

NINE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM ALEXANDER GARDNER'S Photographic Sketch Book
of the Civil War

67.330

Gift of Marjorie B. Kovler

As an attempt to dispel the popular belief that Mathew B. Brady made all of the Civil War photographs, Alexander Gardner published The Photographic Sketch Book of the War in 1865 - 66. In two volumes, it contained one hundred original prints from collodion (glass plate) negatives. As may be seen in the examples shown, photographers were credited for their work, just as was done with engravings, etchings, and lithographs. Often the names of the printers of the positive proofs were given.

Today the book is extremely rare, and despite Gardner's efforts, the belief persists that Brady performed the Herculean labor of making the entire documentation of the war. Although he did some active work, the larger part of the most moving of the photographs was taken by others. It is to his foresight as the organiser of a large enterprise which employed many photographers that we remain grateful to him.

LEWIS W. HINE. American, 1874 - 1940

ELEVEN PHOTOGRAPHS. From about 1900 through 1910

Prints from 5 x 7 inches glass negatives

Gift of David Vestal

Lewis Hine, born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and a student of sociology, is another photographer who turned to the camera as an instrument of documentation. He was one of the most expressive spirits of the "muckraking" period, and his subjects were widely published in magazines and books. It is impossible to find another who had such modest and complete relationship with his material. He stands at the head of that trend, so evident in American photography, which can lift the factual and documentary to the highest plane. With Walker Evans and Robert Frank he is the chief inspiration of a large and widely scattered group of the most significant young photographers of the present time.

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65.343
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65.354b
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65.352

CLARENCE KENNEDY. American, born in 1892

THREE PLATINUM PRINT PHOTOGRAPHS

Left to right in the group: Head of a Young Saint John, attributed to
Donatello, 64.209

Hands from a Relief of the Pieta in the
Tabernacle by Desiderio da Settignano,
San Lorenzo, Florence 64.307

Profile of a Lady, attributed to
Desiderio da Settignano. 64.210

Photography Purchase Fund

During the many years he taught at Smith College, Clarence Kennedy published his scholarly essays on Italian art. The photographs he made to accompany them have become classics of their kind.

His sensitivity to light on modelled surfaces with its infinite mutations and its character of constant variety and change is admirably reproduced in his prints. There are none of the "dramatic" effects so dear to photographers of art objects. The effect here, although carefully contrived, develops from long appreciation of his material, and is one of naturalness and the quiet permanence of great things.

Although the dates of the making of these photographs are beyond that set by this exhibition, they are shown at the present time as examples of how the influence of the traditions of early photography were continued in the years between the two world wars.