

LOOKING AT PHOTOGRAPHS: A SELECTIVE READING LIST

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Particularly useful titles are asterisked. I have not generally included works by and about individual photographers, but for the 1930s, for example, much can be gained by study of Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Marion Post Walcott, and others about whom there are good monographs.

Photographic Reference

These works, except asterisked titles, are mainly useful for research purposes.

Albert Boni, ed., *Photographic Literature*, 2 vols. (Hastings, NY: Morgan & Morgan, 1962 and 1972)

Helmut & Alison Gernsheim, *The History of Photography 1685-1914* (London: Thames & Hudson, 1955 and subsequent editions). Other works by the same author(s) are also valuable.

Eric Lambrechts & Luc Salu, *Photography and Literature: An International Bibliography of Monographs* (London: Mansell, 1992)

*Beaumont Newhall, *History of Photography* (NY: Museum of Modern Art, 1939, and numerous subsequent editions)

Laurent Roosens & Luc Salu, eds., *History of Photography: A Bibliography of Books*, 2 vols. (London: Mansell, 1989 and 1994, and subsequent additions)

Naomi Rosenblum, *A World History of Photography* (NY: Abbeville P, 1984, and later editions)

Peter Tausk, *Photography in the 20th Century* (NY & London: Focal P, 1980)

George Walsh *et al*, eds., *Contemporary Photographers* (London: Macmillan, 1982, and subsequent editions)

See also the bibliographical information, especially web sites, in Orvell, *American Photography*; full citation in *American Photography* below.

Anthologies of Relevant Writings on Photography

Paul Hill & Thomas Cooper, eds., *Dialogues with Photography* (London: Thames & Hudson, 1979)

Nathan Lyons, ed., *Photographers on Photography* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1966)

Margaretta K. Mitchell, ed., *Recollections: Ten Women of Photography* (NY: Viking, 1979)

Beaumont Newhall, ed., *Photography: Essays and Images* (London: Secker & Warburg, 1980)

*Alan Trachtenberg, ed., *Classic Essays on Photography* (New Haven: Leete's Island Books, 1980)

Theory of Photography

Roland Barthes, *Image-Music-Text*, trans. Stephen Heath (London: Fontana, 1977)

*Roland Barthes, *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*, trans. Richard Howard (London: Cape, 1982). This book, though it seems fiercely theoretical at first, is also moving and illuminating.

Walter Benjamin, *Illuminations*, ed. Hannah Arendt, trans. Harry Zohn (London: Fontana, 1973)

John Berger, *About Looking* (London: Writers and Readers Cooperative, 1980). Other works by Berger also treat photography.

Richard Bolton, ed., *The Contest of Meaning: Critical Histories of Photography* (Cambridge, MA: MIT P, 1992)

Victor Burgin, ed., *Thinking Photography* (London: Macmillan, 1982)

Eduardo Cadava, *Words of Light: Theses on the Photography of History* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1997)

*Susan Sontag, *On Photography* (NY & Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1977). Although not illustrated, this is perhaps the most thoughtful consideration of the cultural significance of the medium.

Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others* (NY & Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2003)

Writing on Photographs and Words

These might be most worthwhile to those with literary interests.

James L. Enyeart, ed., *Photographers, Writers, and the American Scene* (Santa Fe, NM: Arena, 2002)

Paul Hansom, ed., *Literary Modernism and Photography* (NY: Praeger, 2003).

Jefferson Hunter, *Image and Word: The Interaction of Twentieth-Century Photographs and Texts* (Cambridge, MA: MIT P, 1987)

Carol Shloss, *In Visible Light: Photography and the American Writer, 1840-1940* (NY: Oxford UP, 1987)

For massive but odd bibliography, see Lambrechts & Salu in the *Reference* section above.

Technologies

Reese V. Jenkins, *Images and Enterprise: Technology and the American Photographic Industry* (Baltimore & London: Johns Hopkins UP, 1976)

Estelle Jussim, *Visual Communication and the Graphic Arts: Photographic Technologies in the Nineteenth Century* (NY: Bowker, 1974). This offers very clear explanations of all the various processes –calotype, ambrotype, etc.

See *The Camera* (and other works) in the multi-volume Life Library of Photography (1970-72)

See works by Gernsheim and Newhall listed in the *Reference* section above.

Looking at Photographs: Aspects of Form

*John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (London: Penguin and the BBC, 1971)

*John Szarkowski, *The Photographer's Eye* (NY: Museum of Modern Art, 1966). An excellent short introduction to photographic seeing.

