

Guide to the Photographs of the Manzanar Concentration Camp, California

WA Photos 537



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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA Photos 537

CREATOR: Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984 , photographer

TITLE: Photographs of the Manzanar Concentration Camp, California

DATES: 1985

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 50 Photographs (2 boxes) : black-and-white prints ; ; 280 x 354 mm

LANGUAGE: Inscriptions and ink stamps in English.

SUMMARY: Black and white photographs of the Manzanar concentration camp photographed in 1943 by Ansel Adams and printed from the original negatives by Alan Ross in 1985 for the Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art, History, and Science in Fresno, California.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.manzanar>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.manzanar>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Janet Sirmon Fine Art on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2016.

Conditions Governing Use

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

Ansel Adams, Photographs of the Manzanar Concentration Camp, California. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Titles for prints in this guide derive from the titles given by Adams to original negatives held at the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, and the descriptions derive from image descriptions by that institution.

This finding aid was revised in 2021 to address outdated or harmful descriptive language. During that revision, description was changed in the collection level scope and contents note and the collection title. References to Japanese-American "relocation," "evacuation," and "internment" during World War II were removed and replaced with community recommended/currently accepted terminology in 2021, such as "Japanese American incarceration." Previous versions of this finding aid may be available. Please contact the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library for details. If you have questions or comments about these revisions, please contact the Beinecke or the Archival and Manuscript Description Committee. For more information on reparative archival description at Yale, see [Yale's Statement on Harmful Language in Archival Description](#).

Ansel Easton Adams (1902-1984)

Ansel Easton Adams was an American photographer and environmentalist. In fall 1943, Adams captured images at the Manzanar War Relocation Center, an American Concentration Camp, in Inyo County, California, at the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Alan Ross (born 1932)

Alan Ross is a photographer and educator. He was a photographic assistant to Ansel Adams from 1974 to 1984. In 1984-1985, a traveling exhibition of original photographic prints from the Ansel Adams's Photographs of Japanese-American Internment at Manzanar collection of the Library of Congress traveled to Fresno, California; Denver, Colorado; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1985, Ross created sets of modern prints from the original negatives held by the Library of Congress, which traveled to more venues. Emily Medvec curated the traveling exhibitions and wrote an introduction to the catalog for them: *Born Free and Equal: An Exhibition of Ansel Adams Photographs* (Washington, D.C.: Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art, History, and Science by Echolight Corporation, 1984).

Biographical / Historical

The United States declared war on Japan in 1941 following an attack by Japan on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Under authority granted by Executive Order 9066, issued in February 1942, the federal government incarcerated over 120,000 people of Japanese descent in American concentration camps.

Content Description

Black and white photographs of the Manzanar concentration camp photographed in 1943 by Ansel Adams and printed from the original negatives by Alan Ross in 1985 for the Fresno Metropolitan Museum of Art, History, and Science in Fresno, California.

The photographs concentrate on the incarcerated and their activities, including family life in the barracks, people at work, and recreational activities.

Ink stamps on versos: "Photograph by Ansel Adams, Born Free and Equal, Photographs of the Manzanar War Relocation Center, 1943-1944. Museum print from the original negative by Alan Ross, Fall, 1985. Produced in Cooperation with the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and the Library of Congress."

Signed, titled, and numbered by Alan Ross on versos.

Inscriptions on versos: FMM Set #4.

Arrangement

Arranged by the printer.

