

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

Joshua Waterman

Princeton Library Conference

"Photography and the American West"

April 29, 2006

Princeton University, McCormick Hall, Room 101

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 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 the 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. These photographs have recently been cataloged by Heather A. Shannon, who has also curated an exhibition of the photographs which opens on April 29 as well.

Conference program:

9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.:

Opening remarks by Ben Primer, Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.:

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 Southern California (Los Angeles), moderator

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Lunch (a box lunch can be reserved in advance for \$10, see below)

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 held in McCormick Hall, room 101, on Princeton University campus, and is followed by a lecture by Martha A. Sandweiss (Amherst College) at 4:00 p.m., also in 101 McCormick Hall, and the opening of the exhibition "Framing the Frontier: Photographers & the American West, 1850-1920" (April 29-September 24, 2006) at Firestone Library's Main Gallery.

The conference is free and open to the public. Registration is requested. Please register and reserve a box lunch (\$10) by contacting Linda Oliveira
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Reference:

CONF: Photography and the American West (Princeton, 29 April 06). In: ArtHist.net, Mar 21, 2006 (accessed Mar 31, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/28085>>.