

# Dating Antique Photographs Project

END OF PROJECT REPORT

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INTRODUCTION TO  
**ANTIQU  
PHOTOGRAPHS**


Dating Antique Photographs Project

funded by the Institute of Creativity,  
Communities and Culture

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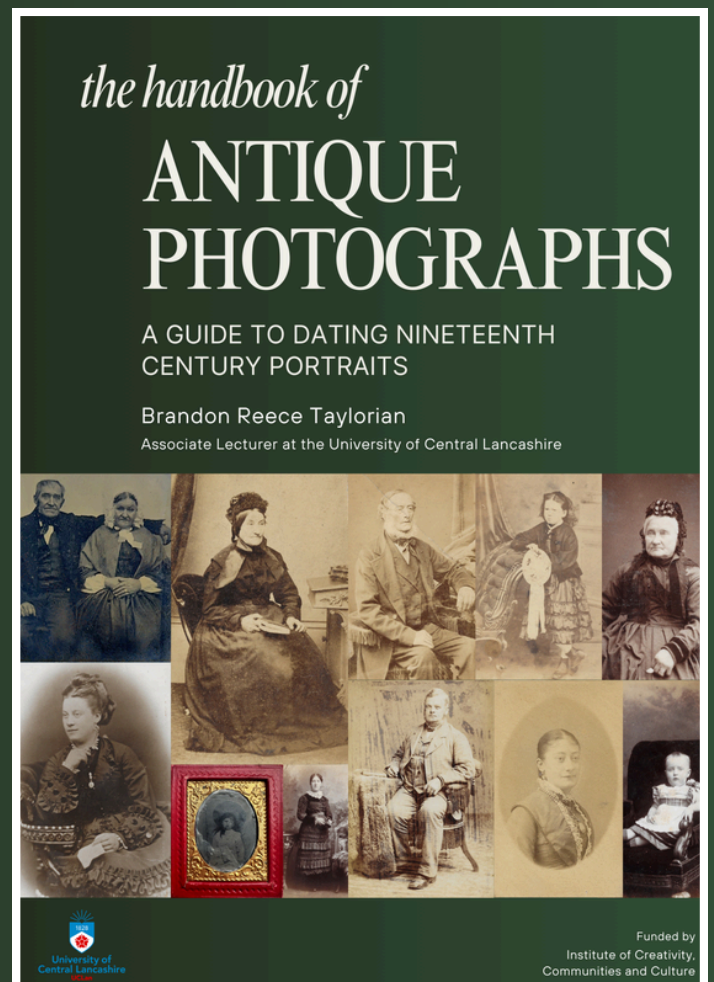
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# The Handbook of Antique Photographs

*The Handbook of Antique Photographs* brought together Brandon's research in a twenty-four page booklet that explored everything from the origins of photography in the 1820s to the gold rush of photography in the 1830s to the 1850s, to the development of different types of photographs in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. *The Handbook* is a testament to the research conducted during the project and can be used as a practical guide for anyone interested in dating their old photographs.

*The Handbook of Antique Photographs* includes examples of photographs from across the nineteenth and early twentieth century. It takes readers through the timeline of how photography developed, especially in the second half of the nineteenth century, with the introduction of daguerreotypes, calotypes, tintypes, cartes de visite, cabinet cards and cartes postale. *The Handbook* also addresses the importance of using information about the photographer, their logo and studios with royal warrants for dating antique photographs. *The Handbook* introduces Brandon's method for estimating the date of antique photographs.

*The Handbook of Antique Photographs* was given for free to all attendees of the workshops as a physical item they could take home with them and use during their own research. *The Handbook* also acted as something they could refer back to in memory of their experience during the workshop.



# Antique photographs workshops

The antique photographs workshops were envisioned to act as public outreach for the project, bringing together people with a mutual interest to learn from each other. The workshops were also meant to develop the knowledge and skills of attendees in dating antique photographs through a lecture and seminar structure for each workshop. Each workshop took place in Livesey House on UCLan's Preston campus.

