Title: Edward W. Cochems photographs
Identifier/Call Number: MS.R.016
Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 8.2 Linear feet(23 boxes and 1 oversize folder)
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1919-1949
Date (inclusive): circa 1919-1980 and undated
Abstract: This collection is comprised of approximately 1,200 photographs taken by Edward William Cochems, a prominent commercial photographer in Santa Ana, California, between ca. 1919-ca. 1949. The images are principally views of Southern California, primarily Orange County locations. Areas receiving the most coverage include San Juan Capistrano, Del Mar, the Irvine Ranch (80 images), Laguna Beach (120 images), the Rosicrucians monastery (Oceanside, California), San Luis Rey Mission, and Santa Ana (55 images). There are approximately 40 studio portraits by Cochems in the collection. Approximately 130 images are of unidentified subjects. Individual photographs are undated.
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/items/ark:/13030/tf867nb584
Creator: Cochems, Edward W. (Edward William), 1874-1949
Access
The collection is open for research.
Researchers must use copy negatives and prints when available.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Date accessed.
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.
Acquisition Information
Gifts of Eldon McNeil (negatives) and Adeline Cochems Walker (Mrs. Weston Walker, daughter of E.W. Cochems; Laguna Beach and family photographic prints), 1968-1969.
Processing History
Biography
Edward W. Cochems was born in Chicago on October 13, 1874 and died in Orange, California, on July 31, 1949 at the age of 74. He married Emma Glaser of Chicago, Illinois, on October 14, 1902; they had one daughter, Adeline, born on July 10, 1904.
Cochems came to Orange County from Los Angeles in 1915, where he had collaborated with Henry Hauser since 1912 in the operation of the following community newspapers: Artesia News, Bellflower Herald, a newspaper in Downey and the Buena Park Herald. A self-taught photographer, he operated his own commercial photography business, "Cochems the Photographer," in four different Santa Ana locations between 1915 and ca. 1947. His firm specialized in commercial photography, though he was engaged in making motion pictures and served as photography instructor from 1939-1944 for the adult education program at Lathrop Junior High School.
Cochems was involved in many civic and fraternal organizations, including IOOF (Odd Fellows), Knights of Pythias, Moose Lodge, Santa Ana Breakfast Club, and others. He formed the first Association of Photographers in Santa Ana and was its first President. He held a life membership in the Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Laguna Beach Art Association. Additional biographical information, including essays written by Cochems and by his daughter Adeline, is on file.
Alternative Forms of Material
A selection of images from this collection has been digitized and is available in Calisphere.
Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection is comprised of approximately 1,200 photographs taken by Edward William Cochems, a prominent commercial photographer in Santa Ana, California, between ca. 1919-ca. 1949. The images are principally views of
Southern California, primarily Orange County locations. Areas receiving the most coverage include San Juan Capistrano, Del Mar, the Irvine Ranch (80 images), Laguna Beach (120 images), the Rosicrucians monastery (Oceanside, California), San Luis Rey Mission, and Santa Ana (55 images). There are approximately 40 studio portraits by Cochems in the collection. Approximately 130 images are of unidentified subjects. Individual photographs are undated.

A selection of images from this collection has been digitized and is available in Calisphere.

Collection Arrangement

This collection is organized in three series:

Series 2. Negatives, ca. 1919-ca. 1949. 5.2 linear ft.

Series 1. Photographic prints is arranged in two subseries:

Subseries 1.1. Copy prints, 1913-circa 1949. 2.3 linear ft.
Subseries 1.2. Vintage prints, circa 1919-1969. 0.7 linear ft.

Series 2. Negatives is arranged in two subseries:

Subseries 2.1. Copy negatives, ca. 1919-ca. 1949. 0.8 linear ft.
Subseries 2.2. Original negatives, ca. 1919-ca. 1949. 4.4 linear ft.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

McNeil, Eldon
Mission San Juan Capistrano -- Photographs.
San Luis Rey Mission (Calif.) -- Photographs.
Walker, Adeline Cochems, former owner.
Negatives -- California -- Orange County.
Photographers -- California -- Orange County.
Photographic prints -- California -- Orange County.
Rosicrucians -- California -- Oceanside -- Photographs.
Santa Ana (Calif.) -- Photographs.

Photographic prints Series 1. 1913-1969

Physical Description: 3.0 linear ft.

Alternative Forms of Materials
Select prints have been digitized and are available for research in Calisphere.

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series is comprised largely of copy prints of photographs taken by Cochems that were produced by the Huntington Library for the University of California, Irvine Libraries in 1969. It also includes vintage prints of Cochems photographs, including ones given to the Libraries in 1969 by Cochems' daughter, Mrs. Weston Walker. All descriptive information presented in this guide in square brackets was supplied in the late 1960s by Mrs. Walker.

Select items are available for research in Calisphere.

Series Arrangement

This series is organized in two subseries:

Subseries 1.1. Copy prints, ca. 1919-ca. 1949. 2.3 linear ft.
Subseries 1.2. Vintage prints, ca. 1919-ca. 1949. 0.7 linear ft.
Copy prints Subseries 1.1. 1913-circa 1949

Physical Description: 2.3 linear ft.

Alternative Forms of Materials
Select prints have been digitized and are available for research in Calisphere.

