

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

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TITLE OF PROJECT: A Study of the Photographs of the Northwest Boundary Survey

Time Period of Grant: 2015

Amount of Award Received: \$4,790.00

Original Abstract as Submitted:

The survey establishing the boundary between the Washington Territory and Canada took place between 1857 and 1861. The British survey team made photographs during the 1860-1861 seasons, but the American team was not successful in photographic efforts. Documentation of this survey in the U.S. is sparse; no thorough official report was published until 40 years later, due to the outbreak of the Civil War. Bancroft Library holds a collection of 45 landscape views and portraits made by the British. Such sets are extremely rare, and the full set of images has never been published. Incomplete collections are at Yale and the Library of Congress. The most complete sets, of 80-100 views, are at the Victoria and Albert Museum (London) and the archives of the Royal Corps of Engineers (Kent). I propose to study these sets and the physical evidence they exhibit with regard to order of creation, arrangement by custodians, and the intended narratives they may suggest. I will approach the photographs with these questions: 1) What evidence of chronology or geographic sequence is present in the two sets? 2) What evidence of subsequent use of the views is present on the photographs themselves or in related archival records and reports? 3) What was the official impetus behind, and subsequent use of, the outstanding portraiture of Native Americans of the region? 4) How are the multi-plate panoramic views (identified in the Bancroft collection) presented or identified in the more complete sets, and are there as yet unidentified multi-part views?

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

The project is still in-progress. The research portion has been completed, with a trip to two London repositories completed in early May 2015.

I completed a close examination of all photographs, captions, annotations, and documentary sources that were available at the repositories. Reference snapshots have been taken of all photographs, with close-ups of all captions, and these image files have been organized for close review.

I confirmed that the two archival sets of photographs are identical in terms of images present, that they have uniform manuscript captioning, and are numbered in the same sequence. I also discovered that multi-plate panoramas have been titled and numbered as pairs or trios, but that these related images do not always form contiguous panoramas. Some seem to be unconnected

views from the same vantage point. There are more multi-plate views than I was aware of based on the Bancroft, Yale, and Library of Congress collections.

There is no evidence of chronology in the sets, and I am studying the geographic sequence by mapping the image files I created. This work is ongoing, using Flickr's geo-tagging interface.

I also learned that the two English archival sets lack some photographs found at Bancroft Library and the Library of Congress. The sets are complete in themselves, but must be a selective subset of all the plates exposed and printed. I am still considering the implications of this.

I also identified the best quality print of most images examined, to inform future reproduction orders.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes__ No_X_

If No, what is needed to complete the project? Is more time needed? Or more funds?

I continue to study the copy images made of the two photographic sets, which comprise more than 400 images documenting the two sets of 81 images each. More time is needed to write and submit articles for publication, but I hope to be within or near my calendar projections in my initial proposal, which called for writing in May/June and submission for publication sometime in summer 2015. Late summer submission is my current goal. Any more ambitious products, such as a catalogue raisonné in print or online would be a future project, as indicated in my proposal.

More funds are not needed.

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

\$3,755.06 has been expended, with \$1,034.94 remaining.

Expenditures thus far have been for travel, lodging, and meals, plus a small amount for fees at one repository. My budget (\$500) for reproductions has not yet been expended, and the Library Business Office indicates these funds may be carried into the next fiscal year.

Expenses were reasonably close to projections. Air fare (\$1,264) and accommodations (175 pounds sterling, nightly) were slightly more than projected, but fewer nights were spent in London than originally planned. (A one week stay was reduced to five nights. Repositories' open hours made it impossible to schedule more than four consecutive work days, therefore adding a fifth work day would have required at least four additional hotel nights, from a Friday through the following Tuesday, which was neither possible nor economical.)

The per diem rate for international travel changes quarterly, so the rate identified in winter actually went down by May, making reimbursement for daily expenses slightly lower (\$170 vs. \$180).

Of the \$1,034.94 unexpended balance, about \$470.00 remains of my \$500 copying and permissions budget. The remaining \$565 is a result of savings due to the shortened London stay, as mentioned above. If possible, I would like to be able to apply this to my reproductions budget.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

Considerable post-research work remains as I continue to study image files, map them, and revisit published documentation on the survey. I hope to start writing this month, and intend to author at least one article of interest to historians of photography, and perhaps an additional article for the library and archives literature that considers the custodial history of extant sets.

It is likely to be late summer 2015 before I submit an article for publication.

I also have in mind a web resource that makes all known survey images available, with full descriptions and commentary. This will depend somewhat on the willingness of repositories to grant use permission and contribute images at minimal cost, perhaps as part of a cooperative partnership. While I raised this possibility in person at the archives of the Corps of Royal Engineers, with a vaguely positive response, I have, as yet, been unable to reach the Victoria and Albert curator to whom I was referred. This effort, whether online or as a print catalogue raisonné, is beyond the scope of the current project.

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.

Budget

Travel

Air:	\$1,200
Ground:	
Taxis:	\$100
Public Transit (Tube peak cap at \$18 per day x 5)	\$90
Train London to Chatham, Kent (twice)	\$120
Airport:	\$50

Total Transportation: \$1,560

Lodging: \$1,650
(7 nights at 145 pounds sterling per night, basic single room rate at Goodenough College faculty club with reciprocal membership with UCB.)

Per Diem (Meals & Incidentals): \$1,086
(6 days x \$181/day per State Dept. Meals and Incidentals rate for London, used by UC for international travel)

Total Travel, Lodging, Meals: \$4,296

Copying fees

Xerox:	\$50
Digital photography orders:	\$250
Permission fees to publish images:	\$200

Total Reproductions budget: \$500

Grand Total: \$4,796.00