Pictures from 19th June 2024 workshop titled *Antique Photographs and How To Date Them* attended by 28 people

Pictures from 10th July 2024 workshop titled *Victorian Fashion in Antique Photographs* attended by 25 people



# Testimonials from workshop attendees

"The workshop this evening was simply brilliant. We learnt such a great deal in a very short time. We wish to thank you for your very informative presentation and booklet and also for taking the time to discuss our own family photographs on an individual basis with us." – Liz Thornton

"I brought along the musical box album and what I thought was an uninspiring piece of junk has been promoted into one of our history society's most reassured possessions. Quite an achievement in just two hours!" – Alan Roberts

"I give the workshops five stars! I thought the course was excellent, very well organised and very well delivered. I do hope you will be able to run other courses in the future." – Angela Milne

"It was well worth travelling from Salford to attend. I thought the talk was well-organised and the presentation was professionally laid out." – Beryl Patten

"I thoroughly enjoyed the second workshop and gained some very useful information. I do hope that you get funding for family history workshops in the near future as I would be interested in attending." – Jane Hamby

"The workshop series was most interesting and useful and I'm sure any potential family history workshops will be likewise." – David Capstick

"I have enjoyed these workshop evenings." – Christina Hunter

"It was good to meet others with similar interests and share stories." – Boyd Harris

"Thanks for the very enjoyable talks. I look forward to future family history sessions." – Ken Ford

# Project aims and other resources

Based on the initial project plan, the main aims for the project were all achieved. The first aim was to create *The Handbook of Antique Photographs* and to distribute printed copies to workshop attendees which was achieved. The second aim was to create the website [www.antiquephotographs.co.uk](http://www.antiquephotographs.co.uk) which was achieved with its launch in June 2024. I had originally intended to create information boards for the workshops but instead decided to spend some of the budget on buying a collection of antique photographs dating from the 1840s to the 1890s to show as samples during the workshops. Looking ahead, I await the publication of my article 'Family Portraits in Victorian Lancashire' due to be published in the journal *The Local Historian* in August 2024. Many of the workshop attendees said that they would like me to host family history workshops in the near future which presents a new opportunity for further public outreach.

Also created during the project and printed for people to use during the workshops and take them home were the Antique Photograph Log Sheets. Workshop attendees were encouraged to analyse the photographs they brought with them using the log sheets by noting down key features to come to an estimation for the date of their photograph. Another major resource developed during the project was [www.antiquephotographs.co.uk](http://www.antiquephotographs.co.uk) which went live shortly before the first workshop. This website includes a digital version of The Handbook of Antique Photographs, collections of scanned antique photographs and an Antique Photographs Blog which I intend to write articles for.

Antique Photograph Log Sheet Example

Mount type and description of photograph subjects

Mount type - Ambrotype  
Description - Ambrotype portrait of husband and wife Ralph and Agnes Moon taken at Woodcock Hall. "Mary Moon 1858" marked on reverse side.

Key features for helping with date estimation

Cloning features - Mr Moon wears a large dithel cravat and Mrs Moon wears corset and a bonnet. Mrs Moon's ring has been touched up with a hint of gold, a type of gilding that was a common practice among those who developed collections, usually to emphasise jewellery.

Background and composition - the simplicity of their clothing and the setting.

Context - how Mr Moon has placed his arm behind through not around his wife with his hand left hanging, thus showing a sense of relaxation.

Photographer - likely taken by Mr Robert Paterson who was active in the area of Preston as a cabinet photographer in the autumn of 1858. Mr Paterson used to take collections in people's homes.

Estimated date of photograph

Estimated date - 1858

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Antique Photograph Log Sheet

Mount type and description of photograph subjects

Key features for helping with date estimation

Estimated date of photograph

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Dating Antique Photographs Project

Home Collections Lectures Handbook About Estimation Service Blog



Antique photographs are our portal to the past

VIEW OUR LECTURE SERIES

Welcome to the official website of the Dating Antique Photographs Project. This project is funded by the Institute of Creativity, Communities and Culture at the University of Central Lancashire.

It is the aim of the project to provide knowledge of nineteenth and early twentieth century photographs to help people analyse and date these fascinating items. Antique photographs are portals to an interesting social history that needs to be uncovered.

Main page of [antiquephotographs.co.uk](http://antiquephotographs.co.uk)



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organised by

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[www.antiquephotographs.co.uk](http://www.antiquephotographs.co.uk)

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