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## **Finding Aid for the Albert Boni Collection of Material about Photography, ca. 1840-1983**

Processed by K. Lopaty; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé

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## Finding Aid for the Albert Boni Collection of Material about Photography, ca. 1840-1983

### Collection number: 1046

UCLA Library Special Collections  
UCLA Library Special Collections staff

Los Angeles, CA

Processed by:

K. Lopaty, May 1975

Encoded by:

Caroline Cubé

Online finding aid edited by:

Josh Fiala, February 2004

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Albert Boni Collection of Material about Photography,

**Date (inclusive):** ca. 1840-1983

**Collection number:** 1046

**Creator:** Boni, Albert, 1892-

**Extent:** 14 boxes (7 linear ft.)

**Repository:** University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

**Abstract:** Albert Boni (1892-1981) originated the idea of a very small format for abridged classics called "The Little Leather Library," which were sold through Woolworth's (1914). He sold the book shop in 1917 and joined Horace Liveright to form the Boni-Liveright Publishing Company, which introduced the "Modern Library of the World's Best Classics". In 1923, he and his brother founded a firm which introduced "Boni Paper Books" and sold them by mail-order subscription; the firm also published such controversial and influential writers as Marcel Proust, Colette, D.H. Lawrence, and Upton Sinclair. The collection consists of pamphlets, journal articles, bibliographies, catalogs, a scrapbook, notebooks, ephemera, photostats, photographs, and negatives relating to photography. Includes materials about technical processes and Boni's compilation, *A guide to the literature of photography and related subjects*.

**Physical location:** Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

**Language:** English.

### Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

Property rights to the physical object belong to the UCLA Library Special Collections. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where The UC Regents do not hold the copyright.

### Restrictions on Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

### Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Albert Boni, 1965-1974.

Gift of William F. Boni, 1983.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Albert Boni Collection of Material about Photography (Collection 1046). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

### UCLA Catalog Record ID

UCLA Catalog Record ID: [4230398](#)

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## Biography

Boni was born in 1892 in New York City; attended Harvard University; in 1912, with his brother Charles, he established the Washington Square Book Shop, a gathering place for Bohemian intellectuals; about 1914 originated the idea of a very small format for abridged classics called "The Little Leather Library," which were sold through Woolworth's; sold the book shop in 1917 and joined Horace Liveright to form the Boni-Liveright Publishing Company, which introduced the "Modern Library of the World's Best Classics"; in 1923 he and his brother founded a firm which introduced "Boni Paper Books" and sold them by mail-order subscription; the firm also published such controversial and influential writers as Marcel Proust, Colette, D.H. Lawrence, and Upton Sinclair; the firm finally failed with the depression, and Boni later created the Readex Microprint Corporation; he died on July 13, 1981 in Ormond Beach, Florida.

## Scope and Content

Collection consists of pamphlets, journal articles, bibliographies, catalogs, a scrapbook, notebooks, ephemera, photostats, photographs, and negatives relating to photography. Includes materials about technical processes and Boni's compilation, *A guide to the literature of photography and related subjects*. Also includes photographs relating to Louis Daguerre, Claude Niépce de Saint-Victor, and William Henry Fox Talbot.

## Indexing Terms

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

## Subjects

Boni, Albert, 1892- --Archives.

Publishers and publishing--United States--Archival resources.

Photography--Archival resources.

## Related Material

[Albert and Charles Boni, Incorporated Records \(Collection 1462\)](#) . Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

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Box 1	<b>Pamphlets re photography and the chemistry of photography.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> (5 folders). <b>Scope and Content Note</b> English and foreign language publications.
Box 2, Folder 1	<b>Pamphlets re photography and the chemistry of photography.</b> <b>Scope and Content Note</b> English and foreign language publications.
Box 2, Folder 2	<b>Pamphlets re color-photography.</b>
Box 2, Folder 3	<b>Pamphlets re x-rays.</b>
Box 2, Folder 4	<b>Pamphlets re moving-pictures.</b>
Box 2, Folder 5	<b>Pamphlets concerning microfilm and photostats.</b>
Box 2, Folder 6	<b>Miscellaneous catalogs concerning photography and photographic equipment (Dealers').</b>
Box 3, Folder 1	<b><i>A guide to the literature of photography and related subjects</i>. Compiled by Albert Boni. New York: Morgan &amp; Lester, 1944.</b> <b>Creator/Collector:</b> Boni, Albert <b>Physical Description:</b> 2 copies. (Supplement no.18 for Photo-Lab-Index)
Box 3, Folder 2	<b>Pyroxylin photographic and cinematograph films - patents.</b>
Box 3, Folder 3	<b>Pyroxylin photographic and cinematograph films - bibliography.</b>

