ENHANCING ACCESS TO THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS AT THE GETTY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ARLIS 2014, Washington DC
May 2, 2014

By Isotta Poggi
Assistant Curator of Photographs
Getty Research Institute
Getty Research Institute Photography Collections

Photo Archive

Two million photographs for the study of fine arts
Originally Euro-Centric and Pre-Modern

Special Collections Photographs

Global Geographic Scope:
from Europe, to the Middle East, China, Latin America, Africa

Examples of major collections include:
Artists in their studios, The avant-garde, Orientalism, International Expositions, Colonialism

History of Photography from its invention through Contemporary
Photo Archive

The Photo Archive's five million photographs provide supplementary and original pictorial research for the study of fine arts from antiquity to the modern period. The archive's strength lies in the photographic reproduction of western art architecture, and decorative arts.

Patrons can use these photographs to conduct a wide range of research, including the history of collecting (provenance, art market, connoisseurship), iconography, conservation, historiography, and the history of reproductions.

* Guide to the Photo Archive and Database
  Learn how to search the database and access the Photo Archive.

* Search the Photo Archive Database
  Search the database for nonpictorial records that describe images in the Photo Archive.

* Study Images of Tapestries
  The Photo Archive includes photographs of over 5,000 medieval and early modern tapestries from European and American collections.

* The Index of Christian Art
  The largest archive of medieval art in the world, the Getty Research Institute holds a repository copy of this Index and provides on-site access to the subscription database.

All images are from Photo Archive. Left to right: Interior of the Museo del Castello Sforzesco; Portrait of a youth, Central nave of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy. The Getty Research Institute, 96.F.8 © J. Paul Getty Trust.
Getty Research Institute Photography Collections

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Two million photographs for the study of fine arts
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History of Photography
from its invention through contemporary production

Examples of major collections include:
The avant-garde, Orientalism, International Expositions,
Colonialism, Cities and Sites
Rare Photographs

Lane Barden (American, b. 1950)
*Linear City*, photographed 2004–05, printed 2013

A portfolio of 120 photographs in three sections: "The Los Angeles River," "The Trench," and "Wilshire Boulevard." Artist and architecture photographer Lane Barden took these photographs with a digital camera while flying over the city’s arteries in a helicopter. 2013.R.4

Wallace Berman (American, 1926–1976)
*Wallace Berman Portraits of West Coast Arts and Literary Figures*, 1953–76; printed 2006

This portfolio of 30 silver gelatin photographs was shot by Berman and printed posthumously in an edition of five by Michael Karmen. Rarely exhibited during his lifetime, Berman’s photographs chronicle the American underground from the Beat culture of the 1950s through the social revolution of the 1960s. 2013.R.2

Gift of Michael and Jane Wilson

*フォトタイムス, Foto Taimusu* (Photo Times), 1924–33

One of the principal journals to promote artistic and commercial photography in Japan in the years between the two world wars, when the art form rapidly expanded, Foto Taimusu introduced the work of many modernist and avant-garde artists to Japan. This complete set of issues from the journal’s first years provides rich documentation on the development of photography and modernist trends in Japan. 3008-068

Baron Alexis-Aimé de La Grange (French, 1825–1917)
*Agra Architectural Monuments*, 1849–51

Depicting the tomb of Emperor Akbar the Great (1542–1605) and the entrance gate to the Taj Mahal, built by his grandson, Shah Jahan (1592–1666), these two images represent some of the first photographic views ever taken of these masterpieces of Mughal architecture. 2013.R.3

Malcolm Lubliner (American, b. 1933)
*Malcolm Lubliner Photographs of the Los Angeles Art Scene*, 1968–73

Providing a glimpse into the artistic scene of Los Angeles in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Californian artist Lubliner photographed celebrated artists including John Altoon, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg, and Frank Stella. 2012.R.21

Dr. Benjamin Simpson (1831–1923)
*British Occupation of Kandahar Album*, 1881
How Users Access the GRI Collections:

• Getty Search Discovery Systems:
  Search.getty.edu  Gateway /  Getty Open Content Program
  Getty Research Institute: Library Catalog “Primo”

• Exhibitions
  In Gallery
  Online

• Social Media
  Iris blog / Youtube / Facebook

• Artstor

• Scholars’ Workspace (Digital Humanities)
Title: Côte d’Or-Asanta-Krou-Mandina-Niger-Sala-Teñerife-Madere. 1886-1890.

Object Type: Visual Material

Language: Italian

Creator: Poé, Edouard. 1862-1901.

