
Finding Aid for the Ansel Adams Papers, 1938-1944

Collection number: 696

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Ansel Adams Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1938-1944

Collection number: 696

Creator: Adams, Ansel, 1902-

Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.)1 oversize box

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Ansel Easton Adams (1902-1984) was born in San Francisco, California. A photographer and conservationist, he helped to establish photography as an art form and is known for his detailed, panoramic photos of the American West. The collection consists of typescripts, correspondence, photographs, proof sheets, and ephemera related to the creation and publication of two of Adams's books: *Born Free and Equal* (1944) and *Sierra Nevada, the John Muir Trail* (1938).

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English

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Restrictions on Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Ansel Adams Papers (Collection 696). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Biography

Ansel Easton Adams was born on February 20, 1902 in San Francisco, California; a photographer and conservationist, he helped to establish photography as an art form and is known for his detailed, panoramic photos of the American West; co-founder, Group f/64 (1932-34); author of seven portfolios and thirty books, including *Born Free and Equal* (1944), *Yosemite* (1960), and *Images: 1923-74* (1975); director, Sierra Club, 1934-71; died near Carmel, California, on April 22, 1984.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of typescripts, correspondence, photographs, proof sheets, and ephemera related to the creation and publication of two of Adams's books: *Born Free and Equal* (1944) and *Sierra Nevada, the John Muir Trail* (1938). Most of the collection relates to his work for *Born Free and Equal*, and it contains photographs and other materials from his visit to the Manzanar War Relocation Center to document the experiences of interned Japanese Americans. Includes a Manzanar High yearbook and two different copies of the *Manzanar Free Press* from 1943 & 1944. Also includes 3 letters from Dorothea Lange.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. *Born Free and Equal* (Boxes 1-2).
2. *Sierra Nevada - the John Muir Trail* (Box 3).

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Adams, Ansel, 1902- --Archives.
Lange, Dorothea--Correspondence.
Manzanar War Relocation Center.
Photographers--California--Archival resources.
Conservationists--California--Archival resources.
Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945--Archival resources.

Genres and Forms of Material

Manuscripts for publication.
Photographs.
Online resources.

Related Material

[Japanese American Research Project Collection of Material about Japanese in the United States \(Collection 2010\)](#) . Available at the Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

[Manzanar War Relocation Center Records \(Collection 122\)](#) . Available at the Department of Special Collections, UCLA.

Boxes 1-2 **Born Free and Equal**

Scope and Content Note

[First published by U.S. Camera, New York, 1944]

Box 1 **2 typescripts.**

Physical Description: One 37 leaves the other 71 leaves, both with extensive holograph corrections. Boxed in brown cloth slip case.

Box 1 **3 typescripts (carbon).**

Physical Description: Varying slightly in pagination, with minor holograph corrections. About 50 leaves each. Together in one envelope.

Box 1 **Preliminary typescript to text.**

Physical Description: 118 leaves, in mixed order.

Box 1 **Proofs of photographs used in book.**

Physical Description: 23 sheets.

Box 1 **1 folder of data used in book.**

Physical Description: 29 leaves of typescript (some carbon) and mimeograph.

Box 1 **Proof corrections, typescript (carbon).**

Physical Description: 12 leaves.

Box 1 **Titles for photographs.**

Physical Description: 23 leaves.

Box 2 **Manzanar Relocation Center photographs.**

Physical Description: Cleared prints, 196 pieces.

Box 2 **Correspondence regarding photographs used - mostly authorization for their use.**

Physical Description: 132 pieces.

Box 2 **Correspondence regarding publication of book.**

Physical Description: 104 pieces.

Note

Among the 104 pieces are three letters from Dorothea Lange.

Box 1 **Ephemera about Manzanar.**

Box 1 **Manzanar High Yearbook**

Scope and Content Note

Containing photographs of the Senior play, by Ansel Adams.

Box 1 **Pictorial Edition of the *Manzanar Free Press*, vol.4 no.1, September 10, 1943.**

Box 1 ***Manzanar Free Press*, vol.5 no.9, January 29, 1944.**

Oversize Box 3 *Sierra Nevada - The John Muir Trail*

Oversize Box 3 **Title page and specifications. Published by the Archetype Press, Berkeley, 1938.**

Physical Description: In wine-colored, cloth slipcase.