**Aerial Photograph Collection**

**What's online**
The Aerial Photograph Collection, held by the Archive Service Center at the University of Pittsburgh, contains 137 aerial views of Pittsburgh and its surrounding communities during the years 1923 through 1937. The twenty-one images selected for the online collection, spanning the years 1923 through 1932, show images of Downtown, Mount Washington, the North Side, the Point, Oakland, and Homestead, Pa. Many of the photographs show landmarks that no longer exist such as Laughlin Steel Mill, Pitt Stadium, and Forbes Field, as well as sites of present day landmarks such as the Koppers Building, the Gulf Building, and the Cathedral of Learning before and during their construction. There is one photo of the 1937 Ohio River Flood, and images of Bettis Airfield and Rogers Airfield.

**What's in the collection**
The whole of the collection also features views of the South Side, the Strip District, the Hill District, and the Bluff, as well as photographs of the Byers Family Estate, WAEG radio station, the Allegheny County Municipal Airport, and many manufacturing plants. Additionally, there are two images of New Kensington, Pa., and twenty photographs depict damage resulting from the 1937 Ohio River Flood.

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**Collection name:** Aerial Photograph Collection  
**Held by:** Archive Service Center  
**Number of images in collection:** 137  
**Number of images online:** 21  
**Date range of collection:** 1923-1937  
**Date range represented online:** 1923-1932
Carnegie Museum of Art Collection of Photographs

What's online
The Carnegie Museum of Art Collection of Photographs, acquired from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in 1982, contains nearly two thousand prints of Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania from the late nineteenth through the late twentieth century. The 117 images selected for the online collection, spanning the years 1900 through 1956, show scenes from mills and factories, street scenes, portraits, and aerial shots of downtown Pittsburgh.

What's in the collection
The whole of the collection is especially rich in images of Pittsburgh from the first half of the twentieth century. The series is composed of images by internationally regarded photographers such as Margaret Bourke-White and W. Eugene Smith, as well as lesser-known photographers such as Luke Swank, Hugh Torrance, Sol Libsohn, and Frank Bingaman. There are also many striking photographs by unknown photographers.
**Teenie Harris Collection**

**What's online**
The Teenie Harris Collection, held by the Carnegie Museum of Art, contains more than eighty thousand images taken by Pittsburgh photographer Charles “Teenie” Harris that document life in the black communities of Pittsburgh from 1935 to 1975. The 350 images selected for the online collection, spanning the years 1935 through 1965, show weddings, funerals, family portraits, church events, street scenes, businessmen, and mill workers.

**What's in the collection**
The whole of the collection features eighty thousand images. Most images are negatives, though there are over six hundred prints in the collection.

**About Teenie Harris**
In a forty-year career as a freelance and staff photographer for the *Pittsburgh Courier*, Teenie Harris amassed a photo-historical record nearly unrivaled in the archives of urban American life, prompting the late Clarence Rollo Turner, a sociologist and historian of black history, to say Harris’ work constitutes “one of the most complete chronologies of a black community in the United States.”

The value of Harris’ legacy lies not only in the sheer volume of images, but also in the range and expressiveness of the pictures he took. Unlike his better-known contemporaries, such as James Van Der Zee, who focused on studio portraits, and Gordon Parks, who traveled extensively to pursue his craft, Harris' milieu was the spontaneous documentation of daily life in his own community. Working for the *Courier* and out of his personal studio from the 1930s to the 1970s, Harris photographed documented the realities of a segregated Pittsburgh at mid-century, and the efforts of African Americans in their fight for civil rights.

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Collection name: Teenie Harris Collection  
Held by: Carnegie Museum of Art  
Number of images in collection: 80,000  
Number of images online: 350  
Date range of collection: 1935-1975  
Date range represented online: 1935-1965
James R. Cox Collection

What’s online
The James R. Cox Collection, held by the Archive Service Center at the University of Pittsburgh, contains 426 photographs, chronicling the life of Father James R. Cox, a Pittsburgh Catholic priest and a political and social activist, from the years 1923 through 1950. The fourteen images selected for the online collection, all from 1930, show dinners for the poor during the Depression, crowds rallying to support Father Cox, unemployment lines, a portrait of Father Cox, and the distribution of bread to those in need.