Source: GRI Digital Collections

Date: 1886-1890.

Description: 1 album (102 photographic prints: albumen) 26 x 34 cm

[+] More
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title</strong></th>
<th>Côte d'Or-Ashanti-Krou-Mandigo-Niger-Salaga-Ténéréffe-Madere, 1886-1890</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Authors/Creators</strong></td>
<td>Foà, Édouard. 1862-1901.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creation Date</strong></td>
<td>1886-1890.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biographical/Historical Note</strong></td>
<td>Photographer Édouard Foà (1862-1901). For Foà, photography was just one of many ways to record his findings. Foà wrote that he intended the results of his explorations to benefit geography, ethnography, natural history, science, commerce, industry and colonization. He published nine books on Africa between 1892 and 1898, most of which contain photomechanical reproductions of his photographs. Upon his return to France in 1897, Foà was awarded the Légion d'honneur for his intrepid explorations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Description</strong></td>
<td>1 album (102 photographic prints : albumen); 26 x 34 cm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>In 1886, Édouard Foà was hired by the Marseilles-based colonial trading company of Maître Régas et Borelli to manage a trading post in Porto-Nov, Dahomey. From 1886 to 1890, Foà explored the French colony of Dahomey (now known as Benin) and the neighboring countries around the Gulf of Guinea. The photographs in album 1 were taken during these four years, and contain ethnographic portraits, views of colonial institutions and scenes of daily life in West Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Notes</strong></td>
<td>Album 1 (102 photosprints) covers the modern nations of Benin, Ghana, Togo and Sierra Leone, and also contains ten images of the Canary Islands and Madeira. Captions in French, some handwritten by Foà. List of images available in the repository.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Form/Genre</strong></td>
<td>Photographs. Original. Albumen prints—Africa—19th century.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Format</strong></td>
<td>Still image</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ID/Accession Number</strong></td>
<td>93.R.114(A1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Connecting Seas draws on the Getty Research Institute’s extensive special collections to reveal how adventures on other continents and discoveries of different cultures were perceived, represented, and transmitted in the past, when ocean travel was the primary means by which people and knowledge circulated.

Featuring rare books and maps, photographs and panoramic vues d’optique, prints, and even Napoleon’s monumental folios on Egypt, the exhibition traces the fascinating course of scholarly investigation and comprehension of cultures in Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

See more →

Selected Images from the Exhibition

Mecca and Medina, early 1700s
Reproducing the Perfect Buddha, 1700s
Castle at Tulum, 1844

Temple of Hathor at Dendera [Tentyris], Interior View, 1817
Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, ca. 1880–ca. 1899
Chinese objects exhibited at the Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations, London, 1851
Look Inside Books from the Exhibition

These fully digitized books are among 62 books and journals featured in the exhibition. Flip through the pages, zoom in on illustrations, or read the book from cover to cover.

Giovanni Francesco Gemelli Careri, *Giro del mondo*, vol. 6 (Naples, 1699–1700)

Frederick Catherwood, *Views of Ancient Monuments in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan* (London, 1844)

“The Congo Free Graveyard,” special issue of *L’assiette au beurre*, no. 376 (13 June 1908)

Picturing the Colonial Congo with Isotta Poggi

Exhibition Videos

- Picturing the Colonial Congo with Isotta Poggi
- Thomas Gaetegeens on Connecting Seas—Connecting Cultures
- Rare Navigational Instruments with David Braffman and Richard Kelton
- Napoleon’s Description of Egypt with Louis Marchesano and Peter Bonfatto
Toward Visual Paths of Dignity | The New York Times
Jean-Philippe Dedieu | January 30, 2014
In 1994, I had just returned to Paris from Asia. Yet all I could think about was Africa. I had been living in Japan for a few years, working as a trader for an investment bank and, as for any migrant, this long journey exerted a profound and lasting influence on me. More

Aztec Idols, Explorers, and Egyptomania | Getty Voices
Peter Bonfatto | January 13, 2014
A craze for all things Egyptian gripped Europe in the early 1800s. Continuing our series of stories from the exhibition "Connecting Seas," exhibition co-curator Peter Bonfatto reveals how, through the lens of Egyptomania, even an Aztec sculpture could seem to hail from the banks of the Nile. More

ARTINFO | Los Angeles County Museum on Fire
William Poundstone | December 9, 2013
The Getty Research Institute is debuting its expanded exhibition space with "Connecting Seas: A Visual History of Discoveries and Encounters." The original L-shaped gallery (800 sq. ft.) is now joined by a larger (2000-sq.-ft.), more appealing room. More

