



american
institute for
conservation

**Preserving Cultural
Heritage**

Article: Hidden Treasures in the Photographic Technology Books at the Library of Congress (Abstract)

Author(s): Adrienne Lundgren

Topics in Photographic Preservation, Volume 17

Page: 103

Compiler: Jessica Keister and Marie-Lou Beauchamp

© 2017, The American Institute for Conservation (AIC). 727 15th Street NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20005. (202) 452-9545, www.culturalheritage.org. Under a licensing agreement, individual authors retain copyright to their work and extend publication rights to the American Institute for Conservation.

Topics in Photographic Preservation is published biannually by the Photographic Materials Group (PMG) of the American Institute for Conservation (AIC). A membership benefit of the Photographic Materials Group, *Topics in Photographic Preservation* is primarily comprised of papers presented at PMG meetings and is intended to inform and educate conservation-related disciplines.

Papers presented in *Topics in Photographic Preservation, Vol. 17*, have not undergone a formal process of peer review. Responsibility for the methods and materials described herein rests solely with the authors, whose articles should not be considered official statements of the PMG or the AIC. The PMG is an approved division of the AIC but does not necessarily represent the AIC policy or opinions.

Hidden Treasures in the Photographic Technology Books at the Library of Congress

Adrienne Lundgren

Presented at the 2017 PMG Winter Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 2012, the Library of Congress general collections holdings under the “TR classification” or photographic technology were examined with the goal of transferring rare materials to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. This review, conducted by the author, revealed that not only were there incredibly rare manuals that warranted transfer, but also a significant number of 19th and early 20th century manuals that contained original photographic and photography related samples. Among more esoteric samples such as vignetting papers, photographic backdrop cloths, and retouching paint palettes, a large portion of the samples consisted of photographic prints on identified proprietary papers of known date. It became clear that these samples could provide conservators and scientists with incredible materials resource if properly described and organized. This paper will highlight the types of materials found in the collection, describe the methods for “cataloguing” them, and how this information might be of use in materials studies. In addition, it was found that the sample prints had variations from one book to another even within the same year/edition. Thus, we hope that other institutions with similar holdings will examine and catalogue their books to further expand the data set, allowing for more statistically broad studies in the future.

Adrienne Lundgren

Senior Photograph Conservator

Library of Congress, Washington, DC