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
This subseries contains copy prints from the original 5" x 7" glass negatives. It also includes 8" x 10" copy prints made from the approximately 50 8" x 10" glass negatives in the collection, which are duplicates of some of the 5" x 7" images. Dates are not included on the negatives; therefore, the dates for these images are largely unknown. Dates given below were transcribed from original negative enclosures. The copy prints were produced in 1969 by the Huntington Library for the University of California, Irvine Libraries.

Select items are available for research in Calisphere.

Subseries Arrangement
The subseries is arranged alphabetically by the geographic location of the pictures and then by item number.

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- Looking toward ocean from canyon 2.
- Looking toward ocean 3.
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Vintage prints Subseries 1.2. circa 1919-1969

Physical Description: 0.7 linear ft.

Alternative Forms of Materials

Select prints have been digitized and are available for research in Calisphere.

Subseries Scope and Content Summary

This subseries contains vintage 5" x 7" and 8" x 10" prints of photographs by Cochems that document various Orange County locales and buildings, and members of the Cochems family. The prints are mostly undated and unnumbered. The subseries also includes a poster for an exhibit of Cochems' photographs held at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana in 1969.

Select items are available for research in Calisphere.

Subseries Arrangement

The subseries is arranged alphabetically by the geographic location of the pictures. A group of pictures donated by Cochems' daughter, filed separately and identified as the "Walker gift," is topically arranged.

Folder XOS 1

Poster for Cochems exhibit held at Bowers Museum 1969

Vintage prints

Folder XOS 1

Aliso Creek beach, panoramic photograph

Laguna Beach

Physical Description: 56 images.

Folder XOS 1

Laguna Beach, paste-up for advertisement for the Sandwich Mill

San Juan Capistrano

Physical Description: 13 images.

Box 6, Folder 11

San Juan Capistrano, duplicates of copy prints #653, 655, and 659

Physical Description: 4 images.

Folder XOS 1

San Juan Capistrano Mission, panoramic photograph

Santa Ana and Orange (churches)

Physical Description: 7 images.

Box 7, Folder 1

Santa Ana Canyon, Prado Dam area

Physical Description: 60 images.

Box 7, Folder 2

Schools

Physical Description: 44 images.

Box 7, Folder 3

Vintage prints (Walker gift)

Laguna Beach

Physical Description: 33 images.

Box 7, Folder 4

Portraits of Cochems family and others, and unidentified landscapes

Physical Description: 8 images.

Box 7, Folder 5

Street scenes, landscapes and buildings, including Irvine Park and Santiago Creek

Physical Description: 25 images.

Box 7, Folder 6
Negatives Series 2. circa 1919-circa 1949

Physical Description: 5.2 linear ft.

Access
Researchers must use copy negatives.

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series consists of the negatives for photographs taken by Cochems and includes both copy negatives produced by the Huntington Library for the University of California, Irvine Libraries in 1969, and the original glass and film negatives. All extant original negatives have been printed. There are two negatives missing in the numbering sequence. There was neither a negative nor a print in the collection for numbers 39 and 937. The original negative sleeve for number 39 contained only a “see also” reference to San Juan Capistrano Mission, while the original negative sleeve for 937 contained a note indicating that it was the same as number 8A (Anaheim).

Series Arrangement
This series is organized in two subseries:
Subseries 2.1. Copy negatives, ca. 1919-ca. 1949. 0.8 linear ft.
Subseries 2.2. Original negatives, ca. 1919-ca. 1949. 4.4 linear ft.

Copy negatives Subseries 2.1. circa 1919-circa 1949

Physical Description: 0.8 linear ft.

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
This subseries contains copy negatives produced for the Libraries by the Huntington Library in 1969.

Subseries Arrangement
Copy negatives are arranged by item number, which corresponds to the numbering of prints in Subseries 1.1. Copy prints.

Box 8  Negatives 1-325
Box 9  Negatives 326-625
Box 10  Negatives 626-950
Box 11  Negatives 951-1146

Original negatives Subseries 2.2. circa 1919-circa 1949

Physical Description: 4.4 linear ft.

Access
Researchers must use copy negatives.

Subseries Scope and Content Summary
This subseries contains original glass and film negatives, both 5” x 7” and 8” x 10.”

Subseries Arrangement
Negatives are arranged by item number, which corresponds to the numbering of prints in Subseries 1.1. Copy prints.

5” x 7” negatives

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Box 14  Negatives 200-370
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Box 17  Negatives 585-719
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Box 19  Negatives 830-979
Box 20  Negatives 980-1084
Box 21  
**Negatives 1085-1146**  
8" x 10" negatives

Box 22  
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Box 23  
**Negatives 429-430, 434, 477, 654-655, 732-734, 938-939, 941-944, 946-953, 955-963, 1037**

Box 4, Folder 11  
**Biographical documents and ephemera**  
Series 3. 1924, 1968, 1980 and undated

- **Physical Description:** 1 folder.
- **Series Scope and Content Summary**
  This series includes biographical essays and factsheets written by Cochem's daughter, a print advertisement for the Santa Ana studio of "Cochems, The Photographer," and an essay by Cochems entitled "How I Won My Way Back to Health with Photography."
- **Series Arrangement**
  This series is arranged chronologically with undated items filed at the end.