



# VIEWS: *The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section* Society of American Archivists

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## Leadership list

Deirdre Scaggs, Chair, 2007-2008  
Beth Bilderback, Vice Chair, 2007-2008  
Martha Mahard, Newsletter Editor, 2007-2010  
Ardys Kozbial, Past Chair, 2007-2008



## Letter from the Chair

**G**reetings! At this past year's annual conference in Chicago the Visual Materials section tried out a new format for its meetings. As in previous years there was the review of section business, but rather than having a local speaker doing a presentation we broke out into small discussion groups. I am curious what those of you who attended the section meeting thought about this format? I would like to hear from first-timers and those who have experienced both meeting formats. From my vantage point it seemed like a good opportunity for members to have a louder voice but I would like to hear suggestions for improvement. We will likely continue with this format at the next SAA meeting in San Francisco in 2008, so please let me know your thoughts.

The Visual Materials Section midwinter meeting will be here soon! This year it will be held at my small but welcoming house in Lexington, Kentucky. The dates are Friday through Saturday, January 12-13, 2008. If you are interested in the history of the midwinter meeting please see <[www.lib.lsu.edu/SAA/VMhome.html](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/SAA/VMhome.html)> where you can also learn about what we accomplish at the meetings. And don't forget that the VM Section Midwinter Meeting is an officially approved SAA meeting. Last year was my first midwinter meeting and I left feeling connected to the section, satisfied with the work we accomplished, and fulfilled by the conversations I had with my peers. The meeting was extremely productive but also a great overall experience. At last year's meeting we assessed the importance of midwinter and agreed to keep having them - it is truly a business meeting but a way for interested individuals to become more involved in the section.

An agenda for the meeting will be posted to the listserv and the website by the end of November and you will begin to see suggestions for lodging in the Lexington area. If you are interested in attending the meeting, please contact me at <[deirdre@uky.edu](mailto:deirdre@uky.edu)>. I will be asking for more formal commitments in December when we start planning food and meeting space. I look forward to seeing you in Kentucky.

Deirdre Scaggs  
[deirdre@uky.edu](mailto:deirdre@uky.edu)

### Letter from the Vice-Chair

I want to thank everyone for their confidence in me and for giving me the opportunity to serve the Visual Materials Section. I'm looking forward to working with Deirdre and the rest of the Section leadership over the next two years. It was encouraging to hear people share their ideas and concerns in the break-out sessions during the Section meeting in Chicago. We need to find more ways to make people comfortable about participating, so I would enjoy hearing your thoughts about that.

We recently finished reviewing session proposals for Section endorsement, and if the proposals we read are any indication, the San Francisco meeting should be great. The Mid-Winter meeting will be in Lexington, Kentucky this January. Among the usual Section business, we will be reviewing the by-laws and the ideas generated by the break-out sessions at the annual meeting. Please plan to attend and enjoy getting to know Section members.

Beth Bilderback  
bilderbk@gwm.sc.edu

### Letter from the Editor

It was fun to see so many of you in Chicago and to catch up on all the interesting projects that are going on. I always come back from the annual meeting full of ideas and ready to start a new semester. This year's semester started a little too soon for me and I've been running to catch up ever since. So now we're in the midst of Red Sox madness here in Boston and that means it must be October. We're concentrating on presenting the minutes of the annual meeting in this issue, but a very fruitful discussion during the breakout session of the Section meeting has encouraged us to start exploring some new directions in the new year. One of the things we are planning is to regularize the publication schedule so that the first number of Volume 22 will appear in mid-January. Subsequent issues are scheduled for April, July and October. We are hoping to introduce some new features and strengthen some familiar ones so please stay tuned. Please be sure to send along any ideas and suggestions for how we might make the newsletter of greater interest and use to the membership.

Martha Mahard  
martha.mahard@simmons.edu

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Your comments and suggestions for improvements will always receive a cordial hearing. Opinions expressed are those of the authors.



## MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL SECTION MEETING

Chicago Annual Meeting – Aug 31, 2007, 12:00 – 2:00 pm., Moulin Rouge, Fairmont Hotel. Minutes submitted by Martha Mahard

The meeting was opened by out-going chair Ardys Kozbial who introduced Deirdre Scaggs, the incoming chair. Ardys outlined the plan for the meeting, explaining that we would devote the 2<sup>nd</sup> hour to three breakout sessions which would allow us to focus attention on four areas: Communication (led by Martha Mahard and Mark E. Martin), Education (led by Beth Bilderback and Robert Burton) and Digital issues (led by Stephen Fletcher), and Bibliography (led by John Slate)

### I. Announcements and section business

1. T-shirts – In a departure from tradition this year's T-shirts (and several other items of interest) are available through [cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com) ([www.cafepress.com/saavm/](http://www.cafepress.com/saavm/)). Ardys expressed our thanks to Miriam Meislik (who couldn't be in Chicago) for her hard work and this year's design.

### 2. Liaison reports

Section-member Jim Cartwright spoke on behalf of the program committee for the 2008 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. He noted that the theme for San Francisco will be Archives 2008 R/Evolution and identities: technology, diversity & public awareness – who are we, where we are and where we are going. Cautions: they want COMPLETED PROPOSALS – on time, deadline: October 12, 2007 sent to Cheryl Vogt, U. of Georgia – see website for further information; urged that we tie in as many aspects of the theme as possible; contact Jim at [jc@hawaii.edu](mailto:jc@hawaii.edu) for further information; see also the WIKI: [http://www.ibiblio.org/saa2007/index.php/SAA\\_2008\\_Ideas](http://www.ibiblio.org/saa2007/index.php/SAA_2008_Ideas)

### 3. Books

Karen Gracy spoke briefly about her new book: Film Preservation: Competing Definitions of Value, Use, and Practice, published this year by SAA (go to <http://www.archivists.org/catalog/pubDetail.asp?objectID=2146> for more information or to order a copy) Karen explained that the book is not a manual of practice, really more of a peek into a professional world that hasn't been well understood. It provides an introduction to major players in the community and the internal and external forces that influence film preservation, as well as a background of the film preservation movement. The book also addresses the constraints of funding, intellectual property issues, and the orphan film movement. Her primary focus is on the relationships among the various players: archives, studio and film preservation labs, and content owners. The book draws material from her field work. Some of the issues she discusses include:

- **the great flexibility in how archivists use the term preservation**
- **how much control archivists really have over film preservation**
- **non-profit a very different point of view**
- **does archival imperative trump the physical imperative?**

### 4. Council Representative

Next we heard from our Council Representative, Lee Miller. He mentioned that President Elizabeth Atkins's theme has been diversity in various manifestations. The Council has been focusing on strengthening Sections and Roundtables, with more timely and detailed reports; formal consultation on appointments to ad hoc committees; improving communication between sections and roundtables; identified Leadership breakfast as an opportunity to do this; insisting on strong internal communication, including Handbooks for sections. He ended by urging the members to attend the business meeting on Saturday morning and to support the dues increase.

5. Marcia Flynn, Standards committee liaison, reported on the DACS working group's two day meeting. Mentioning that it has now been five years since the publication of DACS she expressed the working group's interest in feedback and getting a sense from the community on how DACS is being used. They hope to have a mini-session next year so that they can get info for review process; if you have comments you may email them to Marcia at <[silverim@mindspring.com](mailto:silverim@mindspring.com)>.

6. Architectural Records roundtable – Beth Bilderback announced that Gerri Schaad ([schaadg@doaks.org](mailto:schaadg@doaks.org)) from Dumbarton Oaks will be taking over as liaison

7. VM Section Election. Ardys expressed our thanks to James Eason, Mark E. Martin, Sue Kriegsman, and Brian Doyle for their work in conducting the elections this year; she also noted that this may be the last year that we use paper ballots as work on online voting is nearly complete. The two candidates for Vice Chair/Chair Elect were Stephen Cohen (not attending) and Beth Bilderback; results will be announced before the end of the meeting.

8. Last year's publication *Architectural Records: Managing Design and Construction Records* by Waverly B. Lowell and Tawny Ryan Nelb received the Society's Waldo Gifford Leland award (<http://www.archivists.org/recognition/la2003-awards.asp#leland>).

