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

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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

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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


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
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.

Box 1 Pamphlets re photography and the chemistry of photography.
Physical Description: (5 folders).
Scope and Content Note
English and foreign language publications.

Box 2, Folder 1 Pamphlets re photography and the chemistry of photography.
Scope and Content Note
English and foreign language publications.

Box 2, Folder 2 Pamphlets re color-photography.
Box 2, Folder 3 Pamphlets re x-rays.
Box 2, Folder 4 Pamphlets re moving-pictures.
Box 2, Folder 5 Pamphlets concerning microfilm and photostats.
Box 2, Folder 6 Miscellaneous catalogs concerning photography and photographic equipment (Dealers').

Box 3, Folder 1 A guide to the literature of photography and related subjects. Compiled by Albert Boni.
New York: Morgan & Lester, 1944.
Creator/Collector: Boni, Albert
Physical Description: 2 copies. (Supplement no.18 for Photo-Lab-Index)

Box 3, Folder 2 Pyroxylin photographic and cinematograph films - patents.
Box 3, Folder 3 Pyroxylin photographic and cinematograph films - bibliography.
Box 3, Folder 4  Holograph letter to John A. Tennant.
Creator/Collector: Brown, George Edward
Scope and Content Note
re an article for Photo-Miniature, *Who Discovered Photography*, 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.

Box 3, Folder 5  Photostats re a Mathew Brady carte-de-visite.
Box 3, Folder 6  Photomechanical processes - bibliography of Library of Congress holdings.
Box 3, Folder 7  Miscellaneous bibliographies concerning photography.
Physical Description: (2 folders).

Box 3, Folder 8  Correspondence.
Box 3, Folder 9  Unidentified negatives.
Box 3, Folder 10  Miscellaneous photographs.
Box 4, Folder 1  *The Atlantic*. December 1957.
Box 4, Folder 2  Articles re photography.
Physical Description: Photocopies.

Box 4, Folder 3  Journal articles re photography.
Box 4, Folder 4  Newspaper clippings re photography and photographers.
Box 4, Folder 5  Magazine clippings - chiefly various examples of photography.
Box 4, Folder 6  Miscellaneous ephemera.
Box 5, Folder 1  *Aperture* (vol.2 no.3-vol.12 no.4) 1953-1965.
Physical Description: 12 issues (2 folders).

Box 5, Folder 2  Bibliographies concerning photography. Foreign language publications.
Box 5, Folder 4  Pamphlet on J.S. Mertle’s photomechanic collection.
Box 5, Folder 5  Miscellaneous pamphlets on photographic exhibits.
Box 5, Folder 6  Pamphlet on photographic spectrum of comet.
Box 5, Folder 7  List of books and articles by C.E.K. Mees.
Box 6  Miscellaneous ephemera, camera catalogs, catalogs of photographers supplies and sundries.
Note

Box 7  Miscellaneous.
Box 8  Prints on photography.
Box 8  Microphotography.
Box 8  Literature of invention.
Box 8  Scrapbook with photos.
Box 9  Scrapbook - photographers.
Physical Description: (2 scrapbooks).

Box 9  Subject indexes.
Box 9  Photographers / photographic history.
Box 10  Photomechanical process.
Box 10  Diazotype - Ozalid. 1927.
Box 10  Photography books sold.
Box 10  Photographers / History of photography.
Box 10  Aerial photography.
Box 10  **Tennant notebook.**  
Physical Description: (2 notebooks).

Box 11  “Persons.”
Box 11  **Physical development.**
Box 11  “Collotype.”
Box 11  **Reprints, bibliographies.**
Box 11  **Beaumont Newhall checklist.**
Box 11  **Ephemera.**
Boxes 12, 13, 14  **Printed material - ephemera, catalogs, articles, technical pamphlets.**