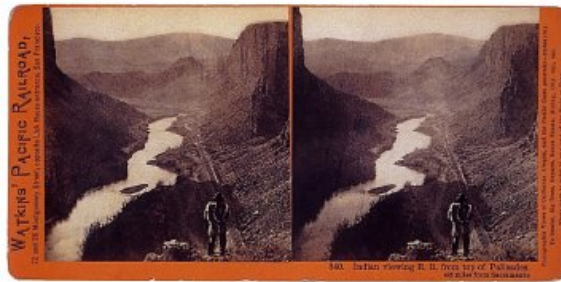


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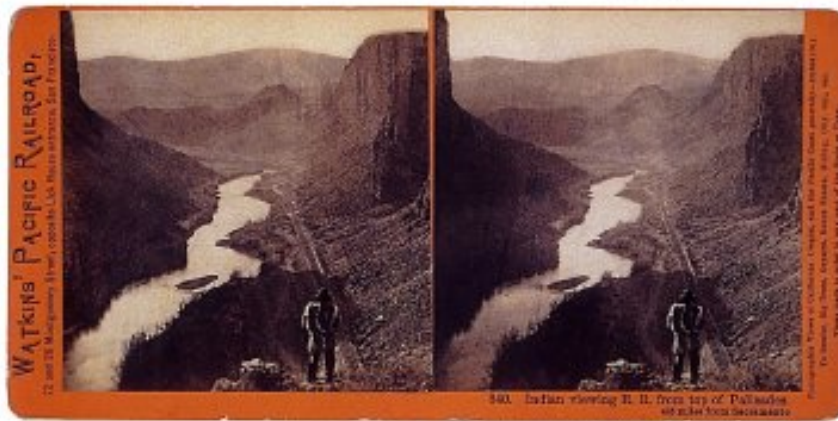
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This volume tells the intertwined stories of photography and the American West - a new medium and a new place that came of age together in the 19th century. The story begins just a few years after the invention of the daguerreotype in 1839, as pioneering photographers followed American troops into the Mexican-American War. Taking advantage of rapidly developing technology, photographers soon set out across the overland trails, recorded the shifting fortunes of California's goldseekers, pictured native peoples, and documented the spectacular topography of the American West. The new medium of photography made vivid a landscape few Americans had seen for themselves. Resurrecting scores of little-known images of the 19th-century American West, this volume presents tales of ambitious photographic adventurers, missing photographs, and misinterpreted images. Chronicling both the history of a place and the history of a medium, it portrays how Americans first came to understand western photographs and, consequently, to envision their expanding nation.

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8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Photography and the myths of the American west

By Bukkene Bruse

"Print the Legend" is an insightful study of the co-development of photography and the image of the American west. Sandweiss begins by discussing the limited uses of daguerrotypes as intermediaries for other forms of visual information in the context of the Mexican-American war and the unfolding western landscape. She goes on to show that as the technology of wet-plate photography developed, so did the direct use of supposedly objective photographs in building the mythology of the western United States. The chapter on photography and representations of American Indians was particularly strong and nuanced.

"Print the Legend" is recommended for anyone with an interest in early photography or western American history. But above all, I found it to be a deep examination of photography and photographic representation.

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

How the West was Spun

By Michael More

Heroic cowboys and savage Indians. Homes on the cozy range. Gold for the taking in them thar hills. Print the Legend shows how the first photos of the American West were cropped and captioned to embellish the stories and myths that drew the pioneers westward. Few historians write this gracefully, and Sandweiss's prize-winning scholarship is free from pedantic distractions. The engrossing section on photography and the American Indian is worth the price of this handsome, deliciously intelligent book.

--Michael More, Albuquerque Journal

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