9. Ardys announced that the Section has 659 members as of July 2007; she added a plug for the listserv as well as thanks to James Eason for all his work in overseeing the list. Go to the VM Section website to sign up. In addition Ardys mentioned that the VMS announcement list is the SAA official list.

10. Thanks to our webweaver, Mark E. Martin – check it out at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/SAA/VMhome.html>

#### **11. Communcations**

Ardys repeated our thanks to Laurie Baty for her long service as editor of Views, the section newsletter. She then introduced the new editor, Martha Mahard.

#### **12. Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Roundtable.**

Ardys thanked out-going chair Martha Mahard and welcomed in-coming chair Miriam Meislik. She then announced that the new Vice Chair/Chair-elect for the Roundtable is Robert Burton. Thank you Robert!

13. Ardys announced that this year's mid-winter meeting will take place in January in Lexington, Kentucky at the home of Deirdre Scaggs. The mid-winter meeting has been a way to conduct a good bit of section business in a short and concentrated period of time. As part of the on-going plan the mid-winter meeting will review the section by-laws every three years. Ardys also expressed thanks to Paula Jeannet Mangiafico who hosted this year's meeting. (See April 2007 issue of Views for minutes).

14. Reviewing sessions at Annual Meeting. Ardys thanked James Eason for coordinating this effort, originally conceived of as a way to get a better record of what visual materials sessions there have been, gather summaries and suggestions, and to identify more areas of interest. Note about the WIKI. May be possible to identify items for future issues of VIEWS. Ardys stressed the importance of having the record and the institutional memory for the Section.

### 15. SAA announcements

major re-vamp of Sections and Roundtable reporting; Lee Miller explained that Council saw this as an approach to let the way groups form be more flexible. Dues increase – please do vote “You count when you participate” – Studs Terkel

**17. Ardys then introduced incoming Chair, Deirdre Scaggs who encouraged Section members to get in touch with her for Section ideas and suggestions.**

18. Election results. James Eason and Mark E. Martin announced the results of the election and expressed thanks to both candidates. Beth Bilderback is new Vice-Chair and Chair-Elect

At this point the group broke into four areas to discuss particular topics

BREAK out groups:

Communications –Martha Mahard and Mark E. Martin

Newsletter, listserv, website

What goes where? Timeliness issues, sustainability

Bibliography group – John Slate

Wants to tweak it one more time before he turns it over – what you want to see in the bibliography?

Education group – Beth Bilderback

Workshops what to do, sessions, gaps in introductory workshops; other outreach possibilities.

Digital issues – Stephen Fletcher

Born digital photography interest; how can the section address subject; what are archivists thinking and doing; what are photographers doing; and other issues.



## VISUAL MATERIALS CATALOGING AND ACCESS ROUNDTABLE

Annual Meeting, Chicago - Minutes  
Society of American Archivists, Chicago  
August 29, 2007

Chair and facilitator: Martha Mahard  
Recorder: Ardys Kozbial  
Headcount: 34 people

### Leadership

Miriam Meislik is the roundtable chair for 2007-2008.

The group elected Robert Burton as the incoming chair. He will chair the roundtable for 2008-2009.

### Announcements

- The annual t-shirt sale is happening on Café Press this year – <http://www.cafepress.com/saavm>
- The section has expanded its line of merchandise to include, in addition to t-shirts, bags, mugs, notecards and stickers.
- New SAA publications of interest to this group include *Photographs: Archival Care and Management* (2006), *Architectural Records: Managing Design and Construction Records* (2006), *Film Preservation: Competing Definitions of Value, Use, and Practice* (2007).

There was some discussion about Views, the Visual Materials Section newsletter which Martha Mahard, current editor, is gradually changing. Martha is looking for suggestions from the section and this roundtable about ways to make it more interesting and relevant. Martha is considering adding a column about cataloging issues.

### Round Robin

**M**ost of the time allotted for the roundtable meeting was spent with group members talking to each other about issues they are facing in their institutions, projects on which they are working and some general comments about SAA. A summary of the round table follows.

