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Scrapbooks as Archives

Michael Leja, University of Pennsylvania

In personal scrapbooks from the middle of the 19th century, prints clipped from magazines and newspapers come to replace traditional drawings and autographic images. This development documents the rising mass production and circulation of pictures. Scrapbooks spanning a transitional period preceding the rise of carte-de-visite albums may provide an archive charting the permeation of daily life by mass-produced images.

Biographical Note

Michael Leja teaches American and modern art at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of Looking Askance: Skepticism and American Art from Eakins to Duchamp (2004), which won the Modernist Studies Association Book Prize in 2005. An earlier book, Reframing Abstract Expressionism: Subjectivity and Painting in the 1940s (2003), won the Charles Eldredge Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art from the Smithsonian American Art Museum. He is currently at work on a book exploring changes in pictorial forms and in social relations associated with the industrialization of picture production and the development of a mass market for images in the mid-nineteenth century.