Guide to the Zan Stark Collection M1816

Department of Special Collections and University Archives
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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Title: Zan Stark collection
creator: Stark, Alexander J. (Zan), 1889-1967
Identifier/Call Number: M1816
Physical Description: 11.25 Linear Feet (15 boxes, 2 cartons)
Date (inclusive): circa 1935-1955
Access to Collection
Open for research. Note that material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use.
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
This collection was purchased by Stanford University, Special Collections in 2011.
Preferred Citation
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Related Materials
The Marin County Free Library holds the Alexander 'Zan' Stark Collection, c.1933-1955 (http://contentdm.marinlibrary.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/zan) which contains negatives from his Marin County/Muir Woods/Mount Tamalpais series.
Scope and Contents
The collection comprises over 3,000 real photo postcards and photographic negatives, a large portion of the output of Alexander J. Stark, a Mill Valley-based photographer who published under the name “Zan.” Postcards and photographs focus on Northern California, circa 1935-1955, and depict scenes of nature, travel destinations including vacation & historical attractions, architecture, bridges, and various street & cityscapes. All images are in black and white, and most are captioned. Many of the postcards appear to have been removed from Zan's scrapbooks, and for the most part his ordering has been retained. However, most numbered series contain gaps or numbers used more than once, and images are also re-used with new numbers in some cases. Postcard numberings also may not relate to their respective negative, if present. More detailed descriptions of the postcards can be found below.
Biographical / Historical
Alexander J. "Zan" Stark (1889-1967) was a Michigan-born photographer who moved to San Francisco, California around 1914, where he established a photography and lantern slide business under the name Xan Stark, Alta Studios. In the early 1920s Stark produced at least three volumes of photographs of female nudes in an "Alta Art Studies" series. Stark moved to Mill Valley in the mid-20s and operated a studio at 324 Miller Avenue. He produced thousands of photographic postcards under the name "Zan of Tamalpais" through early 1950s. Zan photographed extensively throughout Northern California, as well as in Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, and elsewhere. He was the official photographer of the Redwood Empire Association beginning in 1936, and many of the postcards bear the Association's name. Much of his work appears to have been on a promotional basis, capturing roadside attractions, hotels, resorts & restaurants, and natural wonders such as Yosemite and the redwoods. Along with his son, Stark was also involved with local politics and journalism. Around 1953 Stark moved to Boyes Hot Springs where he remained until his death in 1967.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Postcards.
Photographs.
Photography -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area
Photography -- California.
California -- Description and travel -- Views.
Stark, Alexander J. (Zan), 1889-1967
Postcards

box 1, folder 1  #1-41
Scope and Contents
16 un-numbered postcards of Robles del Rio, California, one postcard numbered 41, captioned "Sphinx, Mt. Tam and Muir Woods Ry."

box 1, folder 2  A
Scope and Contents
"A" prefixed postcards of Southern California, especially Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Barbara, Balboa Island, and San Luis Obispo.

box 1, folder 3  B
Scope and Contents
4 un-numbered Big Basin
1 un-numbered & uncaptioned man panning for gold
B series B1-8, 12, 14-16 Monte Rio, Russian River B23 un-numbered Sebastopol
BF series BF 1,2, 4-9 Bill Flynn’s Top-o-the-World Ranch, Glen Ellen, Calif.
BH 2, 4 Bridge Haven, Russian River
BS series BS 1-12 Boyes Hot Springs
Zan B1-13 (some un-numbered) San Francisco, esp. Cliff House, Sutro Baths & Pacific Curio Shop in Fisherman’s Wharf

box 1, folder 4  Bear
Scope and Contents
Bear [Bear Photo Co.?] postcards numbered 500, 504, 505, 506, 507, 511, 512, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 523. Oakland and University of California, Berkeley

box 1, folders 5-6  C
Scope and Contents
Zan C1-137. Lake County: Austin’s Resort, Adams Springs, Loch Lomond, Whispering Pines, Cobb, Middletown, etc. Some Zan-C numbers filed under "Hobergs"
C1, 6-8 un-numbered, one captioned Coloma, Calif.
C1, 13, 16 Castlewood Country Club

box 1, folder 7  Composers
Scope and Contents
Portraits of Western classical composers

box 1, folder 8  C.H. and C.C.
Scope and Contents
Confusion Hill (near Garberville), Curious Canyon (AKA the Mystery Spot, near Santa Cruz)

