Honnold Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

### **Acquisition Information**

Acquired from Mrs. Frederick Hellman, 1960.

### **Accruals**

No additions to the collection are anticipated.

### **Alternative Forms of Material Available**

Digital collection available via the Claremont Colleges Digital Library (CCDL): Edward Vischer Drawings, Photographs and Other Material - <http://ccdlibraries.claremont.edu/col/vdp/>.

### **Processing Information**

Arranged and processed by Special Collections staff.

### **Biography/Administrative History**

Edward Vischer (1809-1878) as a young man of nineteen emigrated from Germany to Mexico where he was associated with the commercial house of Heinrich Virmond. In the employ of Virmond, or other German-Latin American companies, he acted as supercargo on many trading voyages to west-coast ports of the Americas and to the Orient.

In 1842, he became interested in California and agreed to travel there for Virmond. It was in this way that Vischer first came to know the region, anchoring at Monterey, taking an excursion northwest to the port of Yerba Buena, and visiting Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. On this visit he fell in love with California. He gladly returned to San Francisco where he was active in currency exchange operations, acted as agent for German-Mexican firms, as marine forwarding agent, as real estate agent, and as a mortgage banker.

At the age of fifty, Vischer became intensely interested in sketching and painting. He is best known for his pencil sketches of California landscapes throughout the 1860s and 1870s. He sketched a wide variety of scenes and objects, but most commonly the California missions, trees, mountains, and rural scenes. Of special interest are his drawings of the ruins of the missions, the Washoe mining region, horses and wagons, including the Pony Express, and even camels which were part of a short lived military experiment to import them into California.

He combined with these interests a skill in photography. It was his practice to make rapid sketches on the spot of scenes which interested him, the big trees, the ruins of Missions, or mining operations, and later to work up these sketches in water color, pencil, pen or crayon. Subsequently he reproduced his drawing, first by lithography and later by photography. Beginning with the conventional method of lithography, Vischer became frustrated with the lack of detail and print quality, the expenses involved, and, eventually, the breaking of a stone mid production. At this point, Vischer began exploring the

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use of photography to reproduce his artwork. After briefly experimenting with the medium himself, Vischer soon employed George H. Johnson, a professional photographer, to photograph his artwork for his publications. These albumen prints of his artwork were used to create bound publications that were primarily sold through subscriptions.

#### **Scope and Contents of the Collection**

Includes four published portfolios, The Mammoth Tree Grove (1862), The Washoe Mining Region (1862), Pictorial of California Landscape (1870), and Missions of Upper California (1872), along with an important file of original Vischer drawings and paintings; two scrapbooks of California scenes; numerous volumes of California scenes; and items about Vischer.

Collection is arranged into 6 series. The first series contains original sketches and prints of Vischer's works. The second series contains a variety of miscellanea including photographs, handwritten letters, and ephemera. The third series contains materials that were found laid in front and back of one of printed volumes. These materials are mostly manuscripts, prints and photographs with some broadsides. Two scrapbooks inscribed by Vischer to William H. Hilton comprise the fourth series. The fifth series contains various plates, mostly from "Vischer's Pictorial of California". However, there are a few plates that could not be found in any of Vischer's books. The last series, series 6, contains printed materials. Here is where the four published portfolios, additional variations of those portfolios and other printed matter written about Vischer can be found.

#### **Series Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into 6 series:

Series 1: Sketches and prints

Subseries 1: Original sketches

Subseries 2: Prints

Series 2: Miscellanea

Series 3: Materials found laid in front and back of "Missions of Upper California"

Series 4: Scrapbooks inscribed by Vischer to Wm. H. Hilton

Series 5: Plates

Series 6: Printed materials

#### **Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

#### **Subject Headings**

California

California--History

California--Pictorial works

Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.)

Missions, Spanish--California--History

Vischer, Edward, 1809-1878

West (U.S.)--History--19th Century

#### **Genre and Form of Materials**

Broadsides

Drawing

Photographs

Publications

Scrapbooks

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Box 1, Folder 1-49

Series 1: **Sketches and prints. 1804-1882, undated (bulk undated)**

**Physical Description:** 49 folders

#### **Series Scope and Contents**

This series is divided into two subseries: (1) Original sketches and (2) Prints.

