

Ansel Adams

Photographer & Environmentalist

805-282 Environmental Studies

Profile

Adams, Ansel (Feb. 20 1902 — Apr. 22, 1984), photographer and environmentalist, was born in San Francisco, California, the son of Charles Hitchcock Adams, a businessman, and Olive Bray. The grandson of a wealthy timber baron, Adams grew up in a house set amid the sand dunes of the Golden Gate. When Adams was only four, an aftershock of the great earthquake and fire of 1906 threw him to the ground and badly broke his nose, distinctly marking him for life. A year later the family fortune collapsed in the financial panic of 1907, and Adams's father spent the rest of his life doggedly but fruitlessly attempting to recoup.

Natural shyness and a certain intensity of genius, coupled with the dramatically "earth quaked" nose, caused Adams to have problems fitting in at school. In later life he noted that he might have been diagnosed as hyperactive. There is also the distinct possibility that he may have suffered from dyslexia. He was not successful in the various schools to which his parents sent him; consequently, his father and aunt tutored him at home. Ultimately, he managed to earn what he termed a "legitimizing diploma" from the Mrs. Kate M. Wilkins Private School — perhaps equivalent to having completed the eighth grade. (William Turnage, 2017)

Workings

For Adams, the environmental issues of particular importance were Yosemite National Park, the national park system, and above all, the preservation of wilderness. He focused on what he termed the spiritual-emotional aspects of parks and wilderness and relentlessly resisted the Park Service's "resortism," which had led to the over development of the national parks and their domination by private concessionaires. But the range of issues in which Adams involved himself was encyclopedic. He fought for new parks and wilderness areas, for the Wilderness Act, for wild Alaska and his beloved Big Sur coast of central California, for the mighty redwoods, for endangered sea lions and sea otters, and for clean air and water. An advocate of balanced, restrained use of resources, Adams also fought relentlessly against overbuilt highways, billboards, and all manner of environmental mendacity and shortsightedness. Yet he invariably treated his opponents with respect and courtesy. (William Turnage, 2017)



Time Table

Date	Details	Comments	References
Feb. 20 1902 - Apr. 22, 1984	He was born, die	In San Francisco, California, USA	
1907-1919	Financial panic etc.	A year later the family fortune collapsed in the financial panic, Substantial time, Joined the Sierra Club	
1920s	Year of Adams's life.	Success as a photographer, Adams met photographer Edward Weston, First one man exhibition, Married	
1930s		First visit to New York, He made his first visit to New York, Established as both the artist, First series, His first widely distributed book, he wrote to friend David McAlpin.	(William Turnage, 2017)
1990-1993	Bender's benign patronage	Bender's benign patronage triggered the transformation of a journeyman concert ("did for the national parks something comparable to what Homer's epics did for Odysseus."), Memoirs of a Life in Photography (1993)	
1950s-1960s	Created books	Nancy Newhall and Adams created a number of books and exhibitions of historic significance, particularly the Sierra Club's This is the American Earth	
1977	Tim Hill	On 12 April 1977 he wrote to his publisher, Tim Hill	
1985	Classic Images	As John Swarkowski states in the introduction to Adams's Classic Images (1985), An Autobiography was unfinished at the time of his death and was subsequently completed by Mary Street Alinder, his editor.	

Introduction

The most important result of Adams's somewhat solitary and unmistakably different childhood was the joy that he found in nature, as evidenced by his taking long walks in the still-wild reaches of the Golden Gate. Nearly every day found him hiking the dunes or meandering along Lobos Creek, down to Baker Beach, or out to the very edge of the American continent.

Adams was an unremitting activist for the cause of wilderness and the environment. Over the years he attended innumerable meetings and wrote thousands of letters in support of his conservation philosophy to newspaper editors, Sierra Club and Wilderness Society colleagues, government bureaucrats, and politicians. However, his great influence came from his photography. His images became the symbols, the veritable icons, of wild America. When people thought about the national parks of the Sierra Club or nature of the environment itself, the often envisioned them in terms of an Ansel Adams photograph. His black-and-white images were not "realistic" documents of nature.

Instead, they sought an intensification and purification of the psychological experience of natural beauty. He created a sense of the sublime magnificence of nature that infused the viewer with the emotional equivalent of wilderness, often more powerful than the actual thing. (William Turnage, 2017)

Maps

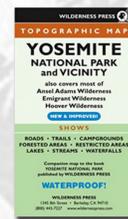


NatGeo Map #509 Yosemite SE Ansel Adams Wilderness (Group, 2008)

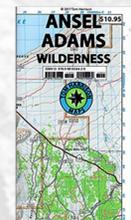
Ansel Adams Map USD A (New) (Service, 2009)



Ansel Adams Map USDA (Real old map) (Wilderness Maps, 2011)

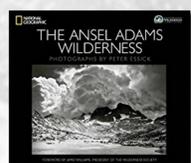


Yosemite National Park and Vicinity Map by Wilderness Press (Press, 2008)

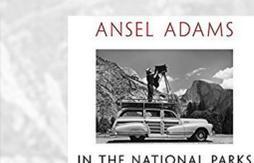


Ansel Adams Wilderness Map by Tom Harrison Maps (Maps, 2017)

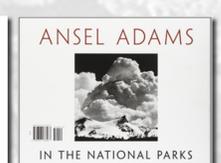
Books



The Ansel Adams Wilderness (Peter Essick, 2015)



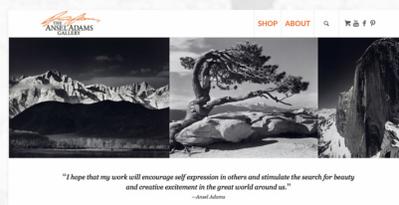
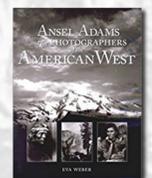
Ansel Adams in the National Parks: Photographs from America's Wild Places (Stillman, 2010)



At present

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Ansel Adams and the Photographers of the American West (Weber, 2002)



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 William Turnage, R. c. (2017). ANSEL ADAMS BIOGRAPHY. (T. N. Service, Producer, & COPYRIGHT © 2017 THE ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY) Retrieved from The Ansel Adams Gallery: <https://goo.gl/WpzHt>

