

Robert Enteen, PhD

A resident of the San Francisco Bay area, Dr. Robert Enteen is a collector of rare, early photographs. When he discovered the Albertype collection and realized its historical significance, he contacted Dr. Matt Hermes, Research Associate Professor in the Department of Bioengineering at Clemson University in South Carolina, who, in turn, introduced him to Mary Robinson, Housel Director of the McCracken Research Library at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. She shared with Enteen the Center's efforts in 2016 to commemorate the centennial of the founding of the U.S. National Park Service. As a result, he offered to lend the album to the Center. "This is such an extraordinary group of images," Robinson observes, "and how fortuitous that Dr. Enteen and Dr. Hermes brought it to our attention. We are excited to share it with our visitors."

Enteen has been researching and collecting photographs dating from the field's earliest beginnings in Europe in 1839. He's amassed a large collection including works by Henry Fox-Talbot, Felix Nadar, Fratelli Alinari, Adolphe Braun, and many others, from France, England, Italy, and Germany. The Jackson Albertypes represent the most significant American works in his collection.

"Finding this rare and historically significant collection of Albertypes was enormously exciting for me," Enteen explains, "and I am especially gratified by the eagerness of the staff at the Center of the West to feature them as part of the centennial celebrations. I am also grateful to Dr. Hermes, a national authority on the history of Yellowstone, and the scholars at the Center, for authenticating the photographs and verifying the fact that they are the only complete set known to exist."

The Albertypes are on loan to the Center and can be seen on display in the John Bunker Sands Photography Gallery March 21—August 14, 2016.