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Box 1, Folder 1-29	Subseries 1: <b>Original sketches. 1804-1877, undated (bulk undated)</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 29 folders
Box 1, Folder 1	<b>Covered wagons</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>Fire and portrait of a girl (front and back)</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b><i>Immigrant encampment near the Soledad Mission Ruins in the Salinas Valley. 1873</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b><i>Acapulco. 1851</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b><i>Norwegian scenery. 1862</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b><i>Hawaiian Cocoa-Nut Palm Grove (sketches of 1855/60) by Wenderoth? Copy by Vischer. 1877</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b><i>Hubert's Erst Jagdgreuden.</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b><i>Rancho de Santa Anna. circa 1860</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b><i>Capt. Weber's House, Rancho de las Animas. circa 1860</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 10	<b>Watercolor</b>
Box 1, Folder 11	<b><i>Ruins of the Old Farm Building of Sta. Margarita. 1804</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 12	<b><i>A day with the Soveranis (Don Panfilo) near the Soldedad Mission ruins on the Salinas. 1874</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 13	<b>Reproduction ocean scene</b>
Box 1, Folder 14	<b><i>Tunnel Livermore. 1869</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 15	<b>House in woods</b>
Box 1, Folder 16	<b><i>Alice's mountain home. 1861</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 17	<b>Two sailing ships (front and back)</b>
Box 1, Folder 18	<b><i>Stanislaus Meadows (Sept 9) Zook and Kerricks Peaks, Niswander Range</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 19	<b><i>East Summit of the Sierra Nevada. Sept 1861. 1861</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 20	<b>Meadow and woods (front and back)</b>
Box 1, Folder 21	<b>Foundered ship</b>
Box 1, Folder 22	<b>House by sea</b>
Box 1, Folder 23	<b>Horses and wagon in hills</b>
Box 1, Folder 24	<b><i>Clover Valley</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 25	<b>Meadow scene</b>
Box 1, Folder 26	<b>Foundered ship</b>
Box 1, Folder 27	<b><i>Woldemar, am Grabe seines Vaters Anganguero. 1860</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 28	<b><i>Heimbürger's Grabmahl</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 29	<b>Stream in woods</b>

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Box 1, Folder 30-49	Subseries 2: <b>Prints. 1882, undated (bulk undated)</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> 20 folders
Box 1, Folder 30	<b><i>Flowery City</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 31	<b><i>The Descent Carson Valley</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 32	<b><i>Falls of the Little Truckee River at the outlet of the lake</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 33	<b><i>Oak Knoll. Oak Knoll Farm</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 34	<b><i>Oak Knoll. Pilgrimage to the Grave</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 35	<b><i>Oak Knoll house</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 36	<b><i>Oak Knoll people under trees</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 37	<b>Desert and mountains</b>
Box 1, Folder 38	<b><i>View from the summit of Santa Cruz Mountains towards Sn. Jose and Gilroy. 1882</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 39	<b><i>On the plains. The Overland Mail stage; Pony Express and the Telegraph</i></b>
	<b>Note</b>
	Same item as in folder #45
Box 1, Folder 40	<b><i>Carson Plains</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 41	<b><i>The Devilsgate of Flowery District</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 42	<b><i>Sierra Valley - the sources of the Feather River, north fork. Grouse supper at the preacher's home</i></b>
Box 1, Folder 43	<b><i>The Big Desert</i></b>

