Overview of the Collection

Title: Historical Society of Southern California Collection -- Ana Bégué de Packman Collection of Photographs and Papers

Dates (inclusive): approximately 1820-1955

Bulk dates: 1930s

Collection Number: photCL 400 volume 33

Collector: Packman, Ana Bégué

Extent: 209 photographs in 3 boxes (179 prints, 18 negatives, 9 stereographs, 2 tintypes, 1 glass plate); prints 25 x 35.5 cm. (10 x 14 in.) and smaller + correspondence, maps, ephemera, notes, and a name index.

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Photo Archives
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This collection contains photographs related to Southern California history that were collected by Ana Bégué de Packman (1882-1973), a descendant of early Spanish-Mexican landowners in the region and the Secretary of the Historical Society of Southern California from the 1930s to 1950s. The collection dates from 1820 to 1955 (bulk 1930s) and includes photographs, as well as correspondence, maps, ephemera, and newspaper clippings related to Southern California ranchos, the Spanish-Mexican families who owned them, and Los Angeles during the late 1800s. The majority of the collection consists of portraits of rancho families and their descendants, as well as photographs of the town of San Juan Capistrano and its environs, including Mission San Juan Capistrano and the adobe houses surrounding the mission. Photographers include: Charles C. Pierce, Charles J. Prudhomme, Charles C. Puck, and Edward Vischer.

Language: English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Historical Society of Southern California Collection -- Ana Bégué de Packman Collection of Photographs and Papers. The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Sources used in the creation of this finding aid


Related materials in the Huntington Library

The sub-collections of the Historical Society of Southern California Collection (photCL 400) are individually cataloged in the Huntington Online Catalog.

Related materials in other repositories

The UCLA Library Department of Special Collections holds the Ana Bégué de Packman Papers, 1870-1960, which contain photographs, newspaper articles, manuscripts, genealogies, maps, ephemera, and correspondence pertaining to the California missions, Southern California adobes and ranchos, and the city of Los Angeles.

Biographical Note of Ana Bégué de Packman

Ana Bégué de Packman (1882-1973), a descendent of Juan Francisco Reyes, the alcalde of the Pueblo de Los Angeles, served as the Secretary of the Historical Society of Southern California from the 1930s through the 1950s; she was involved in educational outreach programs, took part in speaking engagements, and supported restoration efforts for various California landmarks. Packman was also the curator of Casa Figueroa from 1934 to 1941, an historic Los Angeles adobe built by Don Ramon Figueroa prior to the arrival of Anglo-Americans that was later demolished in 1965.

Historical Note of HSSC

Founded in 1883, the Historical Society of Southern California (HSSC) is the oldest historical society in California. As part of its mission to collect and preserve Southern California's history, the HSSC amassed a photo archive over many decades. The HSSC shifted its emphasis to programs and publications in the 1980s and, in 1992, the organization donated its photo archive to The Huntington Library.

The Historical Society of Southern California Collection contains approximately 15,000 photographs and negatives focused on Southern California from approximately 1870 to 1980. As such, it is an important visual record of the growth and history of the region. The collection represents a variety of donations made to the Society over many years. It is organized into discrete sub-collections (each with a unique "volume" number) within the overall collection, which is identified by call number photCL 400.

Scope and Content

This collection contains 209 photographs and negatives related to Southern California history that were collected by Ana Bégué de Packman, a descendant of early Spanish-Mexican landowners in the region and the Secretary of the Historical Society of Southern California from the 1930s to 1950s. The collection dates from 1820 to 1955 (bulk 1930s) and includes photographs, as well as correspondence, maps, ephemera, and newspaper clippings related to Southern California ranchos, the Spanish-Mexican families who owned them, and Los Angeles during the late 1800s. The majority of the collection consists of portraits of rancho families and their descendants, as well as photographs of the town of San Juan Capistrano and its environs, including Mission San Juan Capistrano and the adobe houses surrounding the mission.

The photographs include a variety of formats and sizes, and photographers include: Charles C. Pierce, Charles J. Prudhomme, Charles C. Puck, and Edward Vischer.

