

## The Photography Collection at The Huntington

The Huntington's collection of photography includes more than half a million images and serves as one of the institution's great research strengths. Dating back to the mid-19th century, the holdings focus heavily on California and the American West.

Among the most significant photographs are those of early Los Angeles documentarian Charles C. Pierce (1861–1946) and famed 20th-century artist Edward Weston (1886–1958). In the early 1940s, Weston selected and printed 500 photographs for The Huntington to create an institutional legacy for his work. The Huntington also is home to some of California's most important early landscape photographs from Carleton E. Watkins (1829–1916) and his prints of Yosemite to George E. Fardon's (1806–1886) documentary photographs of the streets of San Francisco. Additionally, The Huntington boasts strong representation in Civil War photography, with works by renowned photographers George Barnard (1819–1902), Mathew Brady (1823–1896), Alexander Gardner (1821–1882), Timothy O'Sullivan (1840–1882), and Andrew Russell (1830–1902). Wartime depictions include photographs of battlefields, regiments, and key figures from the period.

The collection also reflects founder Henry E. Huntington's inherent interest in railroads, including extensive photography of Los Angeles' early transportation networks as seen in the Los Angeles Railway and the Pacific Electric Railway collections. The archive includes a nearly complete set of images taken in the 1860s by Alfred A. Hart (1816–1908), documenting the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad. Some of Carleton Watkins' imagery can be traced to the photographer's relationship with Huntington's uncle Collis, who granted him free access on the Central and Southern Pacific Railroad lines.

Also notable in the collection are extensive holdings in Native American photography, including work by Edward S. Curtis (1868–1952), Frederick Monsen (1865–1929), and Carl Moon (1878–1948). And the collection includes an extensive photographic survey of the landscape of the American West, as photographers like Gardner, O'Sullivan, and Russell traveled with railroad, governmental, and scientific expeditions to document their travels. In collecting the history of Southern California and, in particular, the history of Los Angeles, The

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Huntington continues to grow its photographic collections, with important early Los Angeles photography dating back to the mid-19th century and including the explosive transition of the city from pastoral landscape to thriving metropolis. The built environment is one theme that emerges, with holdings from noted architectural photographers William Clarke (1872–1952) and Maynard L. Parker (1900–1976). The Parker collection numbers some 65,000 images documenting the modern home and garden in mid-20th-century America, with a special emphasis on Southern California.

Most recently, Edison International donated its corporate photographic archives, a collection that includes 40,000 prints and 35,000 negatives. Edison took great pains to document the process of bringing electricity to Southern California; the collection includes photography of Los Angeles in development, including business, restaurants, nightclubs, and other architectural gems.