Box 3, Folder 4	<p><b>Holograph letter to John A. Tennant.</b>  <b>Creator/Collector:</b> Brown, George Edward  <b>Scope and Content Note</b>  <i>re</i> an article for Photo-Miniature, <i>Who Discovered Photography</i>, together with photographs used to illustrate the article.            Included are photographs relating to Daguerre, Niépce, and Fox-Talbot. Subject entries for these names are in the catalog.</p>
Box 3, Folder 5 Box 3, Folder 6 Box 3, Folder 7	<p><b>Photostats <i>re</i> a Mathew Brade <i>carte-de-visite</i>.</b>  <b>Photomechanical processes - bilbiography of Library of Congress holdings.</b>  <b>Miscellaneous bibliographies concerning photography.</b>  <b>Physical Description:</b> (2 folders).</p>
Box 3, Folder 8 Box 3, Folder 9 Box 3, Folder 10 Box 4, Folder 1 Box 4, Folder 2	<p><b>Correspondence.</b>  <b>Unidentified negatives.</b>  <b>Miscellaneous photographs.</b>  <b><i>The Atlantic</i>. December 1957.</b>  <b>Articles <i>re</i> photography.</b>  <b>Physical Description:</b> Photocopies.</p>
Box 4, Folder 3 Box 4, Folder 4 Box 4, Folder 5 Box 4, Folder 6 Box 4, Folder 7 Box 5, Folder 1	<p><b>Journal articles <i>re</i> photography.</b>  <b>Newspaper clippings <i>re</i> photography and photographers.</b>  <b>Magazine clippings - chiefly various examples of photography.</b>  <b>Miscellaneous ephemera.</b>  <b><i>Daedalus</i>, journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Winter 1960.</b>  <b><i>Aperture</i> (vol.2 no.3-vol.12 no.4) 1953-1965.</b>  <b>Physical Description:</b> 12 issues (2 folders).</p>
Box 5, Folder 2 Box 5, Folder 3	<p><b>Bibliographies concerning photography. Foreign language publications.</b>  <b>Museum of Modern Art, New York. <i>A report on the Film Library, 1941-1956</i> (vol.24, no.1) Fall 1956.</b></p>
Box 5, Folder 4 Box 5, Folder 5 Box 5, Folder 6 Box 5, Folder 7 Box 6	<p><b>Pamphlet on J.S. Mertle's photomechanic collection.</b>  <b>Miscellaneous pamphlets on photographic exhibits.</b>  <b>Pamphlet on photographic spectrum of comet.</b>  <b>List of books and articles by C.E.K. Mees.</b>  <b>Miscellaneous ephemera, camera catalogs, catalogs of photographers supplies and sundries.</b>  <b>Note</b>            Gift of William Boni, 1983.</p>
Box 7 Box 8 Box 8 Box 8 Box 8 Box 9	<p><b>Miscellaneous.</b>  <b>Prints on photography.</b>  <b>Microphotography.</b>  <b>Literature of invention.</b>  <b>Scrapbook with photos.</b>  <b>Scrapbook - photographers.</b>  <b>Physical Description:</b> (2 scrapbooks).</p>
Box 9 Box 9 Box 10 Box 10 Box 10 Box 10 Box 10 Box 10	<p><b>Subject indexes.</b>  <b>Photographers / photographic history.</b>  <b>Photomechanical process.</b>  <b>Diazo type - Ozalid. 1927.</b>  <b>Photography books sold.</b>  <b>Photographers / History of photography.</b>  <b>Aerial photography.</b></p>

Box 10	<b>Tennant notebook.</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> (2 notebooks).
Box 11	<b>"Persons."</b>
Box 11	<b>Physical development.</b>
Box 11	<b>"Collotype."</b>
Box 11	<b>Reprints, bibliographies.</b>
Box 11	<b>Beaumont Newhall checklist.</b>
Box 11	<b>Ephemera.</b>
Boxes 12, 13, 14	<b>Printed material - ephemera, catalogs, articles, technical pamphlets.</b>