The collection includes a small number of the California rancho families are pictured in both professional and amateur portraits, with a focus on the Dominguez, Machado, Sepulveda, and Yorba families. Other portraits include those of Los Angeles mayors and pioneers, such as Matthew Keller, Cameron Erskine Thom, and Elijah H. Workman.

Photographs of Mission San Juan Capistrano show the mission complex in ruins, with views of the church, courtyard, bell tower, and outside workspaces. The interior of the restored Serra Chapel are also shown, with an emphasis on the altarpiece and its statuary. Other missions that are shown in the collection are Missions Santa Barbara, San Antonio de Padua, and San Gabriel Arcangel.

Another emphasized portion of the collection concerns adobe houses, specifically ones that are or had been located in the western and southern parts of San Juan Capistrano. Among these adobes are the Blas Aguilar Adobe, Casa de Los Rios, the Burruel Adobe, the Manuel Garcia Adobe, and the Domingo Yorba Adobe. Other Southern California adobes that are also included are the Yorba-Slaughter Adobe, the Dana Adobe, and the Workman-Temple Homestead. Oversized photographs show La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora Reina de Los Angeles (Plaza Church) and the statue of Felipe de Neve in Los Angeles Plaza.
Notable photographs include an interesting photograph of Plaza Church shows Don Antonio F. Coronel surveying the church exterior. Another photograph relating to the Los Angeles area is one of the Beverly Hills Centennial Parade with Eugene W. Biscailuz, Leo Carrillo, and William Boyd on horseback. Of particular interest are two tintypes related to photographer Charles J. Prudhomme. The first is of his mother, María Merced Tapia de Prudhomme, and the other is of Prudhomme’s daughter.

The rest of the collection contains correspondence, maps, notes, ephemera, and negatives. Noteworthy items from these materials include: a manuscript letter written by Manuel Dominguez; postcards from Bruce Condé (Alfonso de Bourbon Condé) to Ana Bégué de Packman; death notices for Isaac Williams and Henry Mellus; a glass plate negative of Horton House in San Diego; a film negative of Juan Bandini and his daughter Ysidera; and an index book with the names of rancho families written in Packman’s hand. Photographs with corresponding film negatives are: (12), (26), and (29).

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](https://www.huntington.org).  

**Photographers**

Condé, Bruce, 1913-1992, photographer.  
Dewey, George N., photographer.  
Dominguez, Manuel, 1803-1883, photographer.  
Giffen, Guy J. (Guy James), 1886-, photographer.  
Marceau, Theodore C., 1860-1922, photographer.  
Pierce, C. C. (Charles C.), 1861-1946, photographer.  
Prudhomme, Charles J., 1854-1934, photographer.  
Puck, Charles C., photographer.  
Schumacher, Frank G., 1861-, photographer.  
Vischer, Edward, photographer.

**Subjects**

Adobe houses -- California -- Photographs.  
Building, Adobe -- Photographs.  
California missions -- Photographs.  
Dana adobe -- Photographs.  
Mayors—California—Los Angeles -- Photographs.  
Mission San Gabriel Arcangel (San Gabriel, Calif.) -- Photographs.  
Mission San Juan Capistrano -- Photographs.  
Pioneers—California -- Photographs.  
Plaza Church (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Photographs.  
Ranches—California, Southern -- Photographs.  
Rancho La Puente -- Photographs.  
Rancho Los Cerritos -- Photographs.  
San Antonio de Pádua (Mission) -- Photographs.  
Santa Barbara Mission -- Photographs.  
Yorba-Slaughter Adobe -- Photographs.  
Bandini, Juan, 1800-1859 -- Photographs.  
Carrillo, Leo -- Photographs.  
Coronel, Antonio Franco, 1817-1894 -- Photographs.  
Keller, Matthew, 1810-1881 -- Photographs.  
Neve, Felipe de, 1724-1784 -- Photographs.  
Montana, Montie -- Photographs.  
O'Keefe, Joseph Jeremiah, 1843- -- Photographs.
Robinson, Alfred, 1806-1895 -- Photographs.
Serra, Junipero, 1713-1784 -- Photographs.
Thom, Cameron Erskine, 1825-1915 -- Photographs.
Workman, Elijah H., 1835-1906 -- Photographs.
Yorba, Bernardo, 1800 or 1801-1858 -- Photographs.
Aguilar family -- Photographs.
Avila family -- Photographs.
Dominguez family -- Photographs.
Lopez family -- Photographs.
Machado family -- Photographs.
Sepulveda family -- Photographs.
Slaughter family -- Photographs.
Vallejo family -- Photographs.
Yorba family -- Photographs.
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Photographs.
Los Angeles County (Calif.) -- Photographs.
San Gabriel River Valley (Calif.) -- Photographs.
San Juan Capistrano (Calif.) -- Photographs.
San Pedro (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Photographs.