Encounters with Indigenous Mexico | Getty Voices
Kim N. Richter | December 5, 2013
A new exhibition at the Getty Research Institute takes us across time and cultures via the seas. Co-curator Kim Richter reveals a glimpse of the ancient Americas, which has given rise to the vibrant cultural and linguistic plurality of today's Latin America. More

Press Kit
Includes the complete object checklist and a selection of downloadable images.
Download press kit
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Photographs of Africa from the Late 1800s | Getty Voices
Suzanne Blier and Frances Terpak | March 3, 2014
From 1886 to 1897 French explorer Edouard Foà worked in
Africa, first managing a trading company in the French colony
of Dahomey and then exploring East and South Africa, having
been invited by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to cross
the continent from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic. More »

Photographs of Africa from the Late 1800s
Suzanne Blier and Frances Terpak | March 3, 2014
Continuing our series of stories from the exhibition Connecting Seas, exhibition co-
curator Frances Terpak and Getty Scholar Suzanne Blier discuss rarely exhibited
photographs by explorer Edouard Foà, which capture African cultures at the turn of the
19th century.
Jürg Schneider
Posted March 4, 2014 at 2:55 am | Permalink

With regard to the photograph “Family of a Merchant, 1886–90” see http://africanphotography.org/media-gallery/detail/25/127

Suzanne Blier
Posted March 6, 2014 at 11:16 am | Permalink

Thank you Jürg Schneider for posting this image. Foa was acquiring his images from various sources including local African studios, among these, perhaps, that of John Parkes Decker. So indeed it is possible that both the Foa album (now at the Getty) and the Museum der Kulturen Basel have a print from the same studio.
African Photography

Collections  Links  About us  Search

"Eingeborene aus Abeokuta"

Identifier: (F) III 23667
Publisher: Museum der Kulturen Basel
Date: 1869 - 1885
Coverage: Nigeria, Abeokuta
Author/Creator: Probably John Parkes Decker
Description: Portrait of group of six women, one man and a child. The man holding a fan.
Rights Management: Copyright held by the Museum der Kulturen Basel. Please contact info@mkb.ch
Picturing the Colonial Congo with Isotta Poggi
Picturing the Colonial Congo with Isotta Poggi

Published on Feb 17, 2014
Isotta Poggi of the Getty Research Institute demonstrates how photography in the early 20th century shaped public opinion of colonialism in the Congo and how it continues to impact the region today.

The photographs and satiric journals discussed in this video are exhibited in "Commerce and Colonialism," the third and final section of the exhibition Connecting Seas: A Visual History of Discoveries and Encounters.

Digitized versions of the Belgian Congo album and the special issue of Assiette au Beurre, "The Congo Free Graveyard," are available online:
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/37158
https://archive.org/details/gni_33125...
ARTstor and Images for Academic Publishing (IAP)
ARTstor and Images for Academic Publishing (IAP)
The Getty Research Institute added 82,000 images to the Open Content Program, including 77,000 photographs since 2013.

Remote access

“Towards the democratization of scholarship”

“To work with rare materials to produce new artworks, designs, and erudition that extend beyond the confines of the academy and the museum.”

http://search.getty.edu
Scholars’ Workspace
Open source
Collaborative
Scholars’ Workspace

Open source

Collaborative

Pietro Mellini, 1681 - Text Based
Pietro Mellini, 1681 - Text Based

Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, 1917: Theme Based

Scholars’ Workspace

Open source

Collaborative

Élie-Honoré Montagny, 1805 - Image Based
Album of Photographs by Stefano Lecchi, Siege of Rome, 1849
Sketch of the Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13

• Hotchkiss writes to Nelly
Il Vascello
Lecchi photographed the Casino Corsini in August 1849 and took images of the structure from three angles.
Casino Corsini, or the Four Winds

Lecchi photographed the Casino Corsini on 14 March 1849 and took images of the structure from three angles.

View Research Notes

March 2, 1849
Curabitur ut nisi quis odio venenatis commodo. Etiam at interdum lorem.

March 16, 1849
Curabitur ut nisi quis odio venenatis commodo. Etiam at interdum lorem.
January 1849
February 1849
March 1849
April 1849
May 1849
June 1849
July 1849
August 1849
September 1849
October 1849
November 1849
December 1849

Layers:
Getty Research Institute’s Photography Collections

ACCESS TO IMAGES

ACCESS TO DATA

ACCESS TO TOOLS
 Getty Research Institute’s Photography Collections

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