What’s in the collection
The whole of the collection also features scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, a diary dating from 1904, twenty-eight audiocassettes of radio broadcasts with corresponding transcription discs of radio broadcasts, sermons, and hymns.

About Father Cox
Father James R. Cox was born in 1886, the son of a Pittsburgh mill worker. During the Great Depression, he was instrumental in organizing food-relief programs and was noted for his work helping the homeless and unemployed find shelter. In January 1932, Cox led twenty thousand unemployed Pennsylvanians on a march to Washington, D.C. He hoped that a demonstration in would stir Congress to start a public works program. This did not happen at the time, but the march sparked the formation of the Jobless Party in Pittsburgh. The Jobless Party supported government public works and labor unions and spread to other major cities. Father Cox then became the Jobless Party's first presidential candidate. However, in September 1932, he pulled out of the election and gave his support to the Democratic ticket and Franklin Roosevelt. This action effectively led to the demise of the Party.

After the presidential election of 1932, Father Cox continued his relief work and was a member of the Pennsylvania Commission for the Unemployed. In the mid-thirties, President Roosevelt appointed him to the state recovery board of the National Recovery Administration. He became known as Pittsburgh’s "Pastor of the Poor."

For more information on Cox's presidential campaign, see Andrew I. Krupnick's 1932 diary Father Cox's Campaign for the Presidency of the United States. (AIS MMs 5)
John Gates Photograph Collection

What’s online
The John Gates Photograph Collection, held by the Archive Service Center at the University of Pittsburgh, features 239 images from the late nineteenth century through the early twentieth century that were collected by John K. Gates, a Uniontown, Pa., photographer. The twenty-eight images selected for the online collection, spanning the years 1900 through 1914, show views of downtown Pittsburgh, Highland Park, landscape and industrial scenes, and portraits of people. Many photographs are attributed to an unknown photographer known only as "W.B."

What’s in the collection
The whole of the collection is broad in scope, with images representing transportation, industrial and mining history, as well as images of everyday life. Photographic documentation of notable landmarks includes Phipps Conservatory, the Washington Monument, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia, and the Civil War Soldiers Monument. Many images tend to focus on modes of transportation including horse drawn vehicles such as delivery trucks, hay wagons, a possible fire truck, and various draft horse carts used for pulling construction and mining materials. Other images show automobiles and railroad stations in McKeesport, Pa., Nilan, Pa., and East Orwell, Oh., Forbes Field, the construction of the Ohio River Bridge in Beaver, Pa., and other landscape and industrial scenes.

Private life is well documented with numerous images of family homes, family portraits, and individual portraits. Many photographs include house pets, farm animals, children with favorite toys, and the common practice of displaying pictures of the deceased in the background. Group portraits include military organizations, Salvation Army members, a socialist delegation, and a co-ed typing class. Celebrations such as a country fair, a church decorated for a harvest festival, and decorations for patriotic celebrations are also represented.

Impressive construction projects are also captured in this collection. The construction of what is believed to be a wastewater treatment basin is extensively photographed in stages. Structures associated with the coal industry, including the H.C. Frick Coke Co., are also shown under construction.

Collection name: The John Gates Photograph Collection
Held by: Archive Service Center
Number of images in collection: 239
Number of images online: 28
Date range of collection: late 1800s – early 1900s
Date range represented online: 1900-1914
Lyon Shorb and Company Collection

What’s online
The Lyon Shorb and Company Collection, held by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, features 282 cartes de viste – mass-produced portraits on cardboard backings – of company iron workers posed in stances from the years 1862 through 1867. The nineteen images selected for the online collection show male workers dressed in both work and formal attire.

What’s in the collection
The whole of the collection was photographed and printed by Cargo’s Photographic Room, and all but seven of the images are identified.