American Photography in General

Judith Fryer Davidov, *Women's Camera Work: Self/Body/Other in American Visual Culture* (Durham & London: Duke UP, 1998)

Robert Doty, *Photo-Secession: Photography as a Fine Art* (Rochester, NY: George Eastman House, 1960)

James Enyeart, ed., *Decade by Decade: Twentieth-Century American Photography* (Boston & London: Bullfinch P of Little, Brown, 1989)

*James Guimond, *American Photography and the American Dream* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1991). Particularly useful for historians.

Weston J. Naef, *The Collection of Alfred Stieglitz* (New York: Viking, 1978)

David E. Nye & Mick Gidley, eds., *American Photographs in Europe* (Amsterdam: VU UP, 1994)

Miles Orvell, *The Real Thing: Imitation and Authenticity in American Culture, 1880-1940* (Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 1989). A cultural history with photography at its core.

*Miles Orvell, *American Photography* (NY & Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003). Perceptive book that also contains an excellent list of web sites.

Richard Rudisill, *Mirror Image: The Influence of the Daguerreotype on American Society* (Albuquerque: U New Mexico P, 1971)

Robert Taft, *Photography and the American Scene* (1938; NY: Dover, 1964)

*Alan Trachtenberg, *Reading American Photographs: Images as History, Mathew Brady to Walker Evans* (NY: Hill & Wang, 1989). Can be hard going, but this is now the standard work on the history/photography interface in the US.

William Welling, *Photography in America: The Formative Years 1839-1900* (NY: Thomas Crowell, 1978)

Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence: Domestic Photography in an Age of Imperialism* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2002)

Photographic Genres: Landscape, especially American

*Mick Gidley & Robert Lawson-Peebles, eds., *Views of American Landscapes* (Cambridge & NY: Cambridge UP, 1989). See especially the Foreword by Leo Marx and the Introduction for *ideas* of landscape.

Mick Gidley & Robert Lawson-Peebles, eds., *Modern American Landscapes* (Amsterdam: VU UP, 1995)

Peter Bacon Hales, *Silver Cities: Photography and American Urbanization* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1984)

Peter Bacon Hales, *William Henry Jackson and the Transformation of the American Landscape* (Philadelphia: Temple UP, 1988)

Estelle Jussim & Elizabeth Lindquist-Cock, *Landscape as Photograph* (New Haven & London: Yale UP, 1985)

Weston J. Naef & James N. Wood, *Era of Exploration: The Rise of Landscape Photography in the American West, 1860-1885* (Boston: New York Graphic Society for the Albright Knox Art Gallery and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1975)

Barbara Novak, *Nature and Culture: American Landscape and Painting* (NY: Oxford UP, 1980). Includes photography, and is conceptually important.

Sandra S. Phillips, Richard Rodriguez, et al., *Crossing the Frontier: Photographs of the Developing West* (San Francisco: San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Chronicle Books, 1997)

John Szarkowski, ed., *The Photographer and the American Landscape* (NY: Museum of Modern Art, 1963). This is just one of many excellent anthologies of photographs of US landscapes.

Photographic Genres: Portraiture, especially American

Richard Brilliant, *Portraiture* (London: Reaktion, 1991). Considers photographs alongside paintings, etc.

*Graham Clarke, ed., *The Portrait in Photography* (London: Reaktion, 1992). Best book for ideas of photographic portraiture.

Marianne Hirsch, ed., *The Familial Gaze* (Hanover, NH: Dartmouth UP, 1999)

Ben Maddow, *Faces* (Boston: New York Graphic Society, 1977). Massive selection of superb images.

Photographic Genres: Documentary and Photojournalism, especially American

David Featherstone, ed., *Observations: Essays on Documentary Photography* (Carmel, CA: Friends of Photography, 1984). See especially the essays by Jussim and Trachtenberg.

*Carl Fleischauer & Beverly W. Brannan, eds., *Documenting America, 1935-1943* (Berkeley: U of California P, 1988). Includes excellent essays by Lawrence Levine and Trachtenberg.

F. Jack Hurley, *Portrait of a Decade: Roy Stryker and the Development of Documentary Photography in the Thirties* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1972)

Karin Ohrn, *Dorothea Lange and the Documentary Tradition* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1980)

Walter Rosenblum, Naomi Rosenblum, Alan Trachtenberg, *America and Lewis Hine* (Millerton, NY: Aperture, 1977)

Arthur Rothstein, *Documentary Photography* (London & NY: Focal P, 1986, and subsequent editions)

Arthur Rothstein, *Photojournalism* (1956; London & NY: Focal P, 1982, and subsequent editions)

Maren Stange, *Symbols of Ideal Life: American Documentary Photography* (Cambridge & NY: Cambridge UP, 1989)

William Stott, *Documentary Expression and Thirties America*, reprint ed. (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1985)

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