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Beyond The Dark Veil: Post Mortem & Mourning Photography From The Thanatos Archive



Synopsis

Beyond the Dark Veil: Post Mortem and Mourning Photography from The Thanatos Archive is a compilation of more than 120 extraordinary and haunting photographs and related ephemera documenting the practice of death and mourning photography in the Victorian Era and early twentieth century. Supplemented with original newspaper articles, clippings, funeral notices, memorial ephemera and more, the collection will take us on a journey through a fascinating, moving, and melancholically beautiful part of our past. The images in Beyond the Dark Veil speak to us: they speak of love, loss, lives cut short, brave final hours, shattered families, and the depths of the human spirit. Contains 194 images of hand-colored photographs, albumen prints, ambrotypes, cabinet cards, carte de viste, daguerreotypes, gelatin silver prints, opalotypes, real photo postcards, stereoviews, tintypes, and supplementary articles and related ephemera. Contributors include: Adam Arenson I, Jacqueline Ann Bunge Barger, Alex Jackson, Bess Lovejoy, Marion Peck, Joanna Roche, and Joe Smoke. ABOUT THE ARCHIVE: Located in Woodinville, Washington, The Thanatos Archive houses an extensive collection of early post-mortem, memorial, and mourning photographs dating as far back as the 1840s. The online version of the archive, hosted at Thanatos.net since 2002, offers a searchable database of over 2,300 scanned images, with scans of new acquisitions being added on a regular basis. In addition to the main online archive, hundreds of additional images and material can be found in the community discussion forum, including hi-resolution enlargements, genealogical information, and more.

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Customer Reviews

I have been following Jack since he was simply posting photos on Flickr. Then followed on FB and finally purchased a lifetime membership on his website. I'm so pleased he finally published a book. I have been a fan of mourning photography for some time as someone from the South who comes from a long line of death traditions in my family (veiling mirrors, stopping clocks, photographing the deceased, etc.) I find his research and collecting quite interesting. This will go great with my 'Stiff' by Mary Roach, 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes' by Caitlin Doughty, and 'Heavenly Bodies' by Paul Koudoumaris. All of which I also highly recommend if death is your cup of tea.

I was so excited to finally get this book! I was tired of squinting at the computer screen and looked forward to looking at all the interesting details of the pictures. The pictures are still detailed and interesting- but they are actually smaller than on the screen. MUCH smaller. It would have been SO much better if the pics were bigger- tho there are a very few page size. Also better if there were more contrast- they had lightened the pics and not made the background black so they kind of fade into them. The font size is somewhere around -6. So much disappointment size wise but not content wise. The cover is lovely- the embossing and gold title are very nice. It is about 1/2 the size I expected all the way around- but it is still a neat book. Be warned- while you will enjoy the feel of it and the pics and info- you may well need a magnifier of some kind to truly see the details. I am not sure if I would have purchased it knowing how small everything is- but I will still enjoy it :)

I collect books on post-mortem photography, so I was excited to find this book at such a fantastic price. However, it was a real disappointment. I'm not only a book collector but a print industry professional. Ghosting, hard-to-read type because it's screened back. Really coarse screens used, period. Awful. Printed in China. Really? There are tons of printers here. Who will actually give enough bleed so that white paper doesn't show on the bottom trimmed edges. And the photo reproduction is only okay. My guess is that the poor print quality will effect the collectibility of this book in the future. Such a disappointment. As I told the publisher, I would have paid much more for a better-quality book printed in the US.

Although the wait was excruciatingly long (if just for the WANT OF THIS BOOK!), I've rarely been as pleased with finding a package on my porch! Incredible craftsmanship, and the book itself with its gold leafing on the cover, binding, interior pages, makes it seem very old fashioned and Victorian and major kudos there! I conduct most of the major tours in Savannah's Bonaventure Cemetery and

this will be such an asset for visual reference and can't wait to tell ALL of my clients about it! Nifty little page details throughout and very user friendly. I can already tell that I will never get rid of this book and is already a permanent piece of my growing collection of such morbidity! Thanks Jack Mord!

I originally placed an order in November through . We all know what happened there. I finally ended up ordering from Barnes & Noble & actually received the book. It is a stunningly beautiful glimpse into post mortem photography and quite a steal at the cover price of \$25.00. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has even the slightest interest in PM photography, you won't be sorry!

An absolutely beautifully done book, inside and out. A must for people like myself who love the macabre, death portraits, or just eccentric things in general. Well-bound, lots of thought-provoking photographs. All I can think to write is Bravo! Well done! Word to the wise....books of this nature are always done in limited printings and releases, so this is probably going to go out of print soon. It will either be impossible to find or the price of the existing copies will skyrocket. As a mortician I wish it wasn't this way but it is. Death is not taboo, it should not be shunned or hidden, nor is it something to be frightened of.

The Burns collection is huge, many thousands of photos from the 19th century. From that collection, this book offers many post mortem and some of individuals just before death. Lovely volume, nicely bound. Creepy subject matter, but this gives a window into the very difficult world of the Victorians, where mortality was very much a part of life. In the 19th century, any woman could reasonably expect to lose at least one child, as there was something like a one in five mortality rate for children. No vaccines, little to no understanding about the process of disease and how they spread...people dies young. This volume provides a really important historical context for the way the Victorians perceived their world. Death was a huge part of life in the 1800's, and this provides that context using pictures in a way that words might never do.

A beautifully bound and put-together book. With its gold edged pages, the photos are tastefully presented with text explaining what may have happened to the deceased. I do not have any regrets about purchasing this particular book to go with my other same-subject books. Not for everyone, but definitely for those who have a curious interest in the deceased and the presentation of corpses for

the family and loved ones. It seems in the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, people had a different outlook about death. They embraced it and knew it was something that would eventually come, either naturally or by illness. I know people today who honestly believe they are going to live forever. This book will help you realize your mortality. Well done.

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