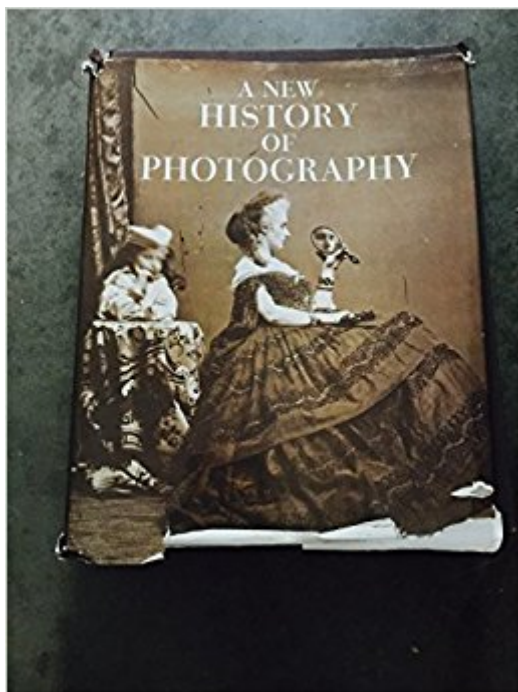


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# A New History Of Photography



## Synopsis

First Edition. Text examines the history of photography from a different angle, examining technical developments, the purpose of images, the aesthetics of creation, and the interpretations of contents. Over one thousand illustrations, both black-and-white and color. Only the slightest hint of wear. With the bookplate and pencil signature of Gavin Bridson. 775+ 1 pages. cloth, dust jacket. 4to..

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

One can only imagine the amazement felt by L.J.M. Daguerre, when, in the summer of 1839, he gazed upon the first photograph ever made. An image of the view from his Paris apartment of the bustling Boulevard du Temple, it was remarkably detailed yet mysteriously vacant, save for a single man in the distance who appeared to be having his boots polished; the rest of the passersby evaded capture due to the necessarily long exposure. And thus began the world-shaking practice of photography. A New History of Photography was created after the French Ministry of Culture observed that there were no books produced in France that addressed the history of the art form. Rather than present the standard chronological survey, this book's creators chose to produce a volume that would encompass photography's historical evolution as well as its role in society. Editor Michel Frizot writes a substantial portion of the text, along with 29 additional authors who offer a plethora of analytical information and a wide variety of points of view. Periods, social practice, contextual analysis, historical questions, influential innovations, and aesthetic turning points are explored around themes ranging from chemistry to the snapshot, ethnography to color printing, evidence to advertising, and much, much more. This ambitious book includes many images not

familiar to an American audience, offering a fascinating visual smorgasbord that demonstrates the breadth of applications and interpretations that photography has seen from its very inception. Put simply, it is a book about why people take photographs and what photographs can do. At a whopping 776 pages, this weighty volume has something for everyone. --A.C. Smith

YA-This book is well worth its weight in gold-and it is very heavy. It covers the beginnings of the art form through 160 years to the present. While the 41 essays by 29 contributors have a European slant, American photographic movements are not slighted. There is much discussion of photography as art vs. photography as history and the commentary comes down firmly on both sides. War photos as well as images by Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Steichen appear, and there is even a section on "Photographs as Memories." Walker Evans and Lewis Carroll are included as well as entire portfolios of important contributions, e.g., W. Eugene Smith's Pittsburgh. The writings are certainly useful and interesting, but the real impact of the book is the sheer abundance and diversity of its over 1000 black-and-white and full-color photographs. An extensive bibliography, notes, and index make this a useful tool for students of history as well as those studying art and photography, but the marvelous reproductions make it a browser's dream. Susan H. Woodcock, Kings Park Library, Burke, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Love it!

Excellent history with fantastic, historical photographs covering well over a century!! Highly recommend this book!

Great book! Much larger than I thought it would be but a lot of info for the interested photographer.

NO PROBLEMS

Excellent view of photography from the European point of view

Great

Maybe the most important history of photography book I have come across. It re-invents the history genre and is a constant source of ideas for me. Chapters Titles Like: The Urban Machine, The

Dream of Beauty, Forms of Looking and Automated Drawing tell you this book is not your typical college text book. It should be required reading by all students of any artistic medium since photography has influenced pretty much everything since the Camera Obscura.

The New History of Photography is just that as it breaches the subjects of the commercialization of photography, not as a demeaning factor, but as an evolutionary factor showing that even those in the pantheon of photography / artists contributed to this evolution. The other thing is that it shows a larger world view of photography and features great essays on Czech and Japanese photographers while also mentioning large and small movements or groups from western Europe, Russia and the United States of America. This book is a treasure trove of images printed in good quality that are hard to find. This is a must buy for any scholar of photography history and any student of photography that wants to understand how photography has reached where it is and how one is part of a very diverse form of art.

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