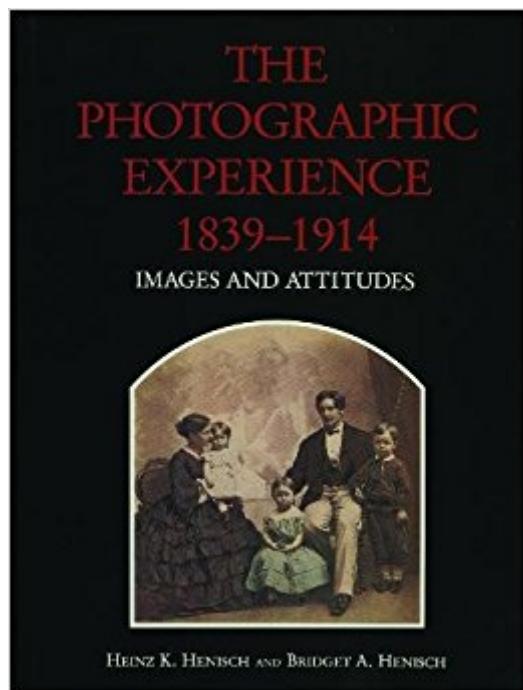


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The Photographic Experience, 1839–1914: Images And Attitudes



Synopsis

Eighteen thirty-nine was the miraculous year in which the two principal inventors of photography—Daguerre in France and Fox Talbot in Great Britain—made their discoveries known to an eager and receptive public. News of the process flashed around the globe, and in no time enthusiastic pioneers from Auckland to Zanzibar were trying the new invention. Photography took root and flourished. It has since been used in a thousand ways and has changed our modes of perception in many more. The Photographic Experience deals with episodes and issues relating to the spread and practice of photography from its beginnings to World War I. Bridget and Heinz Henisch concern themselves with the reception accorded to the new art by professionals, amateurs, and the general public. They examine reactions to the new invention in the press, literature, poetry, music, and fashion; the response of intellectuals and painters; and the beliefs held by prominent photographers concerning the nature of the medium and its mission. With a wide array of images—many never before published—they illustrate the photograph's use as a record of public and private moments in life. Photography became so quickly and thoroughly interwoven with the fabric of society and human experience, that its history comprises much more than the story of photographic art and its creators. The authors examine photographic ephemera and humor, photography and the law, the photographic studio experience, photography and travel, photography and journalism with special attention to advertising and war, the role of photography in politics, photographically illustrated books, the practice of overpainting, photography in the hands of the scholar, and the presentation and use of photographs in their social milieu.

Book Information

Hardcover: 472 pages

Publisher: Penn State University Press; First Edition edition (January 10, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0271009306

ISBN-13: 978-0271009308

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,061,640 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #97 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Color #331 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Criticism & Essays #1404

Customer Reviews

The social impact of 19th-century photography as amusement, popular science, advertising, journalism, art form and personal memento is documented in this massive volume which will be of interest primarily to scholars. Heinz Henisch, a professor of the history of photography at Penn State, and Bridget Henisch, the author of *Fast and Feast*, have assembled an astonishing amount of archival material to record the ingenious and often humorous uses to which the medium has been put: photo-montages to create a family tree or class reunion; a double-exposure showing a man in the gesture of toasting his own health; and elaborate portrait-studio background sets comprising snowfalls, palatial interiors and dulcet gardens. Each of the 500 illustrations is intriguing in its own right--including the cartoons bemoaning or poking fun at photography itself. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Heinz Henisch (history of photography, Pennsylvania State Univ.) is the founding editor of *History of Photography*; his wife is a medievalist who shares his interest. Their monumental undertaking, the culmination of some 30 years of collecting and research, fills a conspicuous void in the field. They examine manifestations of early photography in everyday life that have never been properly explored, and they do so in a coherent, witty, informed, and highly readable prose style. The historical narrative delineates the reception given to the new invention of photography, its rapid spread throughout the world, and its earliest applications. Literary treatments of photographers and photography, travel views, photography and humor, and the use of photographic evidence in the courtroom are topics generously supported by hundreds of high-quality illustrations, many hitherto unpublished. Satisfying to the most exacting scholar and a delight for lay readers, this book deserves a place in every photography, photohistory, cultural history, and Victorian studies collection. It will surely be one of the best books of 1994.- Kathleen Collins, New York Transit Museum Archives, BrooklynCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Simply love my hard cover copy!Full of wonderful images, personal letters and excerpts from popular magazines... the kind of information that makes this period come close to the contemporary reader. Gives you a variety of aspects on how photography has influenced the way we feel about ourselves today, both by telling about how it was received and by connecting it to the philosophical and critical reflections that the emergence of photography started.

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