**Beinecke Rare Book Library, Yale University.** The Beinecke purchased the Peter Palmquist collection and is now processing it. Palmquist was the school photographer for Humboldt State University in California and was a collector. There are an estimated 1-2 million items in the collection.

**The Harvard College Library** is in the process of digitizing 10,000 photographs from the Theodore Roosevelt collection.

**The Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley,** has a 2-year grant from NEH for a preservation housing project of 4.5 million photographs and negatives (mostly negatives) in the San Francisco Examiner Collection. The Bancroft is doing minimal level cataloging and processing. Most catalog information has been lost because the collection was moved so many times.

**Washington DC Public Library. Addison Scurlock collection cataloging and preservation project.** They are creating item level catalog records, scanning the photographs, freezing the negatives. The images will appear in the online catalog and on the library's website. Scurlock was an African-American photographer in Washington DC. His studio was the official photographer of Howard University. He established first color lab in DC and ran a school. The project is being funded by Save Americas Treasures, which will allow the library to hire a project manager. Interns will scan the images.

**Prints + Photographs Division, Library of Congress.** Helena Zinkham had two items to report:

- As an experiment, two P+P photo collections will be loaded into Flickr to see how the public will respond. Flickr is set up for individuals to mount their own collections and issues of ownership have come up. Stay tuned.
- LC is joining the *Thesaurus of Graphic Materials (TGM)* with *Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials* and LC is looking for feedback. This visual materials cataloging manual would stay in item level cataloging. Opinions and advice wanted. What kinds of tip sheets would people like to see on the P+P web site?

Marcy Flynn reported in from the Standards Committee meeting. DACS is getting ready for its 5-year review process. The review committee is aiming at a transparent process, starting with an open session about it (the review process) at the 2008 SAA meeting in San Francisco and initiating a web-based presence in the next year.

One of the students commented that she finds SAA to be a student-friendly organization. Another student is working on a cataloging project at a new museum, the Minnie Clayton Museum.

**University of North Carolina , Chapel Hill.** With private funding and a state allocation, UNC Chapel Hill is beginning to process the Hugh Morton collection. Morton was the most important photographer in North Carolina in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collection consists of approximately 200,000 slides and the same number negatives and is in organizational disarray. A blog on the topic of processing the Morton collection will be opened.

A question came up from a large institutional collection about photographs that were separated from the print portion of the collections, but kept in the same order. Researchers are having trouble finding materials and the archivist wanted to create a separate finding aid for the photographs. One person suggestion looking at the Allen Chesney Medical Archive (Johns Hopkins Medical Institution) as a good example of this.

## BOOKS IN PRINT

Bissinger, Karl et al. *The Luminous Years, portraits at mid-century*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2003. 132 p. ISBN: 0-8109-4602-5. \$65.00. Available at <http://www.hnabooks.com/>

Brown, Julie K. *Contesting images: photography and the World's Columbian Exposition*. Tucson, Az.: University of Ariz. Press, 1994. 185 p. ISBN: 0-8165-1382-1 (hard cover), \$60 0-8165-1410-0 (paperback), \$27.50 Available at <http://www.uapress.edu/>

Campany, David *Photography and Cinema*. Chicago: Reaktion Books, Distributed for Reaktion Books, 2007. 144 p. ISBN: 978-1-86189-351-2 \$29.95 Available at <http://www.reaktionbooks.com/>

