

Updated Online Catalog Highlights Wartime Internment Photos

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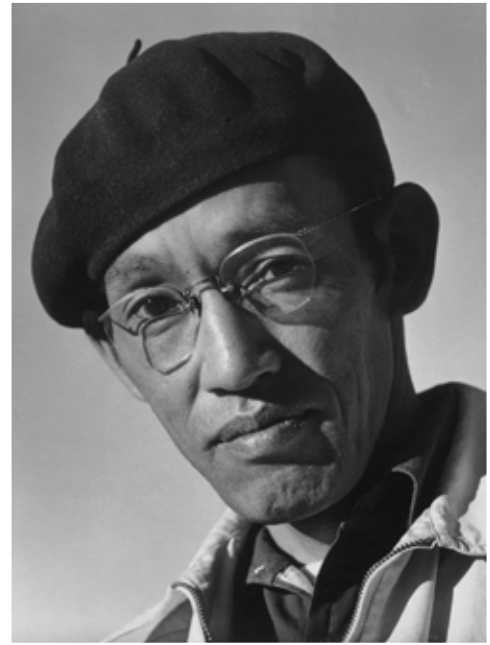
A new website design unveiled in April allows easy access to images in the Library's Prints and Photographs Online Catalog. Users need only go to the catalog homepage, scroll through an attractive and simple-to-read listing, and click on the desired collection title. The online catalog describes about 75 percent of the more than 14 million items in the holdings of the Prints and Photographs Division.

Ansel Adams's World War II photographs of Japanese Americans interned in Manzanar, California, appear toward the top of the collections list. Renowned for his images of western landscapes, Adams donated this rare and stunning set of people pictures to the Library between 1965 and 1968, placing no copyright restrictions on their use. The complete collection is available online.

Several months after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes on the West Coast and sent to "relocation centers" by the U.S. government, which had declared war on Japan. The government stated in Executive Order 9066 that it aimed to prevent espionage and sabotage by enabling the internment.

Documents that accompany the Adams online photo collection explain that the evacuation "struck a personal chord" with Adams after an ailing family employee was taken from his home to a faraway hospital. When Ralph Merritt, director of the Manzanar War Relocation Center, invited Adams to document camp life, he welcomed the opportunity.

Adams explained in a 1944 letter to a friend that, through his photographs, he aimed to introduce readers to "loyal American citizens who are anxious to get back into the stream of life and



Portrait of Toyo Miyatake by Ansel Adams

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contribute to our victory." Adams published a selection of his Manzanar photographs the same year in a book titled *Born Free and Equal*.

Adams was not the only photographer to document the camp. Dorothea Lange, famous for her images of the American Depression, also worked there, as did Toyo Miyatake, one of the internees. A successful commercial photographer in Los Angeles before the war, Miyatake smuggled a lens into camp and constructed a makeshift camera—internees were not permitted to have cameras in the camp. When Miyatake was discovered, he was allowed to continue and took about 1,500 photographs over more than three years at Manzanar.

In 1988 Congress acknowledged the "fundamental injustice" of the World War II relocation program and mandated that each internee receive \$20,000 in reparations.

To view Ansel Adams's Manzanar photos, go to www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/manz. ©