

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO 3, ILLINOIS, U. S. A.

An exhibition of photographs by Adam Clark Vroman (1856-1916), Photographer of the Southwest, will be on display at The Art Institute of Chicago through January 20, 1963.

Born in LaSalle, Illinois, Vroman worked for The Burlington and Quincy Railroad in Rockford for seventeen years. He later took up residence in California where he founded a famous book store, and became a collector of Oriental Art and a student of the history of the Southwest.

It is, however, as a photographer that he is most famous. One of a small number who continued in the tradition of field photographers, Vroman's intention was to document the land, the people and what remained of Spanish colonialism in the West in as honest, direct and sympathetic a style as possible.

The one hundred photographs in the exhibition form an interesting link between the early photographers of the West, and the later efforts of Edward Weston and Ansel Adams. Taken between 1895 and 1904 in Southern California, Arizona and New Mexico, they include many splendid studies of Yosemite and of the mission churches, as well as a series of remarkable portraits of Hopi and Zuni Indians.

Working with large view cameras, Vroman covered miles of territory recording the extraordinary light of the Southwest and its vast landscapes. With a large camera he was able to record details, sharply focused, which make his photographs valuable documents. Although an amateur, he acted as official photographer on two expeditions of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

In spite of their importance, Vroman's photographs disappeared into obscurity at his death in 1916, and it was not until 1953 that they were recovered. The prints in the present exhibition, most of them contact prints, were made by William Webb from the original glass plates.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Martha Bennett King
CE 6-7080