Overview of the Collection
Title: Carl S. Dentzel Photograph Collection of the American West
Dates (inclusive): 1870s-1890s
Collection Number: photCL 98
Collector: Dentzel, Carl S.
Extent: 84 photographs in 2 boxes; photographs 18 x 24 cm. (7 x 9 in.) and smaller.
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Rare Books Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Abstract: Photographs of the American West, dating from the 1870s to the 1890s, collected by Carl S. Dentzel (1913-1980), director of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, California, including a disbound album of photographs of Alaska taken by A. L. Broadbent. These views show Revenue Cutter Service ships and officers; Alaskan natives; towns; scenery; the fur trade and mission schools. Other notable photographs in this collection include portraits of John C. Frémont, Harrison Gray Otis, and John A. Sutter; a series of Lake Tahoe card photographs; and views of early western settlers around the time of the Oklahoma Land Rush of 1889.
Language: English.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Carl S. Dentzel Photograph Collection of the American West, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Provenance
Purchased from Paul and Elizabeth Dentzel on March 24, 1992.
Biographical Note
Carl Schaefer Dentzel (1913-1980) served as director of the Southwest Museum in Highland Park, California, from 1956 until his death in 1980, and was integral in the founding of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Board in 1962. Privately, Dentzel assembled large collections of Western American art and photographs, and Asian and Native American artifacts.
Scope and Content of Collection
This collection contains 84 photographs of the American West that were collected by Carl S. Dentzel (1913-1980), director of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, California. The photographs date from the 1870s to the 1890s and include a disbound album of photographs of Alaska taken by A. L. Broadbent. The Alaska album (items 30-84) has a title page inscribed "Mr(?) Baldwin, Dutch Harbor, Unalaska / Compliments of A. L. Broadbent." These photographs all have manuscript captions in ink, presumably written by Broadbent. Scenes include: Alaskan natives, homes, graves; missionaries and schools; walrus hunting; whaling ships; totem poles; portraits of officers in the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service; Greek and Russian Orthodox churches; the first grand jury in Nome, Alaska; James Gilchrist Swan; and a portrait of photographer A. L. Broadbent.
The other photographs in the collection are a series of Lake Tahoe card photographs; a few views of the logging industry; Kingston, Nevada; homesteaders and miners in Oklahoma; and some portraits. Of note is a portrait of "D. S. Mitchell, Photographer" and his camera and tent in Oklahoma.
Photographers who contributed to this collection include William C. Billington, Alfred Lee Broadbent, F. Davey, Edward De Groff, Charles D. Kirkland, David Sedgley Mitchell, C. H. Shaffner, Julius Ulke, and Raper James Waters.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.
Bear (ship) -- Photographs.
Church buildings -- Photographs.
Grand jury--Alaska -- Photographs.
Hotels -- Photographs.
Indians of North America—Alaska -- Photographs.
Logging -- Photographs.
Missionaries -- Photographs.
Oklahoma—History—Land Rush, 1889 -- Photographs.
Photographers--1880-1890 -- Photographs.
Reindeer -- Photographs.
Sutro Baths (San Francisco, Calif.) -- Photographs.
Totem poles -- Photographs.
Walrus hunting -- Photographs.
Broadbent, A. L. -- Photographs.
Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890 -- Photographs.
Otis, Harrison Gray, 1837-1917 -- Photographs.
Sutter, John Augustus, 1803-1880 -- Photographs.
Swan, James Gilchrist -- Photographs.
Alaska -- Photographs.
Oklahoma -- Photographs.
San Diego (Calif.) -- Photographs.
Siberia (Russia) -- Photographs.
Sitka (Alaska) -- Photographs.
Lake Tahoe, Iowa (Calif. and Nev.) -- Photographs.
Unalaska (Alaska) -- Photographs.
Photographs.
Portraits.

Box 1

Photographs 1-29

Lake Tahoe Series by R.J. Waters, Gold Hill, Nevada

Box 1, Item 1  Emerald Bay; Looking West
Box 1, Item 2  Maggie’s Peaks from Emerald Bay
Box 1, Item 3  Marlett Lake. Source of Virginia City’s water supply
Box 1, Item 4  Fallen Leaf Lake. Altitude 6320 feet. Gilmore’s Glen Alpine, illustrated.
Box 1, Item 5  Tallac Range from Sugar Pine Point
Box 1, Item 6  Lumbering at Lake Tahoe. Loading the truck
Box 1, Item 7  Log chute on the Truckee River. View taken at the moment the log enters the water
Box 1, Item 8  A mountain stream
Box 1, Item 9  Tallac Hotel
Box 1, Item 10  Mckinneys
Box 1, Item 11  Hot springs
Box 1, Item 12  Grand springs, summer
Box 1, Item 13  Grand Central, winter
California scenes: various

