Album of carte de visite portraits of 19th-century American political and literary figures, 1860-1869

Processed by Jane Carpenter with assistance from Simon Elliott; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Album of carte de visite portraits of 19th-century American political and literary figures

Date (inclusive): 1860-1869

Collection number: 94/292

Physical Description: 1 album (39 photographic prints on carte de visite mounts): albumen, c 17 x 13 cm (album)

Bound in 19th-century bevelled dark brown pebble-grain leather covers, panelled in blind; gilt spine panels, and gold-stamped spine title "Album" in gothic letters; two large ornamental brass clasps (half of the lower clasp missing); all edges gilt; textured white decorated endpapers.

Spec. Coll. copy: in beige cloth clamshell box, with box label "Brady Portrait Album."

Abstract: Album of carte de visite portraits of political and public figures, probably from the 1860s, most published by E. Anthony or E. and H.T. Anthony, 501 Broadway, New York, from photographic negatives by Mathew B. Brady's studio, Brady's National Portrait Gallery.

Language: Finding aid is written in English.

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

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

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

Restrictions on Access

Open for research. STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Album of carte de visite portraits of 19th-century American political and literary figures (Collection 94/292). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

UCLA Catalog Record ID

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Biography/History

Nineteenth-century American photographer, best known for his portraits and documentation of the American Civil War. Mathew Brady came to New York as a young man of sixteen, worked as a jewelry case designer, and on the side studied photography with various teachers, one of whom was the photography pioneer, Samuel F. B. Morse. He eventually established studios in New York in 1844, and in Washington, D.C. in 1849, and began earning awards for his daguerreotype portraits, and later, his ambrotypes and albumen prints. His studios did a brisk business in producing carte de visite portraits for soldiers about to go to the front, as the Civil War broke out in 1861. Brady set out to document the war, and organized a staff of travelling photographers, including Alexander and James Gardner, T. H. O'Sullivan, T. C. Roche, S. C. Chester, and David Knox, whom he sent out into the field to record the people, places, and battles of the war. Despite his great achievements and prominent place in the history of photography, Brady died alone and impoverished on Jan. 15, 1896. Possible decade of production suggested by year that E. Anthony business moved to 501 Broadway, New York (May 1, 1860), and year that his brother Henry T. Anthony joined him in business (1862), and firm became known as E. and H.T. Anthony.

Scope and Content

Album of carte de visite portraits of political and public figures, probably from the 1860s, most published by E. Anthony or E. and H.T. Anthony, 501 Broadway, New York, from photographic negatives by Mathew B. Brady's studio, Brady's National Portrait Gallery. Most of the portraits are politicians of the era--governors, and U.S. congressmen and senators, such as Thomas Treadwell Davis, and Sidney T. Holmes, congressmen from New York; George Washington Morgan and Martin Welker, U.S. representatives from Ohio; Thomas Hart Benton, U.S. senator from Missouri; Richard Yates, governor, congressman, and senator from Illinois; John A. Nicholson, U.S. representative from Delaware; Roger A. Pryor, who served as Virginia's representative in both the U.S. and Confederate Congresses; Thomas Corwin, U.S. minister to Mexico, and representative to the Ohio and U.S. legislatures; and Henry Clay, who represented Kentucky in both House and Senate, and served as Secretary of State from 1825 to 1829. Other political figures include Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury.
under Lincoln; and Thurlow Weed, newspaper publisher, politician, and party boss, instrumental in the nominations of many American presidential candidates, including Abraham Lincoln. Among the historians and literary figures represented are William Hickling Prescott, and John G. Nicolay, private secretary and biographer of Lincoln; the poet James Russell Lowell, and writer Washington Irving. Other portraits include those of Albert Pike, Confederate Army officer and influential Freemason; Samuel Osgood, Unitarian minister, and editor of the influential Transcendental journal “The Western Messenger;” U.S. Supreme Court justice Joseph Story; newspaper publisher and Western politician, Thomas Jefferson Dryer; and Matías Romero, Mexican minister to the U.S., and advisor to Porfirio Díaz. There is also a photograph of Washington Irving’s home, Sunnyside, a little stone mansion with stepped gables in Tarrytown, N.Y. Although most of the photographs were published by the E. Anthony or E. and H.T. Anthony firms of New York City, at least one bears label of “Geo. S. Tolman Fancy Goods Warehouse, Boston” pasted over the E. Anthony logo.

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

Subjects
Benton, Thomas Hart, 1782-1858.
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873 --Photographs.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852 --Photographs.
Corwin, Thomas, 1794-1865 --Photographs.
Davis, Thomas T. (Thomas Treadwell), 1810-1872 --Photographs.
Dryer, Thomas J. (Thomas Jefferson), b. 1810 --Photographs.
Holmes, Sidney T., 1815-1890 --Photographs.
Irving, Washington, 1783-1859 --Photographs.
Irving, Washington, 1783-1859 --Homes and haunts --Photographs.
Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891 --Photographs.
Nicolay, John G. (John George), 1832-1901 --Photographs.
Osgood, Samuel, 1812-1880 --Photographs.
Pike, Albert, 1809-1891 --Photographs.
Prescott, William Hickling, 1796-1859 --Photographs.
Pryor, Roger A. (Roger Atkinson), 1828-1919 --Photographs.
Romero, Matías, 1837-1898 --Photographs.
Story, Joseph, 1779-1845 --Photographs.
Weed, Thurlow, 1797-1882 --Photographs.
Welker, Martin, b. 1819 --Photographs.
Yates, Richard, 1815-1873 --Photographs.
Sunnyside (Tarrytown, N.Y.) --Photographs.
Politicians --United States --Photographs.
Historians --United States --Photographs.
Judges --United States --Photographs.
Cartes de visite photographs --Specimens.

Genres and Forms of Material
Cartes de visite.
Photographic prints.
Photograph albums.

Related Material
Part of the Photograph Album Collection (Collection 94) in UCLA Library Special Collections.