Photograph album of churches and palaces in Venice, Murano, Padova, and Pisa, 1855-1870

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

**Title:** Photograph album of churches and palaces in Venice, Murano, Padova, and Pisa

**Date (inclusive):** 1855-1870

**Collection number:** 94/44

**Creator:** Ponti, Carlo, photographer.

**Physical Description:** 1 album (24 photographic prints) : albumen, 31 x 44 cm (album)
Photographs are mounted on rectos of leaves of stiff white paper, with printed captions on versos in French, or French and English. The two with bilingual captions also include printed numbers, probably Ponti studio stock numbers. Two photographs are untitled, while three have brief captions added in pencil or pen. Twenty-one leaves bear the embossed stamps “Carlo Ponti Venezia” or “Carlo Ponti. Riva dei Schiavoni. Venezia” while two bear the embossed stamp of Carlo Naya: “Naya. Riva Schiavoni. Venezia.”

Bound in dark green sand-grained book cloth, with black sand-grained cloth spine and corners; light brown endpapers.

Large illustrated bookplate of Oscar Browning on front pastedown, with motto "Labor, content ailleurs, theoria", designed by Simeon Solomon, dated 1870, and wood-engraved by Swain.

Spec. Coll. copy: In modern beige cloth clamshell box with velcro closure; box label reads "Ponti. Venice."

**Abstract:** Architectural views from 1855-1870, by photographers Carlo Ponti and Carlo Naya, of churches, palaces, and piazzas in Venice, Murano, Padua, and Pisa.

**Language:** Finding aid is written in English.

**Language of the Material:** Materials are 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**
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**Preferred Citation**
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**UCLA Catalog Record ID**
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**Biography/History**

Well-known Italian photographer and optician of Swiss descent. After studying in Paris with the optician Chauchoix for ten years, Ponti returned to Italy, and set up a studio in Venice in the early 1850s, where he worked with assistants Giuseppe Bresolio, Fortunato Antonio Perini and Carlo Naya (1816-1882). The photo viewer he patented in 1859, the Megaletoscope, allowed users to see photographs “in color.” He issued his first catalog--architectural views--in 1855, followed by the album, “Ricordi di Venezia,” in 1860, which consisted of 20 views of Venice, individually selected by each customer. Ponti was later appointed photographer to King Victor Emmanuele II.

**Scope and Content**
Six of the large albumen prints are interior and exterior views of the Basilica di San Marco in Venice, including shots of the facade, the bronze doors, main altar and side chapels. There are several photographs of the Palazzo Ducale: two taken from the Piazza San Marco, one a close-up of a 15th-century carved capitel at the north corner. Also included is a photograph of a painting of the great Sala del Maggior Consiglio. The remaining photographs document church exteriors in Venice, Murano, and Padua, including architectural details of carved figures, columns, and arcades, and the Campo Santo in Pisa. Two of the photographs are signed by Carlo Naya: figure of a lion atop a column in Piazza San Marco, and the Chiesa di San Antonio di Padua.

**Contents**

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

Subjects
Basilica di San Marco (Venice, Italy) --Photographs.
Basilica di Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari (Venice, Italy) --Photographs.
Basilica di Sant'Antonio (Padua, Italy) --Photographs.
Basilica dei Santi Maria e Donato (Murano, Italy) --Photographs.
Palazzo ducale (Venice, Italy) --Photographs.
Palazzo Priuli all'Osmarin (Venice, Italy) --Photographs.
Ca' Foscari (Venice, Italy) --Photographs.
Campo santo di Pisa --Photographs.
Church buildings --Italy --Photographs.
Church architecture --Italy --Photographs.
Palaces --Italy --Photographs.
Piazza San Marco (Venice, Italy) --Photographs.
Venice (Italy) --Buildings, structures, etc. --Photographs.
Murano (Italy) --Buildings, structures, etc. --Photographs.
Pisa (Italy) --Buildings, structures, etc. --Photographs.
Padua (Italy) --Buildings, structures, etc. --Photographs.

Genres and Forms of Material
Albumen prints.
Photographic prints.
Photograph albums.

Other Index Terms Related to this Collection
Naya, Carlo.
Browning, Oscar, 1837-1923, former owner.

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