



## NEWS FROM GETTY PUBLICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melissa Crowley

January 14, 2009

(310) 440-6795 • [mcrowley@getty.edu](mailto:mcrowley@getty.edu)

### **New Book Celebrates Carleton Watkins' Breathtaking Photographs of Yosemite Valley**

LOS ANGELES—All the grandeur of the American West in the mid-nineteenth century is reflected in the “mammoth,” or large format, photographs made by Carleton Watkins in and around Yosemite Valley, California, between 1861 and about 1880. *Carleton Watkins in Yosemite* (J. Paul Getty Museum, \$29.95, hardcover) takes us on a tour of the famous valley, from the view at Inspiration Point to the panorama high above the valley at Glacier Point, following in the footsteps of Yosemite’s first surveyors.

The mammoth-plate photographs were made on 18 x 22 inch glass-plate negatives using an oversized camera. Watkins and his assistants transported gear weighing nearly a ton—including cameras, lenses, tripods, glass plates, plate holders, a dark tent, and chemicals—for more than seventy-five miles using horses and mules. The photographs appeared in early maps and guidebooks.

The images included here, all selected from the collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum, range from photographs of the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoia trees to views of the breathtaking waterfalls cascading into pristine rivers to the landmarks that best symbolize the noble beauty of Yosemite Valley, such as El Capitan, Half Dome, Cathedral Rocks, Mirror Lake, and the Three Brothers. One plate even shows Mount Watkins, the first geological feature in California to be named for a photographer. Together, these photographs show the evolution of the photographer’s work from a high poetic style to a deeply intimate and personal one.

-more-

About the Author—Weston Naef is curator emeritus and former senior curator in the Department of Photographs at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Publication Information:

*Carleton Watkins in Yosemite*

Weston Naef

J. Paul Getty Museum

88 pages, 9 x 10 inches, hardcover

60 duotone illustrations, 1 map

ISBN 978-0-89236-945-4, \$29.95 [CAN \$32.95] [UK £17.95]

Publication Date: March 10, 2009

###

Kindly send two tearsheets of your review when published to Melissa Crowley, Getty Publications, 1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90049-1682.

Available at bookstores or through Getty Publications (800-223-3431). Distributed to the trade in the U.S. by Oxford University Press, in the U.K. and Europe by Orca Book Services, and in Canada by the Jaguar Book Group.