About Lyon Shorb and Company
Robert T. Stewart and John Lyon founded Lyon, Shorb and Company in 1825. Located on the south side of the Monongahela River across from downtown Pittsburgh, this iron works grew from a crew of thirty to well over 250 by the 1860s. Initially, the iron was brought in from a more extensive plant Stewart and Lyon owned on the Juniata River near Huntingdon, Pa., and rolled. Later, the works it had its own puddling furnaces.
Mesta Machine Company Photographs

What’s online
The Mesta Machine Company Photographs collection, which was acquired by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania from the Park Corporation in 1995, features over one thousand glass plate negatives of the manufacturing of Mesta-made products and the construction of several of its production facilities taken between 1906 and 1925. The 157 images selected for the online collection span the years 1906 through 1920.

What’s in the collection
Approximately one third of the whole collection is undated and unidentified. Nine hundred twenty images in the collection are of 8"x10" prints, and another one hundred fifteen are 11"x14" prints. Several of the images were used in general information brochures and direct advertising material for the company. As the extant machines and equipment disappear over time, these images remain the last vestige of Mesta’s activities.

About Mesta Machine Company
The Mesta Machine Company, chartered on November 21, 1898, was a major manufacturer of steel mill equipment and machinery. Located in Homestead, Pa., on the banks of the Monongahela River approximately six miles upriver from Pittsburgh, Mesta eventually became the world's largest manufacturing establishment under one roof. Mesta is an outgrowth of two early companies, Leechburg Foundry and Machinery Company and Robinson-Rea Manufacturing Company. George Mesta obtained controlling interest in Leechburg Foundry in the 1890s and then negotiated a merger with Robinson-Rea to create the new company, which he named after himself.

At the height of its success, Mesta employed over thirty-eight hundred people and sprawled more than thirty acres. Mesta took advantage of the steel industry trend in the early 1900s that called for more mechanized steel making processes. As a result of this foresight, Mesta quickly became the top manufacturer of rolling mills, gas and steam engines for blast furnaces, forging presses, and machine-molded gears. The plant included laboratories, foundries, open-hearth furnaces, numerous mills, and separate departments for gear molding and ship shafts. The company sold equipment to iron and steel plants in Canada, Australia, India, England, France, Italy, and Japan.

With the collapse of the U.S. steel industry in the 1970s, Mesta Machine also suffered. In 1983, Mesta Machine filed for bankruptcy and was sold to Park Corporation, who divided it up into several separate manufacturing facilities for a variety of smaller companies such as Mestek and WHMCO.

Collection name: Mesta Machine Company Photographs
Held by: Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
Number of images in collection: 1,000
Number of images online: 157
Date range of collection: 1906-1925
Date range represented online: 1906-1920
Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection

What’s online
The Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection, held by the Archive Service Center at the University of Pittsburgh, features more than 150,000 images as commissioned by the Department of Public Works, Division of Photography, City of Pittsburgh for the years 1901, 1905, and 1907 through 1994. The 107 images selected for the online collection, spanning the years 1901 through 1960, show Pittsburgh parks, recreation facilities, and athletic events as well as hospital exteriors and interiors, mayoral events, traffic situations, and general street scenes.

What’s in the collection
The whole of the collection features more than 150,000 film negatives, glass plate negatives, and photographic prints. It is a diverse and thorough representation of neighborhoods, city growth, and cultural diversity.

About Pittsburgh’s City Photographers
The City Photographers’ tasks included, but were not limited to, documenting the construction of roads, bridges, sewers, and other public works projects in the city of Pittsburgh. They were commissioned from various bureaus such as the Health Department, the Bureau of Recreation, the Transit Commission, the Department of Law, the Bureau of Water, the Department of Child Welfare, and the Bureau of Engineering.

The position of City Photographer was eliminated in the early 1970s, and the office suite used by the photographers on the fifth floor of the City-County Building was turned over to the Mayor’s Office. No office records exist for the City Photographers, thus the origin and work routine of that position can only be conjectured through the photographs themselves. While the Division of Photography under the Department of Public Works ceased to exist, the Department of Supplies maintains a city photographer in the Public Safety building. Unlike the work done by the previous City Photographer, this position is essentially that of a police department photographer.

Collection name: Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection
Held by: Archive Service Center
Number of images in collection: 15,000
Number of images online: 1070
Date range of collection: 1901, 1905, 1907-1994
Date range represented online: 1901-1960