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1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, California 90049-1682  
[www.getty.edu/publications](http://www.getty.edu/publications)

Tel 310 440 6117  
Fax 310 440 7758  
[mksklaroff@getty.edu](mailto:mksklaroff@getty.edu)

## NEWS FROM GETTY PUBLICATIONS

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*A gorgeously illustrated look at nineteenth-century America  
through the lens of paper photography*

LOS ANGELES —The history of early photography has fascinated many readers, scholars, and art lovers in part because it resists a singular narrative; the credit of the inventor of photography is hotly contested and throughout Europe and the United States, practitioners were experimenting in ways that were both independent from and informed by other photographic methods. While Europeans moved away from metal-based photography and experimented with paper photography—it was less expensive, more reproducible, and more portable—Americans held onto tintypes and daguerreotypes for much longer. ***Paper Promises: Early American Photography*** by Mazie H. Harris (Getty Publications, \$49.95, hardcover) investigates the comparatively rare paper photographs and paper negatives produced in the United States during the mid-nineteenth century to reveal new aspects of American history.

Harris shows that photographs did not merely represent the world around viewers; they also influenced opinion and disseminated information. Throughout a series of essays in this book, scholars explore photography through the 1850s, from the history of counterfeit images to civil war photography, to a section depicting very rare salter paper prints. This book looks at photographs not only as providing context for historical analysis, but also as having histories in themselves. Essays examine the business of photography during this period, as well as legal battles involving photography and important debates around intellectual property and patenting that had political ramifications for decades. These thoughtful and rigorous examinations are combined with beautifully reproduced images from dozens of collections. Due to the fragility of paper photography from this period, the works in this catalogue are rarely displayed, making the volume an essential tool for any scholar in the field and a very rare peek into the mid-nineteenth century.

This volume is published to accompany an exhibition on view at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Center from February 27 to May 27, 2018.

**Mazie M. Harris** is assistant curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum. Her research focuses on American photography.

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***Paper Promises***

***Early American Photography***

**Mazie H. Harris**

J. Paul Getty Museum

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Kindly email notice of your review when published to Miranda Sklaroff, [msklaroff@getty.edu](mailto:msklaroff@getty.edu),  
Getty Publications, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1682.