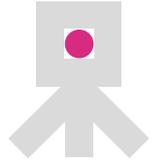


PhotoResearcher



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Editorial

Dear Reader,

While work on this issue was nearing completion, the dramatic events following the natural disaster in Japan made us painfully aware of its consequences for the inhabitants of that country and the entire East Asian region.

With this special number, **Photography in East Asia: New Archives, New Histories**, the ESHPH continues with its principle of devoting special issues of PhotoResearcher to individual topics. In recent years, international photo-historical research and exhibition projects have increasingly focused on East Asia. This special issue presents the latest research findings by several highly respected scholars in the field. The individual contributions throw light on the various aspects of the manifold photographic histories of Japan and China after their political opening in the middle of the nineteenth century. We are extremely pleased that Luke Gartlan from the University of St Andrews has served as guest editor and contributor for this special issue.

Carmen Pérez González draws a portrait of Yokoyama Matsusaburō, a pioneering Japanese photographer, painter and lithographer, who possessed an extraordinary creative mind and imagination, and created an oeuvre remarkably personal in nature. **Luke Gartlan** questions the role of gender in the photographic histories of East Asia and draws our attention to women photographers in the region, taking the remarkable photographer Isabella Bird Bishop as an example. The portrayal of Colonel Charles Du Pin, head of the topographic bureau of the French Army in China, by **Sebastian Dobson** focuses specifically on the portfolio of Japanese images he created in 1861, recently rediscovered in a British university collection.

Tani Akiyoshi and **Peter Pantzer** shed entirely new light on Wilhelm Burger's Photographs of Japan by making new attributions to his glass negatives preserved in the Austrian National Library. In her case study, **Banu Kaygusuz** deals with the photographic albums of Japan in the photography collection of Abdulhamid II, focusing primarily on the significance of photographs for diplomatic exchange between Japan and the Ottoman Empire.

Régine Thiriez provides a review of William Pryor Floyd's less well-known views of colonial Hong Kong. **Allan D. Coleman's** article China: Insights examines the condition of contemporary mainstream documentary photography in the People's Republic of China, bringing together the work of seven contemporary photographers from the PRC.

This special issue follows the modified Hepburn system of romanization for Japanese words (shin-bun). Japanese words that feature in standard English-language dictionaries and well-known place names such as Tokyo and Kyoto are rendered without macrons except in the citation of Japanese-language sources. Japanese names are provided in the conventional Japanese manner of family preceding given names, except in the case of authors publishing in Western languages. Chinese words and names are transliterated in the pinyin system. However, in some instances such as place names, common nineteenth-century transliterations are used followed by their pinyin equivalent in parentheses, as in 'Hongchow (Hongzhou)'.

Luke Gartlan, Ulla Fischer-Westhauser, Uwe Schögl
Vienna, April 2011