
Historical Society of Southern California -- Charles Prudhomme Collection of Photographs: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Sue Luftschein.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Photo Archives

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

Phone: (626) 405-2191

Email: reference@huntington.org

URL: <http://www.huntington.org>

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Historical Society of Southern California -- Charles Prudhomme Collection of Photographs

Dates (inclusive): 1870s-1933

Bulk dates: 1923-1933

Collection Number: photCL 400 volume 4

Creator: Prudhomme, Charles J., 1854-1934.

Extent: 3 boxes (1.83 linear feet)

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Abstract: The collection consists of photographs, negatives, and a blueprint dating from the 1870s to 1933 (bulk 1923-1933) primarily related to the history of the Los Angeles and the Southern California region, that were compiled by Los Angeles historian Charles J. Prudhomme (1854-1934). The images mainly depict sites within Los Angeles and California, as well as people associated with the history of the Los Angeles region.

Language: English.

Access

Advance arrangements to view negatives must be made with the Curator of Photographs. The collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please visit the Huntington's website: www.huntington.org.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Historical Society of Southern California -- Charles Prudhomme Collection of Photographs. The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Donated to the Huntington Library by the Historical Society of Southern California, 1992.

The collection, identified by Huntington Library catalogers as "Volume 4," was received as a part of the Historical Society of Southern California Collection.

Processing Information

The collection was organized, numbered and rehoused by Virginia Neely, August 1998; this finding aid was prepared by Sue Luftschein, February-March 2006.

Physical Characteristics or Technical Requirements

Box 3, negatives, is housed in Cold Storage. Permission to view negatives must be made with the Curator of Photographs.

Related materials in the Huntington Library

The sub-collections of the Historical Society of Southern California Collection (photCL 400) are individually cataloged in the [Huntington Online Catalog](#).

Biographical Note of Charles J. Prudhomme

Charles J. Prudhomme (1854-1934) was born in Los Angeles, California, the son of Leon Victor Prudon (Prudhomme), a transplanted Frenchman, and Mercedes Tapia, a native Californian. Prudhomme's father played a role in early California history, participating in the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. Prudhomme was the historian for Ramona Parlor 109, Native Sons of the Golden West, and collected historic relics related to California history. Prudhomme died on September 24, 1934.

Historical Note of HSSC

Founded in 1883, the Historical Society of Southern California (HSSC) is the oldest historical society in California. As part of its mission to collect and preserve Southern California's history, the HSSC amassed a photo archive over many decades. The HSSC shifted its emphasis to programs and publications in the 1980s and, in 1992, the organization donated its photo

archive to The Huntington Library.

The Historical Society of Southern California Collection contains approximately 15,000 photographs and negatives focused on Southern California from approximately 1870 to 1980. As such, it is an important visual record of the growth and history of the region. The collection represents a variety of donations made to the Society over many years. It is organized into discrete sub-collections (each with a unique "volume" number) within the overall collection, which is identified by call number photCL 400.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of 249 black-and white-photographs (some exist in duplicate), 235 negatives, and 1 blueprint, dating from the 1870s to 1933 (bulk 1923-1933), that are primarily related to the history of the Los Angeles and the Southern California region. The collection was compiled by Los Angeles historian Charles J. Prudhomme, and Prudhomme took the bulk of the photographs.

The images mainly depict sites within Los Angeles and California, as well as people associated with the history of the Los Angeles region. Included are images of streets in Central Los Angeles including Olvera Street; Los Angeles parks and squares; adobes and homes in the Los Angeles area; and photographs of members of pioneer families associated with the history of Los Angeles and Southern California. These include Don Juan Bautista Alvarado, members of the Alvarado family, members of the Dominguez family, Senora Luisa Avila de Garfias, Don Juan de la Guerra, members of the Lugo family, Senorita Josephine Ocampo, Eugene R. Plummer and members of the Plummer family, Andrea Alvarado Rowland and Viola Rowland, members of the Sepulveda family, members of the Tapia family, Francisco Viejar, and Maria Ybarra de Lopez.

Some images exist only in negative format; cards indicating this are interfiled within the collection of photographs. Negatives are housed in Box 3.

Arrangement

The collection is generally arranged in subject order. The photographs in the first half of the collection are filed by geographic location, with Los Angeles locations first, followed by Los Angeles environs, the remainder of the state, and out of state locations. The second half of the collection consists of portraits; these are filed alphabetically.

Index Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the [Huntington Library's Online Catalog](#).

Organizations:

Mission San Gabriel Arcangel (San Gabriel, Calif.) -- Photographs

Persons:

Alvarado, Juan Bautista, 1809-1882--Portraits.

Avila de Garfias, Luisa--Portraits.

de la Guerra, Juan--Portraits.

Ocampo, Josephine--Portraits.

Plummer, Eugene R.--Portraits.

Rowland, Andrea Alvarado--Portraits.

Rowland, Viola--Portraits.

Viejar, Francisco--Portraits.

Ybarra de Lopez, Maria--Portraits.

Family Names:

Alvarado family -- Portraits.

Dominguez family -- Portraits.

Lugo family -- Portraits.

Plummer family -- Portraits.

Sepulveda family -- Portraits.

Tapia family -- Portraits.

Places:

Hollywood (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Photographs

La Puente (Calif.) -- Photographs

Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Photographs

Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- Portraits -- Photographs

Los Nietos (Calif. : Township) -- Photographs
Malibu (Calif.) -- Photographs
San Fernando Valley (Calif.) -- Photographs
Santa Monica Canyon (Los Angeles County, Calif.) -- Photographs
Watts (Los Angeles, Calif.) -- Photographs

Subjects:

Adobe houses -- California -- Photographs
Historic sites -- California -- Los Angeles -- Photographs
Parks -- California -- Los Angeles -- Photographs
Streets -- California -- Los Angeles -- Photographs

Document Types:

Photographs.
Blueprints.
Negatives.

Container List

Box 1	Photographs
Box 1, Item 1-85	Central Los Angeles. Commercial streets; Campo de Cahuenga; Chinatown/Sonoratown; Exposition Park; Fort Moore Hill; Hollywood; Olvera Street; Pershing Square; the Plaza; Union Stock Yards; Los Angeles Zoo, undated
Box 1, Item 86-121	Los Angeles environs. La Puente; Los Nietos; Malibu; Placerita Canyon; San Fernando Valley; San Gabriel Mission; Santa Monica Canyon; Watts; Wilmington, undated
	Note [Number 99 rehoused in Box 2 (oversize items).]
Box 1, Item 122-126	California. Carmel; Kern County; San Diego; Santa Barbara; Ventura, undated
Box 1, Item 127-154	Adobes, homes, undated
Box 1, Item 155-162	Out of California. Utah; Mexico, undated
Box 1, Item 163-314	People. Members of Los Angeles and Southern California pioneer families, undated
	Note [Numbers 163, 169, 188, 190, 191, 209, 230, 232, 235, 236, 245, 246, 251-254, 269, 277-279, 291, 295-298 rehoused in Box 2 (oversize items).]

Box 2	Oversize Items
	Scope and Content Note This box contains items 39.1 (Fort Moore Hill map), 99, 163, 169, 188, 190, 191, 209, 230, 232, 235, 236, 245, 246, 251-254, 269, 277-279, 291, and 295-298.

Box 3

Negatives

Access Information

The negatives are housed in cold storage; advance arrangements for viewing must be made with the Curator of Photographs.