Nineteenth Century Collections Online

Photography:
The World Through the Lens

Program Overview
Nineteenth Century Collections Online is the most ambitious scholarly digitization and publication program ever undertaken, providing full-text, fully searchable content from a wide range of primary sources. These materials support a wide range of academic disciplines and areas of study, providing never-before-possible research opportunities for one of the most studied historical periods.

Archive Overview
The invention of photography initiated a mania for documenting people and their surroundings. Numerous explorers, artists, scientists and ordinary people set out to document in photographs local and distant lands. The result was a vast collection of images of remote places, the landscapes of the American West, scientific records of archaeological digs and anthropological studies, architectural records, police photography, images of war, and images of the urban and rural poor — to name a few.

Photography as record — Visual documentation of our heritage, art works, architecture, exploration and topographic record, significant events and more
Photography as evidence, identification — Press photography, photographs used in science, criminology, personal identification
Photography as reproduction — Illustrations in newspapers, books, magazines
Photography as an art form — Early photographers were painters
Photography as science — Early photographers were opticians or scientists. Photographs were used in medicine to document medical procedures, diseases and deformities as well as for anthropology and learned society documentation of peoples and places across Africa, Asia and the Near East

Key collections include:
- The Stationers’ Company copyright registers and copyright forms for photographers (The National Archives, UK)
- Extensive runs of key journals, including Photographic News, 1859-1908, and the British Journal of Photography, 1854-1918
- Rare journals and early printed manuals, treatises, and catalogs of photography sourced from 28 institutions (including the George Eastman House Library, Columbia University, New York Public Library, the Science Museum, London)
- Includes images from the major collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum; National Portrait Gallery, Wellcome Library; Science Museum, London; The Royal Collection, Windsor; National Diet Library; and Nagasaki University, Japan
Nineteenth Century Collections Online: Photography: The World Through the Lens is available on Gale’s cutting-edge research platform. It was developed using our flexible Agile approach, incorporating user testing and feedback throughout development to ensure that we provide the features that scholars require for research in the digital age. This collection includes journals, monographs, photograph albums, photographically-illustrated books, photographs, and more.

Tools and features include:

- **Textual Analysis Tools** — Identify and visualize patterns, trends and relationships to explore content in new ways. Underlying data and text is exportable for further analysis
- **Subject Indexing** — Making content accessible and exposing key data elements
- **Zotero Compatible** — Optimized for Zotero for collecting, citing and organizing sources
- **User-Generated Tags and Annotations** — Allows users to create/add their own metadata
- **User Accounts** — Users can save documents and edit their tags and annotations
- **Image Viewer** — Zoom, highlight, rotate, reverse (negative image), change the brightness or contrast, and view pages in full-screen mode
- **Download** — The OCR text of printed works

**Advisory Board**

Photography: The World Through the Lens has been created with the expert guidance of Elizabeth Edwards, Research Professor in Photographic History and Director of the Photographic History Research Centre, De Montfort University as well as a global advisory board, which ensures the program fulfills the needs of students, professors and researchers and helps shape the program’s collecting and digitizing policies. For a list of members, visit http://gdc.gale.com/nineteenth-century-collections-online/advisory-board/.

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Other Program Archives

- Asia and the West: Diplomacy and Cultural Exchange
- British Politics and Society
- British Theatre, Music, and Literature: High and Popular Culture
- European Literature, 1790-1840: The Corvey Collection
- Science, Technology and Medicine, 1780-1925
- Women: Transnational Networks
- Europe and Africa: Commerce, Christianity, Civilization, and Conquest