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- Box 1, Folder 44  
Box 1, Folder 45
- Washoe Valley, encampment of emigrants at the foot of the Sierra Nevada On the plains. The Overland Mail stage; Pony Express and the telegraph; emigrants coming in***
- Note**  
Same item as in folder #39
- Box 1, Folder 46  
Box 1, Folder 47  
Box 1, Folder 48  
Box 1, Folder 49  
Box 1,  
Folder 50-57
- The lost trail to Gold Lake, Mohawk Valley and Old Seventy Six Richardson's Bay and Mt. Tamalpais, from the Saucelito Bluff View of Flowery City. Knox's Crushing Mills Crystal Springs, San Mateo County***
- Series 2: **Miscellanea. 1869-1933, undated**
- Physical Description:** 8 folders
- Series Scope and Contents**  
A variety of miscellanea including photographs, handwritten letters, and ephemera.
- Box 1, Folder 50  
Box 1, Folder 51  
Box 1, Folder 52  
Box 1, Folder 53  
Box 1, Folder 54
- Photograph of Robert B. Cowan 1932 portrait by Henrique Medina. 1932-1933 Covers and Appendix to Vischer's Pictorial of California...**
- Photograph of Vischer and grandson. circa 1876**
- Photograph of Vischer and son, Hubert. circa 1874**
- Notes by George Watson Cole manuscript**
- Note**  
Manuscript was found laid in red copy of "Sketches of Washoe"
- Box 1, Folder 55
- Correspondence between Hubert Vischer and R. E. Cowan. 1929**
- Physical Description:** 2 letters
- Note**  
Letters found with Cowan pamphlets [Vischer 20 and 21]
- Box 1, Folder 55,  
Item 1
- Robert E. Cowan letter to Hubert Vischer. 1929 May 11**
- Physical Description:** Autograph letter signed (ALS); 1 leaf
- Box 1, Folder 55,  
Item 2
- Hubert Vischer letter to Robert E. Cowan. 1929 September 20**
- Physical Description:** Autograph letter signed (ALS); 2 leaves
- Box 1, Folder 56
- Dedication to the Society of California Pioneers. 1870***
- Note**  
Found with Cowan pamphlets [Vischer 20 and Vischer 21]
- Box 1, Folder 57
- The Sutro Tunnel and the Bank of California newspaper article. 1869 September 20***
- Note**  
Page from an unidentified newspaper. Found with Richthofen, "The Comstock Lode" [Vischer 19].
- Box 1,  
Folder 58-62
- Series 3: **Materials found laid in front and back of *Missions of Upper California. 1851-1878, undated (bulk undated)***
- Physical Description:** 5 folders
- Series Scope and Contents**  
Materials that were found laid in front and back of *Missions of Upper California*. These materials are mostly manuscripts, prints and photographs with some broadsides.
- Box 1, Folder 58
- Manuscripts: Handwritten notes**
- Physical Description:** 4 items
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| Box 1, Folder 58,<br>Item 1 | <b><i>Alfred Robinsons description of the Bay of San Francisco and surroundings and visit of the Missions Dolores, Sta. Clara and San Jose</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 8 pages   |
| Box 1, Folder 58,<br>Item 2 | <b><i>Vancouver's Voyage to the North Pacific Ocean and round the world, 1790-1795</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 4 pages   |
| Box 1, Folder 58,<br>Item 3 | <b><i>Franciscan Missions of Upper California. Sketches taken from 1861 to 1873. Collection completed September 30, 1876. 1876 October 9</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> Autograph manuscript signed (AMS); 4 leaves; includes "Index of the Missions in this (the Pioneer Collection) represented." Signed by Edward Vischer. |
| Box 1, Folder 58,<br>Item 4 | <b><i>Facsimiles of autographs of distinguished Missionaries of the Order of San Franc[is]. 1871 December</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 1 folded sheet   |
| Box 1, Folder 59            | <b>Manuscripts: Sketches of buildings and plans</b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 6 items  |
| Box 1, Folder 59,<br>Item 1 | <b><i>Bosquejo de la Mision de San Rafael en 1831, por favor del Sr. General Dn. Mo. G. Vallejo, en 1878</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> Folded sketch, with photographic portrait of Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo pasted in upper left corner; on canvas.  |
| Box 1, Folder 59,<br>Item 2 | <b><i>Vista General de la Mision de San Francisco Solano (Sonoma) en el ano de 1832</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 1 folded sheet   |
| Box 1, Folder 59,<br>Item 3 | <b><i>Mission San Carlos, 1820</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 1 folded sheet  |
| Box 1, Folder 59,<br>Item 4 | <b><i>Plan General de la Mision de Sta. Cruz . . .1817-34</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 1 folded sheet   |
| Box 1, Folder 59,<br>Item 5 | <b><i>Vista de la Mision de la Purisima en 1822-1824</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 1 folded sheet; sketched on both sides  |
| Box 1, Folder 59,<br>Item 6 | <b><i>Rough sketch of the mission church and buildings San Antonio by Eugene Sherwoodkey [?]</i></b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 1 folded sheet; sketched on both sides  |
| Box 1, Folder 60            | <b>Manuscripts</b><br><b>Physical Description:</b> 3 items   |

Box 1, Folder 60,  
Item 1

***Missions of Upper California, 1872. By Edward Vischer. Notes on the Californian Missions, a Supplement to Vischer's Pictorial of California, dedicated to its patrons . 1872***