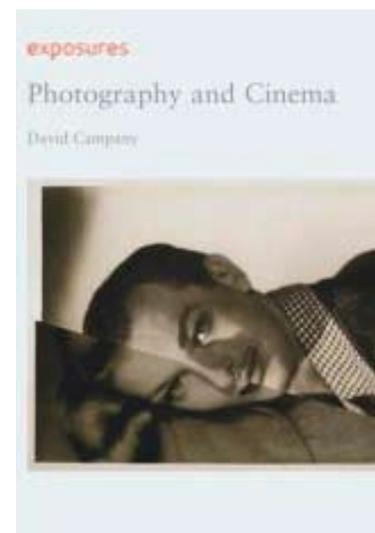
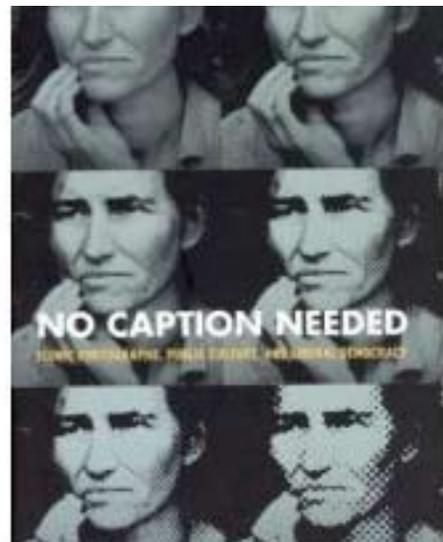
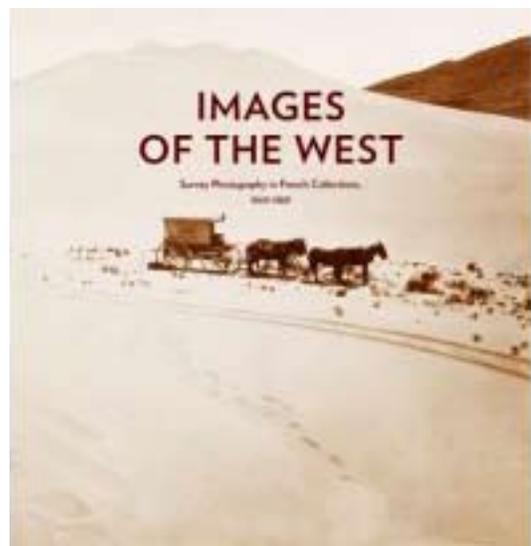
Comaroff, John L., Jean Comaroff, and Deborah James, editors. *Picturing a Colonial Past: The African Photographs of Isaac Schapera*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. 234 p. ISBN: 978-0-226-11411-8 Cloth \$60.00. Available at <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/>

de Salignac, Eugene. *New York Rises Photographs by Eugene de Salignac, Essays by Michael Lorenzini and Kevin Moore*. New York : Aperture Publishers, 2007. 144 Pages ISBN: 978-1-59711-013-6 \$40.00 Available at <http://www.aperture.org/store/>

Griffith, Bronwyn and François Brunet, editors *Images of the West: Survey Photography in French Collections, 1860-1880*. Contribution by Mick Gidley. Chicago: University of Chicago Press; Distributed for the Terra Foundation for American Art, 2007. 136 p. ISBN: 978-0-932171-54-2. Cloth \$49.00 Available at <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/>

Hariman, Robert and John Louis Lucaites *No Caption Needed: Iconic Photographs, Public Culture, and Liberal Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. 432 p., ISBN: 978-0-226-31606-2. Cloth \$30.00. Available at : <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/>

Travis, David; Siegel, Elizabeth; Davis, Keith F. *Taken by design: photographs from the Institute of Design, 1937-1971*. Chicago: Art Institute of Chicago in association with the University of Chicago Press, 2002. 272 p. ISBN: 0-226-81167-0 (alk. paper) Cloth \$30.00. Available at: <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/>



## NOTES FROM ALL OVER

### From Helena Zinkham at Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division:

The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division is migrating the Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (TGM) to a new software behind the scenes. As part of this process, the vocabularies in TGM I (subject terms) and TGM II (genre/format terms) are being merged into a single source database. A separate genre/format term list will continue to be available for downloading. XML versions are anticipated as well.

The Web interface will continue through the Prints and Photographs Online Catalog at <http://memory.loc.gov/pp/tgmquery.html> The TGM I and TGM II application guidelines will also continue to be available at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm1/> and <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/tgm2/> .

We aim to resume updating and adding terms to TGM later this fall when the new software is fully implemented. (The last round of term changes was in June 2007.)

Notes about recently digitized albums, new reference aids, and several acquisitions are online at "What's New October 2007 - January 2008" <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/whatsnew.html>

Scanning photographic albums from the 1800s reached critical mass with "Gardner's Photographic Sketch Book of the War" (1866); the multi-part "Turkestanskii Al'bom" (1872-73); and Kate A. Williams' hand-illuminated album of travel views (1886). The reference aids feature illustrated descriptions of photographic print processes, pictorial Americana, and holdings of women photojournalists. Enjoy! and reactions welcome.