box 1, folder 9  E
Scope and Contents
Zan E1-75 Petaluma, Sebastopol, Bridge Haven, Santa Rosa, Boyes Hot Springs, Sonoma, Glen Ellen, Healdsburg, other nature & coast
EL1-3 Elk Creek Lodge, O’Brien, Oregon
4 un-numbered Buena Vista Winery, Sonoma
box 1, folder 10  **G, H and Hawaii**  
Scope and Contents  
G3 un-numbered menu postcard, The Glad Hand, Sausalito  
G4 un-numbered menu postcard, The Farm Hand, Russian River  
aprox. 30 un-numbered Hawaii  
HS2,5,6,11 un-numbered California Hot Springs  

box 1, folder 11  **Hobergs**  
Scope and Contents  
AKA Hobergs in the Pines.  
H2-36 (some gaps) un-numbered  
Zan C54-56, 69, 71, 73, 75  

box 2, folder 1  **K and Lazy T**  
Scope and Contents  
K1-39 Mendocino County: Albion, Navarro rivers, Noyo Harbor, Mendocino, Little River  
KL 1-4 Kiami Lodge, Scottsdale, Arizona  
2-10 Lazy T Ranch, Joseph, Oregon  
Zan L99 Adam's Springs, Lake County  

box 2, folder 2  **Marine life**  
Scope and Contents  
5 un-numbered postcards from Steinhart Aquarium, California Academy of Sciences.  

box 2, folder 3  **Misc.**  
Scope and Contents  
Many stamped or printed Ed Wood Post Card Co., Forestville, California. Includes  
Plymouth, Mass., Russian River, Paradise, Carmel, Robles del Mar, Clear Lake Highlands,  
Calistoga, uncaptioned motels, etc.  

box 2, folder 4  **M and N**  
Scope and Contents  
Zan M1-20 Mystery Spot, Santa Cruz  
M358 Mountain Home Inn  
M402, 405, 408, 409 San Francisco: Cliff House, Sutro's, Playland  
Zan N1-72 Napa, St. Helena, Vallejo, Mare Island, Lake Hennessey/Conn Dam, Yountville,  
Angwin  

box 2, folder 5  **MW and Mck**  
Scope and Contents  
"MW" un-numbered Mark West Resort, Santa Rosa  
"Mck" McKenzie Guest Ranch, Clio  

box 2, folders 6-7  **R**  
Scope and Contents  
Zan R-160, 165, 167, 184, 195-198 Forest of Arden Resort, Redwood Highway, Miranda  
201-219 Bodega Bay  
301-393 Calistoga, Mt. Saint Helena, hot springs, St. Helena, Napa Valley, Conn Lake,  
Beringer Winery, Angwin  
400-475 Clearlake Highlands, Lake County, Kelseyville, Clear Lake, Austin's Resort,  
Larson's Resort, El Cielito Resort, Edgewater Resort, Middletown, Whispering Pines Resort  
502-507 Russian River, Sonoma County
box 2, folder 8  Richardson Grove
Scope and Contents
Richardson Grove, Redwood Highway. 5 un-numbered postcards, four containing 4 images each and one possibly unrelated.

box 2, folder 9  RR
Scope and Contents
Rough & Ready, California
RR1-26 un-numbered postcards, many reproducing historical images

box 2, folders 10-11  S
Scope and Contents
S1-201 Geyserville, Valley of the Moon, Glen Ellen, Boyes Hot Springs, Sonoma, Sebastopol, Russian River, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Jenner, Healdsburg, Bridge Haven, Rio Nido Beach & Resort, Johnson's Beach, Cloverdale, Mark West Resort, Santa Rosa, Mirabel Park, Summer Home Park, Cazanoma Lodge, Keefer's Cove, Hilton Beach, Drake’s Beach, Cazadero Creek, Elk Grove Resort, Forest Hills Beaches, Forestville, Hacienda Beach, Russian River Terrace Beach, Tyken's Resort, Occidental, lumber, apple orchard, Roland's Beach

box 2, folder 12  SF
Scope and Contents
San Francisco Bay Area, 12 un-numbered postcards, four images per postcard.