**Physical Description:** 16 pages, not including blank sides

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00124 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u/?vdp,418>

**Scope and Contents**

Includes: "Missions of Upper California in the chronological order of their foundation, from 1769 to 1832. Jurisdiction, military and ecclesiastical 1831. And population, in the Presidios, Missions and Towns; taken from Alexander Forbes, "California", London 1839. And List of Sketches and other material collected 1850 to 1870" (1 page); "Missions of Upper California in the order of their foundation" (1 page); "Missions of Upper California. List of Sketches 1850 to 1870 and materials from various sources" (1 page); "Military and ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, Presidios, Missions and Towns in the year 1831" (1 page); "Autographs" (1 page); "Facsimiles of Autographs, of distinguished Missionary Fathers of the Order of San Francis" (2 pages); "A List of the Missionary Fathers in the year 1823" (2 pages); "State of the Missions of Upper California from 1802 to 1822" (1 page); "Comparative Statistic Table of the Missions of Upper California under the Religious Administration in the year 1834 and under the Civil Administration in the year 1842" (2 pages); "The Estates of the Church, or the Pious Fund. An Estimate of the actual Indebtedness of the Mexican Government to the Catholic Missions of California in consequence of the Secularization, and previous acts" (1 page); Copy of letter of acknowledgement from Pelagio A[ntonio de Labastida y Davalos] Archbishop of Mexico to Don Manuel Guillen, in Spanish (2 pages); and Translation of letter of acknowledgement from Pelagio A[ntonio de Labastida y Davalos] Archbishop of Mexico to Don Manuel Guillen (1 page)

Box 1, Folder 60,  
Item 2

***Northern Missions***

**Physical Description:** 1 folded sheet of heavy card stock with map laid in

Box 1, Folder 60,  
Item 3

***Relics of the past. Missions of Upper California 1872. Repertoire: Photographic and lithogr.: Views of the Franciscan Mission Churches, abt. 1870, in different stages of decay or renovation and other mementos of the Mission Era . 1872***

**Physical Description:** 8 pages

**Scope and Contents**

Pamphlet, 12 pages. Includes: "Ruins of the Mission of San Carlos, Carmelo Bay in Monterey Cty." - print pasted inside front cover; "The early Franciscan Missions of Upper California" - autograph manuscript signed (AMS), 8 pages; and "Relics of the past. Missions of the Upper California. In the order of their foundation" - broadside pasted on outside of back cover

