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# West Sussex County Council Library Service

## Photograph & Picture Collections: Summary and Estimates

### 1. Collection Statistics

The Library Service holds around **2,210,593** photographs and pictures of Sussex places and people from the 1640s to the present day.

At Crawley and East Grinstead small collections concentrating on the immediate locality, numbering around 63,000 and 500 respectively, are maintained. Crawley's collection includes around 50,000 photos donated by the *Crawley Observer* (see below). Worthing holds views of every parish in West Sussex and formats comprise 1950s to 1990s press negatives (1,948,700), post war commercial negatives (110,000), paper photographs (32,740), postcards (15,500), lantern slides (2,400), prints and engravings (3,500), glass plate & medium format film negatives (5,000), 35mm slides (4,700), original works of art (1,500) and digital photographs (over 16,000), made up of camera images and scanned originals lent); plus 4,500 donations being processed.

### 2. Highlights of the Collections

Of the above views, it is estimated that about 10,000 are single copy originals available only in our collections

- *Littlehampton Gazette* donation of medium format and 35mm negatives in March 2009; period covered 1962 to 1988; around 674,100 negatives; donated March 2009
- *Worthing Herald* donation of medium format and 35mm negatives in March 2009; period covered 1957 to 1999; around 644,600 negatives; donated August 2009
- *Mid-Sussex Times* donation of mainly 35mm & some medium format negatives & a few hundred prints; period 1963 to 1999; around 630,000; donated June 2012
- *Crawley Observer* donation of around 50,000 prints and some negatives covering the late 1960s to c. 2005; donated December 2012
- Walter Gardiner Photography collection: complete photographic archive of this Worthing business 1893-2000; around 110,000 medium format film negatives post 1945 and 6,000 glass plate & later copy negatives 1880s to 1940s, plus exhibition prints & commercial photos on foam board; includes very early British picture postcards featuring a photograph dating from October 1894; the Gardiner Collection was bought in October 2007
- Roger Bastable Collection; around 9,000 paper photographs, 35mm slides and drawings on Crawley; bequeathed June 2007
- Paul Holden Collections: some 17,853 photos in albums from 1999 to 2002 (3,553 photos) and digital images (14,300 photos) from July 2010 to 2014, covering

Worthing people, places & events 1990s to the present day; donated at various times from 2003 to 2015

- the Francis Frith Collection of original contact prints offers superb quality views of all towns and villages in West Sussex from the 1880's to the 1960's; around 1,000 photographic prints; about 800 older views bought from the Frith company in the 1970s and over 200 1950s & 1960s views bought at auction in 1992 and direct from the company again in 1993 & 1994
- particularly early photographs of Worthing seafront and the Lancing stereoscopic views taken in the 1850's, within 20 years of the birth of photography, are of national importance; over 30 original photographic prints double-mounted on board
- Terry Child Postcard Collection comprises 3,000 postcards, many rare street scenes and sought-after subjects such as railways, horse-buses, schools, sports, shops and tradesmen; bought in October 1993 after TC's death; covers mainly Worthing (2,000) and coastal towns & villages (1,000) from Selsey in the west to Shoreham & Southwick in the east
- rare photographs of early aviators around Shoreham and the coastal towns found in both the Walter Gardiner and Terry Child collections the Terry Child Postcard Collection, and in the files of miscellaneous photographs and postcards, were taken within 8 years of the Wright brothers' first flight; over 50 photographs
- the 1800 lantern slides in the Watts Collection are beautifully crafted and technically accomplished views, mainly Worthing but others were taken all over the County, and beyond, by at least three founder members of the Worthing Camera Club from the 1880's to the 1920s; bequeathed around 1984
- Ken Jakes Collection: 700 photographs, postcards, prints and engravings, over 150 items of printed ephemera and 21 guidebooks; mainly Worthing ; bought August 2005
- James Cooper watercolour Collection: around 700 post 1945 watercolours and pen & ink drawings of scenes throughout West Sussex; bought around 2004 [check]
- Clissold Postcard Collection: around 2,500 postcards covering most parts of West Sussex; bought March/April 2008 on C. shop closure
- Ian Richardson Postcard Collection: around 500 cards purchased in March 2013, all periods from early 1900s to 1980s; particularly strong on 1960s; mainly Worthing, Lancing, and some on Downs to north; many feature motor buses & cars.
- Ray Fox Natural History Photograph Collection, bequeathed in April 2013, consists of around 2700 slides and 140 photographic prints taken mainly during the period 1960 to 1990. Most feature landscapes and various natural history, countryside and conservation subjects. Many were used to illustrate talks Ray gave on behalf of the Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Colin Harding Photograph & Postcard Collection: some 2,044 images comprising 9 albums of postcards (947) and 7 albums of photographs (1,097), very strong on Barnham & area, but covers others parts of west Sussex and beyond; bought in January 2012 from his widow Mrs A.L. (Louie) Harding
- David Mills Postcard Collection: some 700 Haywards Heath cards in digital form only, loaned by Mr Mills and scanned front and back in April 2017; comprises nearly 1,400 images

- Frank L'Alouette World War Two Collection: 391 technically excellent photos taken by this War Office sanctioned official photographer, mainly of Bognor and district; loaned for scanning by his daughter Jeanette Hickman in May 2012 but subsequently deposited at West Sussex Record Office; all 391 photos are on our West Sussex Past Pictures website
- Leslie Baker Collection, postcards, photos and other ephemeral material; around images of Angmering; bequeathed around 2010
- the Crawley New Town photograph collection is one of the most comprehensive on this subject
- Crawley New Town Lantern Slide Collection; around 400 slides
- the Harold Connold album of East Grinstead reflects the work of one of the finest photographers in the town and leaves us with a photographic record from the 1860's to 1930's
- prints and engravings, dating from the 1640s to the early 1900s, some very rare, total around 3,500
- original works of art, all of course unique & irreplaceable, many showing unusual views of the County in the period before photography, total around 800
- remaining miscellaneous photographs, c1860 to date, total around 15,000
- remaining miscellaneous postcards, c1902 to date, total around 9,600 (low resolution scans are available to view on all public access computers in all 36 public libraries and at West Sussex Record Office S drive)
- Dean Collection; around 1,000 photographs from 1920s to 1950s taken by Mr Laurie Dean, shopkeeper of Oxford Road, Worthing
- Library Service slides of library buildings (about 525) and prints (about 1,000); total 1,500
- over 100 medium format negatives and digital images of the South Downs by Anne Purkiss, bought 2003 to 2006
- David Wilson Collection of current digital camera images of West Sussex scenes and events 2005-2008; 1,500 digital images
- Robert Hill Collection on Shoreham (mainly Old Shoreham); 259 digital images of originals scanned by Bob
- Anne Rapley Collection of Storrington photographs; originals lent for scanning in 2008; 222 digital images
- Over 3,500 unsorted paper photographs and pictures (recent donations)
- Over 1,000 unsorted glass and film negatives (old donations)