### From Georgia B. Barnhill, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts, Director, Center for Historic American Visual Culture at the American Antiquarian Society:

**FELLOWSHIPS:** Again, the American Antiquarian Society has generous funding from Jay and Deborah Last for those using AAS collections of visual materials, both books and separate materials. We are able to fund projects beyond the normal scholarly endeavor such as exhibition preparation and curriculum development. Please read further: <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/acafellowship.htm>. We will be able to fund about ten short-term fellowships in addition to the Drawn to Art Fellowship and the one sponsored by the American Historical Print Collectors Society.

As president of the Ephemera Society of America, I am pleased to announce that organization's fellowship program which will offer a \$1,000 stipend for research on ephemeral materials. For further information, please visit that organization's website: <http://www.ephemerasociety.org>. Information on the fellowship will be posted shortly, or contact me for information.

**CONFERENCES:** The American Antiquarian Society and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts with the assistance of Worcester Polytechnic Institute are sponsoring Fields of Vision: The Material and Visual Culture of New England to 1830. For further information and online registration: <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/fieldsofvision.htm>

The AAS Program in the History of the Book in American Culture and the CHAViC are planning a conference for October 31 and November 1, 2008, on the visual and textual world of childhood. The call for papers will be available shortly on the AAS website.

Georgia B. Barnhill, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts, Director, Center for Historic American Visual Culture, American Antiquarian Society 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
(508) 471-2173 | (508) 753-3311 (fax) | [gbarnhill@mwa.org](mailto:gbarnhill@mwa.org); [www.americanantiquarian.org](http://www.americanantiquarian.org)

**From Alison Devine Nordstrom, Curator of Photographs, George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film.**

Announcing a new journal: **PHOTOGRAPHY AND CULTURE** will act as a vehicle for the best critical, reflective and analytical writing on photography, extending a lineage that reaches back through Sontag, Barthes, and Benjamin through to Baudelaire, Fox Talbot and Lady Eastlake. As such it will be pluralistic in its approach, truly inter-disciplinary, embracing the historic and the contemporary and independent of any one prevailing theoretical critical model. It will seek to become the essential text for a new community of interest clustered around those who use, reference, interpret or analyse photographic images within their chosen fields in arts and humanities, science and social science from across international academia.

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND CULTURE:**

- aims to rebalance the overemphasis on art historical approaches to include vernacular and applied photography within its scope.
- will embrace the historical, technological, cultural and social aspects of photography as well as all genres - from portraiture to advertising and from fashion photography to the family album, for example
- answers a clear need for a vehicle that fosters exchange about photography and culture across a wide range of disciplines and subfields.
- is committed to a strong interdisciplinary approach
- offers a forum for diverse voices in the field
- genuinely international, it will seek to open up the study of photography beyond traditional Eurocentric and Anglo-American perspectives
- will gather together the most thoughtful writers and thinkers about photography

Contact Dr. Nordstrom at [anordstrom@geh.org](mailto:anordstrom@geh.org)

**IMLS Grant Announced : George Eastman House - Rochester, NY. Award Amount: \$323,378; Matching Amount: \$248,648. Grant Category: Building Digital Resources**

**Contact: Mr. Roger Bruce, Director of Interpretation. 585-271-3361 ext. 235; [rbruce@geh.org](mailto:rbruce@geh.org)**

**Project Title: "Wiki for Expertise in the Evaluation of Photography". The George Eastman House will develop an online Wiki for Expertise in the Evaluation of Photographs. A wiki is a Web site or similar online resource that allows users to add and edit content. The George Eastman House is an authority on the care and evaluation of photographic collections, and this project will expand their pilot wiki project into a larger, comprehensive online resource addressing various elements of photograph appreciation and identification. This information will be freely distributed as a searchable database, and the final product of a dynamic online resource for photography scholars and conservators will provide a model that can be implemented by other organizations.**

