

# CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

IMAGES OF CALIFORNIA



### [Visit Us](#)

*California History Room  
900 N Street Room 200  
9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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Are you looking for images of California? How about the works of a famous California painter or photographer? Explore the history of this State via art and images [California History Section's](#) rich collections of photographs, prints, letter sheets and more!

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## ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore dedicated to California imagery!

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### [Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of the images in our collection and placed them on Calisphere! Check them out and remember that we have a lot more in the catalog and in the library.



**URL:** <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/collections/>

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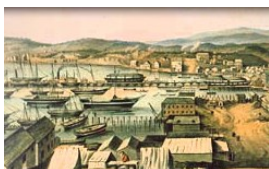
### [History Section Displays](#)

Our bi-monthly book and image displays feature a variety of subject-specific images of California. Check the display archive for our topical booklets.



**URL:** <http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/ca-display.html>

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### [Online Exhibits](#)

The exhibits at the State Library often use a large number of photos from the collection. You can see a portion of these by checking out our online exhibits!



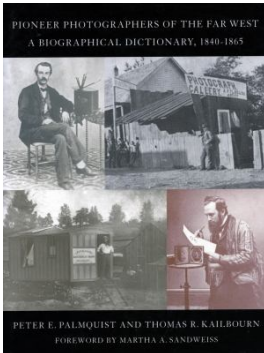
**URL:** [http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/online\\_exhibits.html](http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/online_exhibits.html)

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## GENERAL REFERENCES

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! If you are interested in California imagery, either via photography or other mediums these items will help.

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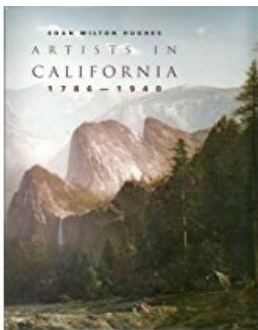


Palmquist, P., Kailbourn, T., & Sandweiss, M. (2000). *[Pioneer photographers of the far west : A biographical dictionary, 1840-1865.](#)* Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

Interested in learning more about the person who created that daguerreotype or stereograph. This book provides biographical information about 19th century photographers.



URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001133181](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001133181)



Hughes, E., & Crocker Art Museum. (2002). *[Artists in California, 1786-1940](#)* (3rd ed.). Sacramento, CA: Crocker Art Museum.

Did one of our paintings catch your eye? Curious about the life of a local artist? This book provides biographies of artists other than photographers.

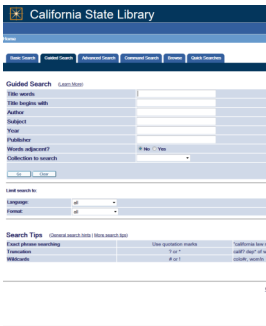


URL: [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl\\_term=SYS%3D001190890](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001190890)

## CATALOG GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

Not only are our materials on special image-focused websites, they are also available in our catalogs! You can use the following resources to learn about what types of images we have.

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The screenshot shows the California State Library Catalog search page. It features a header with the library logo and navigation tabs. Below the header is a 'Quick Search' section with fields for Title, Author, Subject, Year, Publisher, and Words adjacent. There is also a 'Collection to search' dropdown. A 'Limit search to' section allows filtering by Language and Format. At the bottom, there is a 'Search Tips' section with links to 'Exact phrase searching', 'Use quotation marks', 'California Info II', 'Find a range of years', and 'Search by date'.

### Catalog

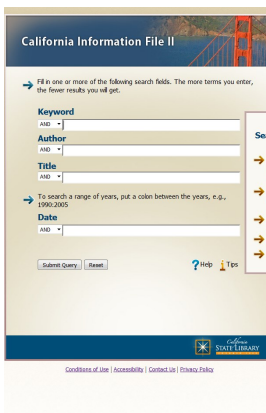
If you're looking for images kept at the California State Library, your best source is our [catalog](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-b-0&local_base=images).



**URL:** [http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-b-0&local\\_base=images](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-b-0&local_base=images)

**Type in Search Box:** Desired keyword

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The screenshot shows the California Information File II search page. It features a header with the library logo and a search bar. Below the header is a 'Keyword' section with fields for Author, Title, and Date. There is also a 'Search by date' section with a range of years. At the bottom, there is a 'Search Tips' section with links to 'Exact phrase searching', 'Use quotation marks', 'California Info II', 'Find a range of years', and 'Search by date'.

### California Information File II

Sometimes there are also images listed in the California Information File II a continuation of the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find postcards, prints and more!



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)

**Type in Search Box:** Desired keyword

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## COUNTY-SPECIFIC SINGLE IMAGES IN OUR CATALOG

Curious about images of a specific county? While these links don't list all of what the California History Section has, they are a good starting point for photos and photo albums.