Box 1, Folder 61

**Broadsides**

**Physical Description:** 4 items

Box 1, Folder 61,  
Item 1

***Supplement. Rural and Forest Scenes . . .***

Box 1, Folder 61,  
Item 2

***Supplement to Vischer's Pictorial of California . . .***

Box 1, Folder 61,  
Item 3

***Pictorial of Californian Landscape . . .***

Box 1, Folder 61,  
Item 4

***Vischer's Miscellaneous Views of California . . .***

**Physical Description:** Mounted on pasteboard

Box 1, Folder 62

**Prints and photographs**

**Physical Description:** 22 items

- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 1 ***Ruins of the Mission of San Carlos, Carmelo Bay in Monterey Cty.***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 2 ***Ruins of the Presidio of San Diego [illegible] of Old San Diego at the entrance of Mission Valley, 1874 and Distant view of the mission ruins of San Diego from the river bend in Mission Valley, 1874/75***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 3 ***Ex-mission (now Parish-Church) of San Gabriel. Original by C. Hahn, copy 1. 1878***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 4 ***Ex-mission (now Parish-Church) of San Gabriel. Original by C. Hahn, copy 2. 1878***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 5 ***Santa Clara Mission and Church. Pupil's copy from the original of his master Professor of Drawings at the college 1851. Santa Clara College, 1851 . 1851***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 6 ***Vignette from W. N. Tuttle's stereoscopic views. Friars of the Franciscan College at the ex-mission of Santa Barbara***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 7 ***Scene on an old Californian cattle ranch, in early spring, on the eve of a general rodeo***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 8 ***Indian hovels at the palm group at lower San Diego Valley (the old mission just visible in the distance). Canoes return from fishing . 1878***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 9 ***Scene at the abandoned mission-orchard at San Luis Rey, in the bottom, south of the mission-buildings. 1875, sketched 1865***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 10 ***Ruins of the south-end and inner corridors of Sta. Ines Mission buildings, our night quarters with the mail-agent, April 22, 1865 . 1873***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 11 ***North view of the church and ex-mission of Santa Ines, sketched 1865; (with groupings of the olden times)***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 12 ***Casa del Paso Robles, the old farm building of the Mission of San Miguel; now the sheep-farm of James Blackburn. 1864***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 13 ***Church (the interior yet kept in good condition) of the Mission of San Miguel, and ruins of the "Casa Principal" and out buildings. 1864***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 14 ***Barrio del Tigre (Tiger-Town) (haunts of the Native and Indian populations in the old mission buildings) - outskirts of town, San Luis Obispo (1865) . 1865***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 15 ***San Luis Obispo. The lower (older) portions of the town, and the old mission buildings, as seen from the mission orchard. 1864***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 16 ***Church, buildings and ruins of the Mission San Antonio de Padua, in Monterey Cty. sketched 1873***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 17 ***Coast range scenery. North-view of Tamalpais-Range, from San Rafael Valley. Rancho de la Provida. Marin County***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 18 ***Ruins of the Mission of San Carlos, Carmelo Bay in Monterey Cty***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 19 ***South Cala scenery. North-east view of Temecola Valley, 10 miles west of San Luis Rey. Excursion of 1871. 1878***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 20 ***"Within the Golden Gate. Presidio, Fort San Jose, Lime Point and Lighthouse, from Black-Pt.***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 21 ***Mission of Dolores (San Francisco Asis) before its restoration, photograph***
- Box 1, Folder 62, Item 22 ***Sophia Prince-Smith (Mrs. Edward Vischer), photograph***
- Box 2, Folder 1 **Series 4: *Scrapbooks inscribed by Vischer to Wm. H. Hilton. 1875-1876***

**Physical Description:** 2 scrapbooks

**Series Scope and Contents**

Two scrapbooks inscribed by Vischer to William H. Hilton.



Box 2, Folder 1,  
Item 1

**Missions of Upper California [Vischer 15]. 1875**

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00126 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u/?vdp,280>

**Scope and Contents**

Art portfolio, 5.25 x 6.25 inches. Compiled for William H. Hilton. It is comprised of photographic views of various Franciscan missions either restored or in ruin.

Box 2, Folder 1,  
Item 2

**Vignettes of the California Missions [Vischer 16]. 1876**

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00127 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u/?vdp,232>

**Scope and Contents**

Art portfolio, 5.25 x 6.25 inches. Compiled for William H. Hilton. Images incorporate Vischer's mission sketches with vignettes of life in California (mid-1800s).

Box 2, Folder 2-11

Series 5: **Plates. undated**

**Physical Description:** 10 folders

**Series Scope and Contents**

Contains various plates, mostly from *Vischer's Pictorial of California*... . However, there are a few plates that could not be found in any of Vischer's books.

Box 2, Folder 2

**"Series the First" from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 13 items

Box 2, Folder 3

**"Series the Second" from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 13 items

Box 2, Folder 4

**"Series the Third" from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 13 items

Box 2, Folder 5

**"Series the Fourth" from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 13 items

Box 2, Folder 6

**"Series the Fifth" from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 13 items

Box 2, Folder 7

**Assorted plates from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 17 items

Box 2, Folder 8

**Assorted plates from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 13 items

Box 2, Folder 9

**Plate from California II: Trees and Forest Scenes, but not from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 1 item

Box 2, Folder 10

**Plates from California III: Miscellaneous, but not from Vischer's Pictorial of California...**

**Physical Description:** 26 items

Box 2, Folder 11

**Plates not found in Vischer's books**

**Physical Description:** 7 items

Series 6: **Printed materials. circa 1816-1933 (bulk 1861-1872)**

**Physical Description:** 25 items

**Series Scope and Contents**

Contains a variety of printed materials including Vischer's four published portfolios, additional variations of those portfolios, and other printed matter written about Vischer.

