

Selected Photographers in the History of Photojournalism

Presentation by Gary Saretzky

Abstract

Photojournalism is a subset of “the picture universe” that implies an intent to publish. This lecture explores the rather amorphous boundaries of photojournalism and then presents a selection of images from the history of photojournalism taken by photographers who have been recognized for the excellence of their work. These camera workers, and peers of equal merit not included, have helped set standards of quality that inspire others to record photographically the newsworthy events, personalities, socioeconomic conditions, and evolving natural environment of our increasingly fragile and ever-changing world. Among the nineteenth century photographers featured are Roger Fenton, Felice Beato, George S. Cook, Alexander Gardner, A.J. Russell, John Thomson, Jacob Riis, and Burr McIntosh. Twentieth century photographers include Jimmy Hare, Jessie Tarbox Beals, Lewis W. Hine, Andre Kertesz, Bill Brandt, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Margaret Bourke-White, Joe Rosenthal, W. Eugene Smith, Weegee, Donald McCullin, Mary Ellen Mark, and James Nachtwey.

Bio

Gary D. Saretzky, archivist, educator, and photographer, worked as an archivist for more than fifty years at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Educational Testing Service, and the Monmouth County Archives. Saretzky taught the history of photography at Mercer County Community College, 1977–2012, and served as coordinator of the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department, 1994–2016. He has published more than 100 articles and reviews on the history of photography, photographic conservation, and other topics, including “‘Most Deeply Hardened’: Eric T. Kunsman Photographs the Eastern State Penitentiary,” *Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies* (April 2021). His website is saretzky.com.