

Collection #
SC 3445

**J.W. BRYANT
PHOTOGRAPHIC BACKDROP SAMPLE BOOK, 1888**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1888

PROVENANCE: Steve Finer Rare Books, Greenfield, Massachusetts

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1992.0161

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

John W. Bryant (1845-1935) of La Porte, Indiana, got his start in photography by taking ferrotypes in 1868. Bryant later branched out to producing and selling photography accessories and backgrounds. He was most known for his specialization in making light, quality photography backgrounds. His backgrounds were made of papier-mâché painted in flat oil paint, which he advertised as lasting longer, smelling minimally, and remaining unsusceptible to vermin. He even worked on a line of ready-to-use paints for his customers to touch up their damaged backgrounds. Bryant's business was bought out in the late 1890s by Wair & Barnes.

Sources:

Keller, Krista. *A Great Variety of New and Fine Designs: Advertisements for Painted Backgrounds, 1856-1903*. Master's thesis, Ryerson University, 2011.

"New Backgrounds and Accessories." *American Journal of Photograph, Volume 8*. Philadelphia, PA: Thomas H. McCollin and Company, 1887.

Packard, Jasper. *History of La Porte County, Indiana, and Its Townships, Towns and Cities*. La Porte, IN: S. E. Taylor & Company, 1876.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection includes a photographic sample book of studio backgrounds from J.W. Bryant of La Porte, Indiana. The 1888 sample book is twenty pages and shows multiple background sample images per page.

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J.W. Bryant, Photographic Background Sample Book,
1888

CONTAINER

Folder 1