Item Vischer 1

***Vischer's Pictorial of California: Landscape, Trees and Forest Scenes. Grand Features of California Scenery, Life, Traffic and Customs . 1870***

**Scope and Content**

Monograph, 11 x 12 1/2 inches. Incomplete text. Individual photographs of Vischer's and other artists' artwork grouped as "Californian landscape"; "trees and forest scenes"; and "grand features and characteristic ranges of California scenery", respectively. The albumen photographs are mounted on paper and pasted onto individual pages. Images from this copy vary from other copies of ***Vischer's Pictorial of California...***

Item Vischer 2

***Vischer's Pictorial of California: Landscape, Trees and Forest Scenes. Grand Features of California Scenery, Life, Traffic and Customs . 1870***

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00145 in Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u/?vdp.1332>

**Scope and Contents**

Monograph, 10 7/8 x 12 3/8 inches. The text portion of the book contains three sections, each giving essays and descriptions about the landscape photographs, the trees and forests of California, and geology of the High Sierra, respectively. The next three sections contain individual photographs of Vischer's and other artists' artwork grouped as "Californian landscape"; "trees and forest scenes"; and "grand features and characteristic ranges of California scenery", respectively. The albumen photographs are mounted on paper and pasted onto individual pages. Images from this copy vary from other copies of ***Vischer's Pictorial of California...***

Item Vischer 3

***Vischer's Pictorial of California: Landscape, Trees and Forest Scenes. Grand Features of California Scenery, Life, Traffic and Customs . 1870***

**Scope and Contents**

Pamphlet [prospectus?], 9 x 11 5/8 inches. Text only. Contains three sections, each giving essays and descriptions about the landscape photographs, the trees and forests of California, and geology of the High Sierra, respectively. Same text as Vischer 2.

Item Vischer 4

***Vischer's Pictorial of California: Landscape, Trees and Forest Scenes. Grand Features of California Scenery, Life, Traffic and Customs . 1870***

**Scope and Contents**

Presentation copy, 9 1/4 x 12 inches. In green binding to "Hubert Vischer from his father". Contains three sections, each giving essays and descriptions about the landscape photographs, the trees and forests of California, and geology of the High Sierra, respectively. Same text as Vischer 2. Inscribed photograph of Edward Vischer pasted inside front cover. Includes a poem on California; "Dedication to the Society of California Pioneers; and notes regarding gift of "Vischer's Pictorial of California..." to the society. Tipped in photo mounts include image of bookplate (?) - "Edward Vischer certified as life member of the California Society of Pioneers" - and five plates of miniatures of "Sixty numbers of landscape".

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Item Vischer 5

***Vischer's Pictorial of California: Landscape, Trees and Forest Scenes. Grand Features of California Scenery, Life, Traffic and Customs . 1870***

**Scope and Contents**

Monograph, 9 1/4 x 7 1/2 inches. Contains three sections, each giving essays and descriptions about the landscape photographs, the trees and forests of California, and geology of the High Sierra, respectively. Same text as Vischer 2. Includes a poem on California; "Dedication to the Society of California Pioneers"; notes regarding gift of "Vischer's Pictorial of California..." to the society; and "opinion of the press" regarding said gift. No photographs are included in this volume.

Item Vischer 6a

***California I: Landscape. circa 1861-1867***

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00142 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library - <http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?vdp,640>

**Scope and Contents**

Monograph, 9 3/4 x 12 1/4 inches. One of three books depicting California through art. This collection is comprised primarily of items also located in ***Vischer's Pictorial of California...*** . The book consists of albumen photographs of drawings and paintings, mounted on paper, and pasted onto individual pages.

Item Vischer 6b

***California II: Trees and Forest Scenes. circa 1862-1868***

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00143 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library - <http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?vdp,791>

**Scope and Contents**

Monograph, 9 3/4 x 12 1/4 inches. The second of three books depicting California through art. Here, Vischer's photographed drawings feature native Californian trees. Roughly three-quarters of the images here may also be found in ***Vischer's Pictorial of California...*** . The book consists of albumen photographs of drawings and paintings, mounted on paper, and pasted onto individual pages.

Item Vischer 6c

***California III: Miscellaneous. circa 1867***

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00144 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library - <http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?vdp,862>

**Scope and Contents**

Monograph, 9 3/4 x 12 1/4 inches. The third of three books depicting Northern and Central California through art. Included are photographed drawings by Vischer and others of miscellaneous subjects. The book consists of albumen photographs of drawings and paintings, mounted on paper, and pasted onto individual pages.

Item Vischer 7

***Sketches of the Washoe Mining Region. 1862***

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00139 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library - <http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?vdp,569>

**Scope and Contents**

Pamphlet, 7 1/4 x 10 inches. Text only. This booklet describes of each of Vischer's sketches of the Washoe mining region, 25 in total. Includes an introductory section that provides historical information and concluding remarks.