Box 1, Item 14  Rodeo at San Diego, California in early 80's [1880s]
Box 1, Item 15  [Men, women, and children at wooden structures in desert. C.H. Shaffner, photographer]
Box 1, Item 16  Swimmers in the Sutro Baths [W.C. Billington, photographer]

Western Scenes

Box 1, Item 17  Cowboy [C.D. Kirkland, photographer]
Box 1, Item 18  Oklahoma views: Hunting a claim [Man in suit and hat with packhorse. Mitchell and De Groff, photographers]
Box 1, Item 19  Breaking land in Oklahoma [Two men with oxen plowing field.]
Box 1, Item 20  Boomers in Oklahoma [Men, women, and children crossing field in oxen-pulled covered wagons]
Box 1, Item 21  [Three men and child in front of wooden shed. Mitchell and De Groff, photographers]
Box 1, Item 22  [D.S. Mitchell's photography tent with two men in front. Mitchell and De Groff, photographers]
Box 1, Item 23  [Group of civil engineers and surveyors]

Portraits

Box 1, Item 24  General [John A.] Sutter [Julius Ulke, photographer]
Box 1, Item 25  John A. Sutter [Photo by Shew's Pioneer Gallery]
Box 1, Item 26  Harrison Gray Otis Brig. Gen. U.S. [Rest of caption unknown due to tear] [F. Davey, photographer]
Box 1, Item 27  General [John C.] Fremont

Kingston, Nevada

Box 1, Item 28  West Main St. Kingston, Lander County, Nevada. About twenty-five miles from Austin. Ghost town. Flourished from about 1864 to 1869. See history of Nevada, edited by M. Angel; Thompson West, 1881, page 473.
Box 1, Item 29  [Does not exist]

Photographs 30-84

Box 2, Item 30  Whaling bark “Hunter”. Arctic Ocean.
Box 2, Item 31  Windom [Wynham] Glacier, Taku Inlet, Alaska
Box 2, Item 32  Revenue cutter fleet at Unalaska. July 4, 1895.
Box 2, Item 33  Officers of the Revenue Cutter fleet, 1895.
Box 2, Item 34  Reindeer station at Port Clarence, Alaska
Box 2, Item 35  The “Bear” in the ice off King’s Island
Box 2, Item 36  Officers of Her Majesties’ Ship “Pheasant”, 1895
Box 2, Item 37  Esquimo [Eskimo] reception day on the “Bear,” Arctic Ocean
Box 2, Item 38  Indian River, near Sitka, Alaska
Box 2, Item 39  Indian women curio sellers refuse to have their photographs taken. Sitka, Alaska
Box 2, Item 40  Judge [James Gilchrist] Swan’s office and Indian curios. Port Townsend, Wash. [Washington]
Box 2, Item 41  Greek church [Sts. Peter and Paul Church], St. Paul Island
Box 2, Item 42  Reindeer on the beach, Siberia
Box 2, Item 43  Skowles village at Nass Bay, Alaska
Walrus scull [skull] house at Cape Prince of Wales
Scenery from Portage Bay, Alaska
Indian mission schools at Sitka, Alaska
View near St. Paul, Kadriack
“Concord.” Capt. [Caspar F.] Goodrich, 1894
Dutch Harbor. Unalaska Island
Chilkat post office, Col. Rapinski P.M. and Pilot Keene.
Indian Ranche [Ranch?], Sitka, Alaska
St. Michael, Alaska
Alaska Commercial Co.’s post at St. Michael, Alaska
Port Simpson, B.C. [British Colombia]
Mount Edgecombe [Edgecumbe], near Sitka, Alaska
Group of Indians at New Metlakatla, Port Chester, Annette Island, Alaska. [Native men in Caucasian dress, one man with camera]
Attu [Island]
Totem poles, Fort Wrangell, Alaska
Mission school children, Unalaska
Unga
Public buildings, Sitka, Alaska
Lieut. White. R.C.S. [Revenue Cutter Service]
Hoisting a walrus carcass aboard the “Bear”
Lieut. M.C. Connell
Baldwin and Nice
Lieut. [Alfred Lee] Broadbent. R.C.S. [Revenue Cutter Service]
Esquimo [Eskimo] camp scene, Port Clarence, Alaska
Siberian woman with child asleep
Grave totem, Hoonia [Hoonah], Alaska
Town on St. George Island
Haines Mission School, Chilkoot, Alaska
Tuck’s Mission School. Unalaska
Old Russian block house, St. Michael, Alaska
Unalaska
Salmon cannery, Alaska
Unalaska Brass Band
Old Russian church and custom house, Unalaska
Mission school house and natives, Cape Prince of Wales
The town on St. Paul Island. Bering Sea
Sitka, from the top of the old castle
Esquimo [Eskimo] summer house, St. Matthew’s Island
First Grand Jury at Nome, Alaska