**Forms/Genres**

Clippings.
Ephemera.
Film negatives.
Glass negatives.
Letters (correspondence) California 19th century.
Maps.
Photographs.
Portrait photographs.
Postcards.
Tintypes.

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**Photographic prints (Items 1-124)**

**Box 1**

**Box 1, Folder 1 (1-17)**

**Portraits: Aguilar, Avila, and Dominguez families. Martinez Espinosa; Ms. Forman [granddaughter of John Albert Rowland]; Julia Slaughter Fuqua; José Hunn; Miguel Kraszewski**

**Box 1, Folder 2 (18-19)**

**Gerónimo and Catalina Lopez: studio portrait and 60th wedding anniversary**

**Box 1, Folder 3 (20-22, 24-26, 28-29)**

**Portraits: Machado and Sepulveda families; Fr. Joseph Jeremiah O’Keefe; Florence Dodson Schoneman.**

**Box 1, Folder 4 (23, 27)**

**Portraits: Juan and Manuela Machado; Francisca Sepulveda**

**Box 1, Folder 5 (30-39)**

**Slaughter, Vallejo, and Yorba families; 1887-1888 Junior class of California State Normal School, Los Angeles; 1894 formal group portrait; 1800s group portrait; Beverly Hills Centennial Parade.**

**Box 1, Folder 6 (40-53)**

**Los Angeles officials and pioneers; Fr. Junipero Serra; Unidentified people at San Juan Capistrano.**

**Box 1, Folder 7 (54-70)**

**Mission San Juan Capistrano: church, bell tower**
Mission San Juan Capistrano: church interior, courtyard
Mission San Juan Capistrano: courtyard, misc.; Mission San Antonio de Padua; Mission Santa Barbara; and El Camino Real.
Photographic prints (Items 125-169), negatives, tintypes, and manuscripts and printed materials

Photographic prints (Items 125-169)

Adobe buildings and houses
Los Angeles: Plaza Church and Felipe de Neve statue.
Miscellaneous: cactus plant; San Pedro (CA); house on Los Angeles/Orange County border; Sabado de Gloria (Judas Day) at Mission San Juan Capistrano.
Miscellaneous: Unidentified barn or ranch

Glass Plate Negative

Horton House, San Diego.

Tintypes

Maria Merced Tapia de Prudhomme
Daughter of Charles J. Prudhomme [Name unknown].

Correspondence

Manuscript letter from Manuel Dominguez, 1862 [written in Spanish]; 2 postcards from Bruce Condé (Alfonso de Bourbon Condé) to Ana Bégué de Packman [one written in Spanish]; Letter from C.E. Parker to Ana Bégué de Packman

Maps

San Juan Capistrano in about 1875 (created 1961); Laguna Rancho; Rancho Cañada de Los Alisos

Lists and Notes

Handwritten notes related to California rancheros, pioneers, and adobes

Newspaper Clippings

Articles related to San Juan Capistrano and Valvaneda Aguilar

Ephemera

Best wishes note from FFC to Ana Bégué de Packman; Death notices for Isaac Williams and Henry Mellus

Name Index
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<th>Small notebook containing handwritten names of California ranchero families</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 21</td>
<td>Ana Bégué de Packman’s original photograph envelopes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Negatives</td>
<td>Access Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The film negatives are housed in cold storage; advance arrangements for viewing film</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>negatives must be with the Curator of Photographs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Items (173-187)</td>
<td>Juan Bandini and daughter Ysidora; Phineaus Banning, Mathew Keller, &amp; John H. Hollister; Francisco Garcia; Mellus brothers; Alfred Robinson; first city hall of Los Angeles; Plaza Church; Mission San Gabriel Arcangel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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