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Item Vischer 8

***Vischer's Sketches of Washoe. The Washoe Mining Region. 1861-1865***

**Alternative Form Available**

Item number vdp00140 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u/?vdp,704>

**Scope and Contents**

Monograph, 9 3/4 x 12 1/4 inches. Book contains drawings photographed by Edward Vischer documenting the Washoe mining region. Images include depictions of landscapes, buildings and rural life. The book also includes exterior and interior views of the Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company (tunnels, engine room, battery room, amalgamation, distribution, etc.). The book ends with photos of the region, presumably from atop Mount Davidson. Also included are three plates of miniatures from "Vischer's Vignettes of Washoe" depicting views 1 to 9, 10 to 17 and 18 to 25, as well as 1 plate depicting miniatures of "Views and works of the Gould & Curry Silver Mining Company". Laid in are three maps: "Map of the Washoe Mining Regions"; "Longitudinal Section of the Comstock Lode Showing the Workings and their Relative Depths to the Sutro Tunnel and Section of the Sutro Tunnel from its Entrance to the Comstock Lode"; and "Topographical Map of the Range of Mountains Containing the Comstock Lode and the Mining Claims and Works Located Thereon" and a broadside: "Washoe. Vignette Edition of Vischer's Sketches of the Washoe Mining Region and Surroundings and the Panorama from the Summit of Mt. Davidson".

Item Vischer 9a

***Sketches of the Washoe Mining Region***

**Scope and Contents**

Portfolio, 10 1/4 x 7 1/2 inches. The text is descriptive of the plates, which are 25 in number, representing views of cities, natural scenery, and mining life. Pasted inside back cover is "Map of the Washoe Mining Regions". Two other maps laid in: "Longitudinal Section of the Comstock Lode Showing the Workings and their Relative Depths to the Sutro Tunnel and Section of the Sutro Tunnel from its Entrance to the Comstock Lode"; and "Topographical Map of the Range of Mountains Containing the Comstock Lode and the Mining Claims and Works Located Thereon".

Item Vischer 9b

***Sketches of the Washoe Mining Region***

**Scope and Contents**

Portfolio, 10 1/4 x 7 1/2 inches. The text is descriptive of the plates, which are 25 in number, representing views of cities, natural scenery, and mining life. Pasted inside back cover is "Map of the Washoe Mining Regions". Two other maps laid in: "Longitudinal Section of the Comstock Lode Showing the Workings and their Relative Depths to the Sutro Tunnel and Section of the Sutro Tunnel from its Entrance to the Comstock Lode"; and "Topographical Map of the Range of Mountains Containing the Comstock Lode and the Mining Claims and Works Located Thereon".

Item Vischer 9c

***Sketches of the Washoe Mining Region***

**Scope and Contents**

Portfolio, 10 1/4 x 7 1/2 inches. The text is descriptive of the plates, which are 25 in number, representing views of cities, natural scenery, and mining life. Pasted inside back cover is "Map of the Washoe Mining Regions". Two other maps laid in: "Longitudinal Section of the Comstock Lode Showing the Workings and their Relative Depths to the Sutro Tunnel and Section of the Sutro Tunnel from its Entrance to the Comstock Lode"; and "Topographical Map of the Range of Mountains Containing the Comstock Lode and the Mining Claims and Works Located Thereon".

