

Photography and the American West (Princeton, 29 Apr 06)

Heather Shannon

Framing the Frontier:

A Day of Lectures in Honor of Alfred L. Bush

Princeton Library Conference to Focus on Photography and the American West

Saturday, April 29, 2006

The Friends of the Princeton University Library will host a day-long academic conference entitled "Framing the Frontier: A Day of Lectures in Honor of Alfred L. Bush" on Saturday, April 29, 2006. The conference will focus on the early photography of the American West and contemporary issues surrounding its collection, display, and ownership. In the first panel, Picturing the West, the speakers will explore the place of photography in early expeditions to the West, in the rise of the western cityscape, and in Native American consciousness. The speakers in second panel, Western Americana Photographs in the Archive, will focus on collecting western photographs, their display in exhibitions, and the ethics and politics of photographic images in the age of intellectual property.

The conference will honor Alfred L. Bush, who retired as Curator of Western Americana in December 2002. Bush voraciously collected photographs of the American West during his 45-year tenure at Princeton, ultimately collecting some five thousand photographs that have recently been cataloged by Heather A. Shannon, who will curate an exhibition of these photographs that opens on April 29 as well.

The conference program is as follows:

9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.: Ben Primer, Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library, opening remarks

10:00 a.m. to noon: Panel I: Picturing the West

Ron Tyler, University of Texas (Austin), "Photography and Early Western Expeditions: From Frémont to Simpson"

Jenny Watts, Huntington Library, "Camera Work: Photography and the Rise of Los Angeles"

Mick Gidley, University of Leeds, "Native American Camera Consciousness: Reading Photographs of American Indians"

Bill Deverell, University of California (Los Angeles), moderator

Noon to 1:00 p.m.: Lunch (a box lunch will be available for \$10)

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.: Panel II: Western Americana Photographs in the Archive

George Miles, Yale University Library, "Looking Outside the Frame: Documenting Photography in the American West"

Anton Treuer, Bemidji State University, "Authenticating Culture: An Analysis of the Importance of Language in Tribal Exhibitions"

Michael F. Brown, Williams College, "Policing the Shadow Catchers: The Ethics and Politics of Photographic Images in the Age of Intellectual Property"

Anne McCauley, Princeton University, moderator

The conference will be followed by a lecture by Martha A. Sandweiss (Amherst College) at 4:00 p.m. in 101 McCormick Hall, and the opening of the exhibition "Framing the Frontier: Photographers & the American West, 1850-1920" at Firestone Library's Main Gallery.

Please register for the conference and reserve a box lunch with Linda Oliveira at (609) 258-3155 or loliveir@princeton.edu.

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Reference:

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