

Photography and materiality

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There has been a recent efflorescence of writing, exhibitions and other research focused on the material qualities of photographs. Here are just a few links, please feel free to add more in the comments:

Smithsonian Anthropologist Joanna Cohan Scherer resurrected the work of photographer Benedicte Wrensted in this online exhibition. Wrensted's photography career began in Denmark in the 1880s and continued following her immigration in 1895 to Pocatello, Idaho. Many of her photos were of American Indians who visited her portrait studio by choice. These powerful Indian photographs unfortunately lost their provenance and were repeatedly used in exhibits and publications as unidentified, stereotypical Indian images.

This research project brought back the identification to the photos and reunited them with the Northern Shoshone and Bannock Indian families of origin. Scherer's book, *A Danish Photographer of Idaho Indians: Benedicte Wrensted*, University of Oklahoma Press, (2006), gives a more detailed analysis of Wrensted's work and other photographers of American Indians during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The web site is an excellent source of information regarding Native Americans and how photography influenced both the viewer's idea of the American Indians and the way the Indians viewed themselves. <http://anthropology.si.edu/wrensted/intro.htm>

I also found this helpful [compendium](#) of resources about photography on the web

And some other links, suggested by material world editor-at-large, Josh Bell:

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Tibet Album (Pitt Rivers Museum project) - *Clare Harris, Elizabeth Edwards, Richard Blurton, Project Leaders*

<http://tibet.prm.ox.ac.uk/>

"The Tibet Album presents more than 6000 photographs spanning 30 years of Tibet's history. These extraordinary photographs are a unique record of people long gone and places changed beyond all recognition. They also document the ways that British visitors encountered Tibet and Tibetans. Go to the Tibet album site." (quote from PRM site)

Southern Sudan (PRM project) - *Jeremy Coote & Elizabeth Edwards Project Leaders*

<http://southernsudan.prm.ox.ac.uk/>

"This website provides access to a detailed catalogue of the collections from Southern Sudan held at the Pitt Rivers Museum, the University of Oxford's museum of anthropology and world archaeology. The Museum's holdings from Southern Sudan comprise more than 1300 artefacts and 5000 photographs. Together together, the artefacts and photographs provide a major resource for studying the cultural and visual history of the region. Go to the Southern Sudan site." (quote from PRM site)

Luo Visual History (PRM Project) *Gilbert Oteyo and Chris Morton Project Leaders*

<http://photos.prm.ox.ac.uk/luo/page/home/>

"Explore around 350 historical Luo photographs from the collections of the Pitt Rivers Museum, University of Oxford, taken between 1902 and 1936. Go to the Luo visual history site." (quote from PRM site)

George Eastman House

<http://www.geh.org/>

Online Photographic Collections of The Smithsonian American Art Museum website

<http://americanart.si.edu/Helios/features.html>

Smithsonian's Photographic Initiative

<http://photography.si.edu/>

Attempt to integrate the diverse photographic holdings of the Smithsonian, and make the accessible to researchers, artists and the

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public.

Library of Congress

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/>

The National Digital Library Program digitizes the Americana holdings at the Library of Congress.

Collected Visions

Project directed by Lorrie Novak in which people submit their own family snapshots to the archive or use existing images to create a visual essay.

<http://cvisions.nyu.edu/>

aka Kurdistan

<http://www.akakurdistan.com/kurds/stories/index.html>

Site created by Susan Meiselas that was inspired by her book 'Kurdistan, In the Shadow of History'. The site expands upon the books tracing of the Kurds history through visual traces, and provides a means for Kurds to create a digital archive.

And an interesting site that uses photography:

Graffiti Archaeology

<http://otherthings.com/grafarc/>