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- Item Vischer 10      ***The Mission Era: California Under Spain and Mexico, and Reminiscences of Thirty Years Ago. 1872***  
**Alternative Form Available**  
Item number vdp00146 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?/vdp,1066>  
**Scope and Contents**  
Monograph, 9 3/4 x 12 inches. Text only. Notes and writings on the history of the California mission era. It was published as a supplement to ***Vischer's Pictorial of California...***, and includes lists of missions, missionary Fathers and comparative data.
- Item Vischer 11      ***The Mission Era: California Under Spain and Mexico, and Reminiscences of Thirty Years Ago. 1872***  
**Alternative Form Available**  
Item number vdp00135 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?/vdp,1002>  
**Scope and Contents**  
Monograph, 10 3/8 x 12 1/4 inches. Individual photographs of Vischer's drawings and related materials grouped into four sections and dedicated to the Society of California Pioneers. Contains historical perspectives about the Californian Missions, including lists of missions and comparative data, as well as lists of missionary fathers and their autographs.
- Item Vischer 12      ***Missions of Upper California, 1872. Notes on the Californian Missions, a Supplement to Vischer's Pictorial California, Dedicated to its Patrons . 1872***  
**Scope and Contents**  
Pamphlet, 9 1/8 x 11 3/4 inches. Text only. Notes and writings on the history of the California mission era. It was published as a supplement to ***Vischer's Pictorial of California...***, and includes lists of missions, missionary Fathers and comparative data. Same text as Vischer 10, except "Appendix" and "Notes on Missions" are reversed.
- Item Vischer 13      ***Missions of Upper California. circa 1816-1873***  
**Alternative Form Available**  
Item number vdp00141 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?/vdp,748>  
**Scope and Contents**  
Manuscript, 9 3/4 x 12 1/4 inches. Collection of photographs of missions and drawings. Provides images of building facades and interiors, as well as rural scenes and missionary settlement life. Includes original manuscripts and sketches. Laid in albumen print.
- Item Vischer 14      ***Vischer's Portfolio of the Mammoth Tree Grove. 1862***  
**Alternative Form Available**  
Item number vdp00137 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?/vdp,336>  
**Scope and Contents**  
Artists' book, 14 x 11 inches. Leather bound portfolio embossed with gold and decorative etching. Contains Vischer's introductory remarks and description of plates. Portfolio includes a title page replicated on the inside book cover and twelve unbound plates.
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- Item Vischer 17      **Thomas Hill**  
**Alternative Form Available**  
Item number vdp00136 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?vdp,413>  
**Scope and Contents**  
Artists' book, 10 1/4 x 7 inches. A portfolio containing photographs of Thomas Hill's paintings -- predominately images of Yosemite Valley and Lake Tahoe. The portfolio is leather bound and embossed with gold leaf.
- Item Vischer 18      **Souvenirs. circa 1867**  
**Alternative Form Available**  
Item number vdp00138 in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library -  
<http://ccdlib.libraries.claremont.edu/u?vdp,381>  
**Scope and Content**  
Artists' book, 10 1/4 x 7 inches. A collection of photographs, reproductions of paintings, newspaper articles and a manuscript document. The photographs and reproductions include images of German churches and other buildings, Egyptian pyramids and a monumental Southeast Asian statue of the Buddha, as well as photographic reproductions of paintings and sketches of Hawaii. A newspaper article on Rabison, Germany is pasted inside. Laid in is an original manuscript written in German by Edward Vischer entitled "Patrons of the Tomb of St. Sebald in Sebaldskirche, Nurenburg, by Peter Vischer, 1500-1519". The document provides biographic information on Peter Vischer along with a discussion of the artist's sculpture for St. Sebald Church.
- Item Vischer 19      ***The Comstock Lode: Its character and the probable mode of its continuance in depth.* by Ferdinand Baron Richthofen, Dr. Phil. (November 22nd 1865.). 1866**  
**Physical Description:** Pamphlet, 83 p.; 24 cm. San Francisco: Sutro Tunnel Co., 1866.
- Item Vischer 20      ***The Pioneers of California: An address made at the member's meeting of the Society of California Pioneers on October 2, 1928 at the time that Mr. Cowan was elected an Honorary Member of the Society by Robert E. Cowan. 1929***  
**Physical Description:** Pamphlet, 12 p., ill.; 23 cm. San Francisco: Printed by the Society of California Pioneers, 1929.
- Item Vischer 21      ***Alexander S. Taylor, 1817-1876: First bibliographer of California by Robert E. Cowan. 1933***  
**Physical Description:** Pamphlet, 9 p.; 27 cm. Inscribed by the author. Reprinted from the Quarterly of the California Historical Society, vol. XII, no. 1 (Mar 1933).
- Item Vischer 22      ***Quarterly of the California Historical Society. December 1930***  
**Physical Description:** Periodical, 26 cm. Vol. 9, no. 4 (Dec 1930). San Francisco: The Society, 1930.
- Item Vischer 23      ***Edward Vischer and his Pictorial of California: A biographical sketch as told by Hubert Vischer to Francis P. Farquhar in November 1930 and January 1931 . 1932***  
**Physical Description:** Pamphlet, 8, [2] p., [2] leaves of plates : ill., port. ; 28 cm. San Francisco : [Printed at the Grabhorn press], 1932.
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