



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Stereo Photographers Stereographs, 1893-1904

NMAH.AC.0414

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Stereo Photographers Stereographs
<b>Date:</b>	1893-1904
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0414
<b>Creator:</b>	Kraus, Jeffrey (dealer) Underwood & Underwood (Creator) Strohmeyer & Wyman (Creator) Raven Books
<b>Extent:</b>	4 Items
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Four stereographs of stereo photographers at work.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The stereographs were purchased from a dealer, Jeffrey Kraus, who obtained them from unidentified standard sources and collectors. They were acquired because of their relationship to images in the Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection.

### Provenance

Purchased from a dealer, Jeffrey Kraus, who obtained them from unidentified standard sources or collectors.

### Processing Information

This collection was processed by David E. Haberstick, curator, 1991.

### Preferred Citation

Stereo Photographers Stereographs, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

## Biographical / Historical

Stereographs utilize a pair of photographic images from negatives taken with camera lenses separated laterally by a few inches, to approximate the distance between a human's eyes. The resulting images, when viewed separately but simultaneously--one image for each eye--provide the illusion of normal depth perception or three-dimensional viewing. Stereographs were made as early as the 1840s, but did not achieve widespread popularity until the 1860s, when several companies began to mass-produce them. After a period of flagging interest, another wave of popularity occurred when Underwood & Underwood began publishing "educational," travel-oriented images in 1895. The intrepid, peripatetic photographers who took the stereo views occasionally were themselves of interest to viewers. See standard references on the photographers and companies represented by these stereographs, such as William Culp Darrah, *The World of Stereographs*, etc.; also see the finding aid for the Archives Center's Underwood & Underwood Glass Stereograph Collection.

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## Scope and Contents

Four stereographs showing stereo photographers at work: (1) "Taking a View for You & U," copyright 1893 by J. F. Jarvis, Washington, D.C. (little girl holding field camera); (2) uncaptioned view of man standing on pier amid ruins, published by Underwood & Underwood, undated, identified as Bert Underwood in pencil on mount; (3) "Our well known Stereoscopic Photographer, H. A. Strohmeyer--Blanket Court-martialed by his Army friends," copyright 1898 by Strohmeyer & Wyman; and (4) an Underwood stereo photographer, apparently Herbert G. Ponting, at crater of Aso-san volcano, Japan, copyright 1904 by Underwood & Underwood.

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## Arrangement

Collection arranged into one series.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

Photographers -- 1890-1920  
Stereoscopy -- 1890-1910  
Volcanoes -- Japan

### Types of Materials:

Photographs -- Black-and-white photoprints -- 1890-1910  
Stereographs -- 1890-1910

### Names:

Ponting, Herbert George, 1870-1935  
Strohmeyer, H. A.  
Underwood, Bert, 1862-1943

### Places:

Aso-san volcano (Japan) (OPPS Neg. No. 92-14160)

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## Container Listing

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|-----------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | <p>"Taking a View for You and U", copyright 1893 by J. F. Jarvis, published by Jarvis, Washington, D.C., "Sold only by Underwood &amp; Underwood."<br/>Notes: Shows a little girl wearing a dress and large hat, holding a folding field camera (not a stereoscopic camera, although the pun in the caption suggests that she is making stereo photographs for Underwood &amp; Underwood). Buff mount.</p>  |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | <p><a href="#">Uncaptioned view of man without a camera, standing on a pier amid ruins, published by Underwood &amp; Underwood, undated</a><br/>Notes: Buff mount. Pencil on verso reads: Can you identify these ruins--I know that is Bert Underwood standing on the column but I don't know the place. It looks a bit like Karnak except for the grass. The guide is an arch. Bert was undoubtedly the greatest stereo photographer but he was vain and liked to get in his pictures. I have other pictures of him so I can identify him. L. E. Colvin.</p> |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | <p>"Our well known Stereoscopic Photographer, H. A. Strohmeyer--Blanket Court-martialed by his Army friends." [sic]<br/>Notes: (Strohmeyer is shown being tossed in air from blanket.) Copyright 1898 by Strohmeyer &amp; Wyman, "Sold only by Underwood &amp; Underwood." Buff mount.</p>  |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | <p>"An Underwood stereoscopic photographer at the crater of the largest active volcano in the world, Aso-san, Japan," copyright 1904 by Underwood &amp; Underwood<br/>Notes: Photographer, standing on ladder, is undoubtedly Hebert G. Ponting. Gray mount.</p>  |