Collection Contents

Photographs, images created in 1943 and printed in 1985

b. 1, f. 1	<i>Birds on Wire, Evening</i> Birds sit on power lines above buildings, mountains and setting sun in the background.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 2	<i>Entrance to Manzanar</i> Wooden sign at entrance to the Manzanar War Relocation Center with a car at the gatehouse in the background.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 3	<i>Manzanar from Guard Tower, View West (Sierra Nevada in Background)</i> Bird's-eye view of center grounds showing buildings, roads and mountains in background.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 4	<i>Yuichi Hirata</i> Yuichi Harata (1915-1982), bust portrait, facing front.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 5	<i>People Walking</i> Group of young people, mostly women, holding books, walking on a dirt road, buildings in the distance.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 6	<i>Mrs. Yaeko Nakamura and her Two Children, Joyce Yuki (right) and Louise Tami (left), Standing on the Step at the Entrance of a Dwelling</i> Includes Yaeko Kusayanagi Nakamura (1909-2008) and her daughters, Tamiko Louise Nakamura (born 1938), and Yukiko Joyce Nakamura (born 1934).	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 7	<i>Tōyō Miyatake Family</i> Tōyō Miyatake (1895-1979), full-length portrait, standing in his children's bedroom looking at his young daughter, Minnie Mineko Miyatake (born 1938), seated at a desk, drawing, while her mother, Hiro Miyatake (1904-1972), stands behind her. Inscription on verso misidentifies the image as the Mitsu Nakai family.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 8	<i>Louise Tami Nakamura</i> Tamiko Louise Nakamura (born 1938), youngest daughter in Nakamura family, bust portrait, facing front. Print lacks an ink stamp and pencil inscriptions on verso.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 9	<i>Pool in Pleasure Park</i> Japanese-style garden with pool at dusk with mountains in the background and moon.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 10	<i>Band Concert</i> Spectators of all ages, seated and standing, watch a band perform in the afternoon on an outdoor stage.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 11	<i>Tōyō Miyatake, Photographer</i> Tōyō Miyatake (1895-1979), bust portrait, facing front.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 12	<i>Harry Sumida, in Hospital</i> Nobutaro Harry Sumida (1871-1950), full-length portrait, seated, facing left, reading a book, next to a small table. "Oldest Neisi in Center," according to caption on the negative sleeve.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985

b. 1, f. 13	<i>Kenji Sano</i> Kenji Sano (1925-1989), farmer second generation, bust portrait, facing front.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 14	<i>Work-Offer Board</i> Notices of available employment posted on an outdoor bulletin board.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 15	<i>Relocation Departure II</i> Group of people standing, facing right, near the open door of an automobile, buildings in the background.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 16	<i>Manzanar Street Scene, Spring</i> Two way traffic in the camp, and camp buildings.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 17	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Tsurutani and Baby Bruce</i> Henry Junya Tsurutani (1908-2003), Aya Lucy Imai Tsurutani (1913-2013), and Bruce Tadashi Tsurutani (born 1941) at table with shelving units along walls. Inscription on verso misidentifies the image as the Tōyō Miyatake family.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 18	<i>Baseball Game</i> Japanese Americans observe an amateur baseball game in progress; one-story buildings and mountains in the background.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 19	<i>Joyce Yuki Nakamura (Eldest Daughter)</i> Yukiko Joyce Nakamura (born 1934), bust portrait, facing front.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 20	<i>Mess Line, Noon</i> People of all ages wait in a line in front of a building at midday.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 21	<i>Hidimi Tayenaka (Woodworker)</i> Hidimi Art Tayenaka (1915-1996), standing, facing left, pushing a piece of wood through the planer.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 22	<i>Roy Takeno, Town Hall Meeting from Side</i> Roy Makoto Takeno (1913-1997), standing, addresses a group of men gathered for a meeting.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 23	<i>Benji Iguchi on Tractor</i> Close-up of tractor with Benji Iguchi (1915-1992) pulling a rope.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 24	<i>Two Young men in Co-Op Goods Store, Satoru Nasunoko & Bill Idama</i> Japanese American man and Kiyonobu Bill Idama (1920-2009) seated on crates of bottles in the storeroom, both smoke cigarettes. According to the records of the United States War Relocation Authority, there was no one with the name "Satoru Nasunoko" at Manzanar War Relocation Center or other relocation center.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 1, f. 25	<i>Michael Yonemitsu X-Ray Technician, and Harry Sumida in X-Ray Room</i> Michael Koichi Yonemitsu (1914-2010) holds the right hand of Nobutaro Harry Sumida (1871-1950) on an x-ray plate.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985

