

History of Photography

The Stereograph / Photography and the Standard Subject

Points for Consideration

- 1) The stereograph can be seen as one of the great photographic phenomena of the 19th century. What were the reasons for this?
- 2) What sorts of things did stereoscopic images depict? What do we use now in the 21st century to accomplish some of those same things?
- 3) What elements of the photographic composition contribute most to stereographic effect?
- 4) Why did photographers seek out “standard subjects” for their photographs?
- 5) Why did the public want photographs of standard subjects?
- 6) What things did the 19th century travel/landscape photographer need to consider? What kinds of choices did he have? How did those choices affect his photographs?
Note: Think here of things that aren’t necessarily about the hardships of the trip (camera/darkroom/camping, etc) but also about *photographic choices* that the photographer made. Are those choices different from ones today’s photographers (like you) make?
- 7) Is there a 21st century photography business model that is equivalent to “standard subject” photography in the 19th century?

Terms and Names

Stereoscope

Timothy O’Sullivan

Stereograph

C. L. Weed

Eadweard Muybridge

William Henry Jackson

Carlton Watkins

Mark Klett

The “Rephotographic Survey”