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Abstract

The book refers to the preservation of historical photographs and their collections, describing the main research procedure in the field of their conservation, as an effort of a holistic approach to their protection. The preservation of historical photographs is not particularly widespread in Greece, but in recent years several museums have managed and implemented policies to protect them. The book is structured in twelve chapters, where it first introduces the reader to the historical evolution of the camera obscura and the role it played in each society. At the same time, important events that took place in Western societies are described and their effect on the discovery of the permanent preservation of the photographic image, which is called the "discovery of photography". Also mentioned are the experiments carried out by various inventors, physicists, painters, photographers, chemists, etc. who created different techniques for acquiring photographic images. Then, the various techniques are presented, which were

used so that the black and white photographs of that time have a more colorful effect using the toning and hand-coloring procedure. Also described is the prevailing technique of silver bromide gelatin (late 19th century to the present) and the procedures required to obtain a photographic image. The various areas of the preservation and conservation of historical photographs are extensively mentioned, such as the causes of their damage, the documentation of their preservation state, the preventive conservation, the conservation treatments, as well as the ways of their storage and display. Then, an attempt is made to present the digital procedures for capturing and applying digital tools to read the image or restore it. Finally, the vulnerability of historical photographs and their collections to natural disasters is described, giving examples of disasters and their prevention, rescue, and protection practices implemented by governments and private initiatives in various countries affected by natural disasters.