b. 2, f. 26	<i>Orphanage</i> Two babies stand in one crib, one baby lays down with head up in another crib.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 27	<i>School Children</i> Three girls standing against wall.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 28	<i>Corporal Jimmy Shohara</i> United States Army Corporal James Hatsuto Shohara (1920-1993), head-and-shoulders portrait, facing front, in uniform.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 29	<i>Pictures and Mementoes on Phonograph Top: Yonemitsu Home</i> Autographed photograph of United States Army Private Robert Takeo Yonemitsu (1921-2002), religious card, stamped envelopes, ornamental squash and a potted plant on doily on a table top.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 30	<i>Nurse Aiko Hamaguchi</i> Aiko Hamaguchi Morita (1918-2013), bust portrait, facing front.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 31	<i>C. T. Hibino, Artist</i> Tamekichi Carl Hibino (1880-1953), artist, three-quarter length portrait, standing, facing front, holding paintbrush and palette, in front of large painting.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 32	<i>Roy Takeno, Editor, and Group Reading Paper in Front of Office</i> Roy Makoto Takeno (1913-1997) (far left), with Nabou Sawamura (1921-1988) and Yuichi Hirata (1915-1982) , standing in front of the Office of Reports Free Press. Two men are reading the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> newspaper.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 33	<i>Yonehisa Yamagami, Electrician</i> Yonehisa Yamagami (1917-2001), bust portrait, facing slightly right, a cigarette holder between his teeth.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 34	<i>Science Lecture</i> Students seated in a classroom laboratory watching instructor at front of room.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 35	<i>Mr. Matsumoto and Children at Children's Garden</i> Harry Haruo Matsumoto (1908-1988) on wooden steps with nine children from the "Shonien," Japanese for Children's Home, also known as Children's Garden and Children's Village, an orphanage for children at the Manzanar War Relocation Center.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 36	<i>Yoshio Muramoto, Electrician</i> Yoshio Muramoto (1920-1985), bust portrait, facing front.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 37	<i>Warehouse, M. Ogi, Manager; S. Sugimoto, Manager of Co-Op; and Bunkichi Hayashi</i> Monji Ogi (1903-1978), Sokichi Sugimoto (1894-1977) manager of Cooperative Enterprises, and Bunkichi Hayashi (1915-1972) standing among shelves with boxes in warehouse.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985

b. 2, f. 38	<i>Farm, Farm Workers, Mount Williamson in Background</i> Farm workers harvesting crops in field, mountains in the background. Inscription on verso references another image, <i>Potato fields</i> .	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 39	<i>Children at Sunday School Class</i> Four boys seated in a Sunday school class.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 40	<i>Japanese-American United States Naval Cadet Nurse, Kay Fukuda</i> Kikuko Kay Hikuko Fukuda Ochiai (1919-1998), three-quarter length portrait, standing, facing front, in military uniform.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 41	<i>Chicken Farm, Mori Nakashima</i> Moritaka Nakashima (1919-1993), full-length portrait, standing, facing front, scattering chicken feed from a pail in front of a chicken coop.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 42	<i>Sumiko Shigematsu at Power Machine</i> Sumiko Shigematsu Murakami (1921-2013), half-length portrait, seated at textile machinery, facing right.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 43	<i>People Leaving Buddhist Church, Winter</i> People walking through relocation center in snow past hand made wood fence.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 44	<i>Relocation Good-Byes</i> Tsunahigashi Nakaji (1892-1979), also known as Otsuno Nakaji, three-quarter length portrait, standing against the open door of an automobile, facing left.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 45	<i>Kishio Matoba</i> Kishio Matoba (1921-2000), bust portrait, facing front.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 46	<i>Burning Leaves, Autumn Dawn</i> Group of men and boys standing around a small brush fire holding shovels, a pitchfork stands in the right foreground, mountains in background.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 47	<i>Manzanar Museum (Ansel Adams Exhibit)</i> Visitors of all ages view an exhibit of Ansel Adams' photographs of Manzanar and sculpture displayed on walls and tables.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 48	<i>Loading Bus, Leaving Manzanar for Relocation</i> Man with pipe stands on top of bus loading luggage into rack, while others gather around.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 49	<i>Monument in Cemetery</i> Marble monument with Kanji inscription that reads, "Monument for the Pacification of Spirits," with mountains in the background, including Mount Williamson.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985
b. 2, f. 50	<i>Girl Smiling (Occidental Type)</i> Young girl, half-length portrait, standing, facing left.	image created in 1943 and printed in 1985

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Japanese Americans -- Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945 -- Pictorial works
Manzanar National Historic Site (Calif.) -- Pictorial works.

Geographic Names

California -- Pictorial works
Sierra Nevada (Calif. and Nev.) -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints
Photographs

Contributors

Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984 , photographer
Ross, Alan, 1932- , printer

Acquired From

Janet Sirmon Fine Art , bookseller