box 2, folder 13  Sherrod
Scope and Contents
Sherrod Studio 1-61 Feather River, Paradise, Sterling City, De Sabla

box 3, folders 1-3  Y
Scope and Contents

box 3, folder 4  Zan 1-199
Scope and Contents
Zan 1-11 plus one un-numbered: Confusion Hill Zan 59, 188: Yosemite

box 3, folder 5  Zan 200's
Scope and Contents
Zan 266 San Francisco
Zan 296, 297, 299 University of California, Berkeley (see also 201-219 Bodega Bay in R series)
Postcards

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box 3, folder 6  Zan 300s
Scope and Contents
Zan/Zʃ 301-399 University of California, Berkeley, Lake Merritt, Oakland, Santa Rosa, San Francisco, Pacific Grove, Carmel/Carmel by the Sea, Monterey, Lake Idell, Glen Ellen, Monte Rio, Redwood Highway bridge over Klamath, Prairie Creek State Park, Petaluma
Zan 330-339 Pacific Union College, Angwin

box 3, folder 7  Zan 400's
Scope and Contents
Zan/Zʃ 400-498 Monterey, San Francisco, Prairie Creek Park, Garberville, Salinas, Klamath, Old Hearst Ranch, Rancho Hacienda, Pleasanton, Redwood Highway, Hawleywood Heights, Eldridge, Tan Oak Park, Mt. Hermon, Santa Clara, Sonoma

box 4, folder 1  Zan 500's
Scope and Contents
Zan 500-599 Sonoma, Yosemite, Old Hearst Ranch, Pleasanton, Patrick's Point, Redwood Highway, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Eldridge Berkeley, Klamath River, University of California, Berkeley, Angelo's, Monte Rio, El Rancho Mesom, Willits, Colusa, La Honda, Cummings, St. Helena, San Francisco, Salinas, Prairie Creek State Park, Calistoga, Big Tree Park, Santa Cruz, Skeleton Park, Klamath Glen, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Crescent City

box 4, folder 2  Zan 600's
Scope and Contents
Zan 600-699 Prairie Creek Park, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, Morro Bay, Redwood Highway, Yosemite, Wonderland Redwood Park, Old Adobe, Sonoma, Vallejo, Pismo Beach, Santa Lucia Inn, Salinas, Underwood Park, Skeleton Park, Clam Beach, Stewart, Nevada

box 4, folder 3  Zan 700's
Scope and Contents
Zan 700-792 Stewart, Nevada, San Francisco, Golden Gate Park, Hornitos, Yosemite, O'Shaughnessy Dam, Hetch-Hetchy, Vallejo Adobe, Sonoma, Eureka, Petaluma, Golden Gate Bridge, Cloverdale, Woodland Villa, Requa, Redwood Highway, Treasure Island, Eel River, Lane's Redwood Flat, Underwood Park, Wolf Creek Tavern, Wolf Creek, Oregon, Golden, Oregon, Nevada

box 4, folder 4  Zan 800's
Scope and Contents
Zan 800-899 Tan Oak Park, Reynold's Redwoods, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Vallejo residence, Sonoma, Sacramento, Carquinez Bridge, Crockett, San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, Treasure Island, Beringer Bros. Winery, St. Helena, Redcrest Motor Inn, Highway 101

box 4, folder 5  Zan 900's
Scope and Contents
Zan 900-997 Jack London Ranch, Wolf House, San Francisco, Sonoma, Patrick's Creek, Riverview Ranch, Piercy, Santa Cruz, 17 Mile Drive, Vallejo, Martinez, Calistoga, Orick

box 4, folder 6  Zan 1000's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1001-1096 Monte Rio, Russian River, San Francisco, Merced County figs, Calistoga, Napa Valley, Mt. St. Helena, Laurman's Edgewater Resort, Clear Lake, Oakland, Dann Creek Park, Redwood Highway, Big Basin, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Tan Oak Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Fetter's Springs, Boyes Hot Springs, Valley of the Moon
box 4, folder 7  
Zan 1100's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1103-1199 Sonoma, Redwood Highway, Eel River, San Francisco, Napa, Golden Gate Park, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Russian River, Guerneville, Monte Rio, Guerneville Park, Calistoga, St. Helena, Veterans Home of California

box 4, folder 8  
Zan 1200's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1202-1299 San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, Sonoma, Eldridge, Southern Pacific-Golden Gate Ferries, San Joaquin Valley, University of California, Berkeley, River Inn, Big Sur, Redwood Camp, Pfeiffer Grove, Carmel, San Francisco, Tan Oak Park, Redwood Highway, Pierson Wonder Valley Ranch, Del Pietra