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## ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.

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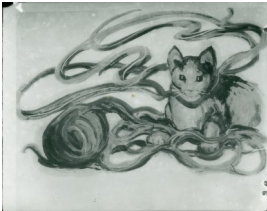
### Picture File

Not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our analog picture file.



#### Subject Headings:

1. Organized by name, location and subject
2. Check with librarians



### Art & Reproduction File

Curious about the artwork kept at the State Library? Check our analog Art & Reproduction file! It contains references to many images not listed in our online catalog.



#### Subject Headings:

1. Check with librarians



### Prints File

Some of our finer images, especially of early California are prints. Check for items not online using our in-house file!



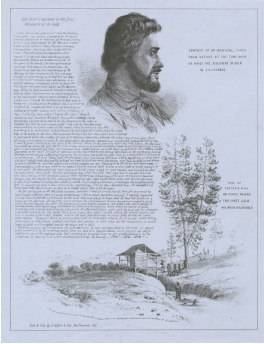
#### Subject Headings:

1. Check with librarians



## ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

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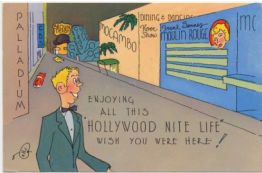
### Letter Sheet File

Our collections include a number of letters on highly illustrated stationery depicting scenes of early California. We keep track of what we have in our letter sheet file.



#### Subject Headings:

1. Check with librarians



### Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of real photo and photomechanical images from the late 19th century onward. Most are not online.



**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians

## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations

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**Bancroft Library**  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720



(510) 642-3781  
[bancref@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:bancref@library.berkeley.edu)  
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu>

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**California Historical Society**  
678 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105



(415) 357-1848, ext. 220  
[reference@calhist.org](mailto:reference@calhist.org)  
<http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org>

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**California State Railroad Museum**  
**Library**  
113 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814



(916) 323-8073  
[rrmuseumlibrary@parks.ca.gov](mailto:rrmuseumlibrary@parks.ca.gov)  
<http://www.csrnf.org>

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

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**Photo Archives**  
**The Huntington Library**  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108



(626) 405-2191  
[libraryinfo@huntington.org](mailto:libraryinfo@huntington.org)  
<http://www.huntington.org>



**Los Angeles Public Library**  
**Historic Photograph Collection**  
630 W. Fifth Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2097



(213) 228-7274  
<http://photos.lapl.org>



**National Maritime Museum Library**  
Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E  
San Francisco, CA 94123



(415) 561-7030  
<https://www.nps.gov/safr/learn/historyculture/research-center.htm>

## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

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### **Oakland Museum History Department**

1000 Oak Street  
Oakland, CA 94607



(510) 238-3842

<http://collections.museumca.org>

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### **Center for Sacramento History**

551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95811-0229



(916) 264-7072, by appt. only

[csh@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:csh@cityofsacramento.org)

[http://  
www.centerforsacramentohistory.org](http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org)

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### **San Diego Historical Society**

Photograph Collection  
1649 El Prado, Suite 3  
San Diego, CA 92101



(619) 232-6203, ext. 164

<https://www.sandiegohistory.org>

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

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### **San Francisco Room and Archives, 6th Fl.**

San Francisco Main Library, Civic Center  
100 Larkin Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94102



(415) 557-4567

<https://sfpl.org/?pg=0200002501>

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### **Seaver Center for Western History Research**

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles  
County  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007-4057



(213) 763-3359

<http://www.nhm.org/site/research-collections/seaver-center>

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### **UC Davis Shields Library Special Collections**

100 N.W. Quad  
Davis, CA 95616-5292



(530) 752-1621

[speccoll@ucdavis.edu](mailto:speccoll@ucdavis.edu)

<http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/specol>

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

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### **UC Riverside / Calif. Museum of Photography**

3824 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501



(909) 787-3686

<https://artsblock.ucr.edu/Page/research>

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### **Map & Imagery Laboratory Davidson Library**

University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010



(805) 893-2779

[milrefdesk@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:milrefdesk@library.ucsb.edu)  
<https://www.library.ucsb.edu/mil>

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### **Regional History Center Doheny Memorial Library, Room 206**

USC Libraries  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0189



(213) 821-2366

[specol@usc.edu](mailto:specol@usc.edu)  
[https://libraries.usc.edu/locations/  
special-collections](https://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections)

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## OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

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**Wells Fargo History Services**  
420 Montgomery Street (A0101-026)  
San Francisco, CA 94163



(415) 396-4157, by appt. only  
[historicalservices@wellsfargo.com](mailto:historicalservices@wellsfargo.com)  
<http://www.wellsfargohistory.com/>

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