

The Schwemberger Photographs

Jan. 30 - May 28, 2007

Second Floor Gallery/Tempe Historical Museum



About 40 historical photographs from a rare collection that portrays Native American peoples, homes and landscapes is featured in this exhibition.

The images come from "The Schwemberger Photographs," a collection of more than 100 black-and-white photographs created from rare 5-inch-by-7-inch glass plate negatives created by Franciscan Brother



Simeon Schwemberger between 1902 and 1909.

Historic Tempe photographs from the same time period also are part of the library exhibition.

Schwemberger captured his compelling images while living at St. Michaels Mission on the Navajo reservation near Window Rock. He traveled the Navajo and Hopi reservations, photographing images of Native American peoples, ancient pueblos and the rugged landscapes of New Mexico. He produced the images using glass plate negatives, considered state-of-the-art technology at that time.

In 2005, St. Michaels Mission deeded about 1,750 of Schwemberger's fragile glass plates to Arizona State University, who is collaborating with Tempe's Cultural Services Division (Fine Arts and Historical Museum) in bringing the images to the city.

"This collection encapsulates a critical period in American history as the American Indian tribes were confronting aspects of assimilation into Western culture," Dr. Rob Taylor, ASU West campus Interdisciplinary Arts Chair, said.

Schwemberger's glass plates were housed at St. Michaels Mission for more than 60 years before they were painstakingly



scanned, catalogued and archived through ASU.

Meanwhile, Dr. Taylor and his small research team of students and Faculty Associates, has been hard at work preparing local, regional, national and international exhibitions. Museums in Italy, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic are currently planning Schwemberger shows.

A major catalogue and documentary film are also planned for the near future.

FREE

Public Presentation

7:30 p.m., Feb. 15
Tempe Historical Museum
809 S. Southern Ave.

Featuring

Dr. Robert D. Taylor, Chair,
Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance
New College of Interdisciplinary
Arts and Sciences
Arizona State University West Campus

Aleta M. Ringlero
Faculty Associate, ASU
Curator, Casino Arizona