box 4, folder 9  
Zan 1300's
box 5, folder 1  
Zan 1400's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1401-1499 San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, San Francisco, Golden Gate Bridge, Redwood Highway, Richardson Grove, Hornitos, Crescent City, Golden Gate Park, Klamath, Lane's Redwood Flat, Cedar Creek Bridge, Big Dam Creek Bridge, Lilley Redwood Park, Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Requa

box 5, folder 2  
Zan 1500's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1500-1597 Golden Gate Bridge, Mission San Carlos De Rio Carmelo, Carmel, Rainbow Bridge, Carmel-San Simeon Highway, Del Monte Lodge, Pebble Beach, San Francisco, Mission San Juan Batista, San Juan, Monte Rio, Russian River, Rio Nido, Villa Grande, Redwood Highway, Richardson Grove, La Honda, Redwood Terraces, Sonoma, Eureka

box 5, folder 3  
Zan 1600's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1600-1699 Eureka, Bull Creek Flat, Redwood Highway, La Honda, Boyes Hot Springs, Santa Cruz Big Trees, Ben Lomond, Cuesta La Honda Lake, Brookdale, Brookdale Lodge, Lane's Redwood Flat, Prairie Creek State Park, Richardson Grove, Monterey, San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, San Francisco

box 5, folder 4  
Zan 1700's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1700-1739 San Francisco, Golden Gate Bridge, Golden Gate Park, Sonoma, Redwood Highway, Trinidad Head, Glen Ellen, Salinas, Carmel by the Sea, Point Lobos

box 5, folder 5  
Zan 1800's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1802-1816 Five postcards of Yosemite, one portrait of John Muir

box 5, folder 6  
Zan 1900's
Scope and Contents
Zan 1911, 1915, 1918 Yosemite

box 5, folder 7  
Zan 2000s
Scope and Contents
Zan 2013-2043 Pismo Beach, Shell Beach, Morro Beach, Mission San Luis Obispo; Zan 2095 Wawona Tree
Postcards

**Zan 2,200's**

Scope and Contents
Zan 2232-2234 Weott, Redwood Highway; Zan 2265-2267 Pacific Union College, Angwin; Zan 2270-2288 Trees of Mystery Park, Redwood Highway

**Zan 2,300's**

Scope and Contents
Zan 2306-2399 Grundy's Redwood Terraces, Redwood Highway, Eel River, Shangri-La near Willits, Cummings, Bishop Pine Lodge, Orick, Pacific Union College, Angwin, Prairie Creek State Park, Monte Rio, Russian River, Jenner by the Sea

[note: postcards w/ 2300#'s are actually mis-numbered- they correspond to 2,300 # Series]

**Zan 2,400's**

Scope and Contents
Zan 2400-2499 Monte Rio, Redwood Highway, Cazadero, Santa Cruz, Prairie Creek State Park, Klamath River, Mills Field - San Francisco Airport, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, Golden Gate Bridge, Brookdale Lodge, Brookdale, Santa Cruz Big Trees, Shangri-La, Willits, Forest of Arden Resort, Miranda, Lilley Redwood Park, San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, Crescent City

**Zan 2,500's**

Scope and Contents
Zan 741, K2, 4-9 (#2501-2509 negatives) Stanford University; Zan 2510-2596 San Francisco, Totem Pole Park, Crescent City, Pleasure Court, Willits, Unique Log House Museum, Garberville, Golden Gate Park, Armstrong Grove, Guerneville, Murphy's Guest Ranch, Villa Grande, Russian River, Shangri-La, Riverview Inn, Monte Rio, Angelo's Beach Casino, Prairie Creek State Park, New Hartsook Inn, Redwood Highway, Empire Modern Camp, Tales of Mystery Park

**Negatives**

- Box 6: Negatives: A1 - E74
- Box 7: Negatives: E47 - N57
- Box 8: Negatives: N58 - S75
- Box 9: Negatives: S77 - Y217
- Box 10: Negatives: Y218 - Z410
- Box 11: Negatives: Z411 - Z1030
- Box 12: Negatives: Z1034 - Z1550
- Box 13: Negatives: Z1551 - Z2270
- Box 14: Negatives: Z2271 - Z2596 (incl. unnumbered and random negatives)

**Sleeves**

- Box 15: Empty negative sleeves (no order)
- Box 16: Empty negative sleeves (no order)
- Box 17: Empty negative sleeves (no order)