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## Carlos Heiligmann Collection

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2002-2020

1295 images (digital)

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Read collection overview

Since his youth in Mexico City, Carlos Heiligmann has traveled with a camera in hand. An industrial engineer by training and documentary photographer by nature, he has captured images throughout his world travels, and recently has concentrated on recording libraries in the small towns of western Massachusetts.

The digital photographs that comprise this collection document nearly four dozen public libraries in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire counties in western Massachusetts.

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[Photographs](#)

## Background on Carlos Heiligmann

Griswold Memorial Library, Colrain, Mass.

Growing up in Mexico City, Carlos Heiligmann spent his free time exploring the Mexican capital by bicycle and taking photographs wherever he went, using a simple Kodak Holiday Brownie camera and Kodak 127 black and white film to capture images as far out as the Central Airport. As he got older and migrated to the United States, he carried his interest in photography with him, remaining active during his service in the U.S. Air Force, through college, and into his career as an industrial engineer.

Heiligmann writes that he views photography primarily as a practical tool for recording and preserving images of the world around him, rather than an instrument for experimentation or creative artistry. This documentary approach is exemplified by the thousands of images he has taken over the years of important structures, ranging from the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India, and La Casa Rosada in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Boston's Trinity Church. More recently, he has re-focused his attention on Western Massachusetts, where he photographs the facades and interiors of the region's public libraries.

Always traveling with a camera, Heiligmann takes photographs throughout the year, although he writes that he prefers the warmer months when he can travel in his 1947 DeSoto, the car he brought to the U.S. from Mexico decades ago.

## Scope of collection

The majority of photographs in this collection were taken by Carlos Heiligmann in conjunction his wife Kathy Heiligmann's book on public libraries in Western Massachusetts. Shot digitally in both color and black and white, the photographs include exterior and interior shots of libraries, primarily in small towns in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire counties. Heiligmann occasionally photographs other buildings in the towns he visited.

## Inventory

Adams (Mass.)

2017-2018

[Adams Free Library](#)

2018

10 images

[City scenes](#)

2017

5 images

Agawam (Mass.)

2018

[Agawam Public Library](#)

2018

23 images

Amherst (Mass.)

2017

[Jones Memorial Library](#)

2017

7 images

Ashfield (Mass.)

2016-2018

[Belding Memorial Library](#)

2018

17 images

[William Turnbull Library](#)

2016

4 images

Athol (Mass.)

2017

[Athol Public Library](#)

2017

8 images

Becket (Mass.)

2018

[The Becket Athenaeum - Becket and Washington's Community Library](#)

2018

6 images

Belchertown (Mass.)

2017

[Clapp Memorial Library](#)

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Bernardston (Mass.)

2017

[Cushman Library](#)

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2018

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Brimfield (Mass.)

2018 Jul 27

[Brimfield Public Library](#)

2018 Jul 27

1 image

Brookfield (Mass.)

2018

[Merrick Public Library](#)

2018

10 images

Buckland (Mass.)

2016

[Buckland Public Library](#)

2016

12 images

Charlemont (Mass.)

2016-2017

[Tyler Memorial Library](#)

2016-2017

10 images

Cheshire (Mass.)

2017

[Cheshire Public Library](#)

2017

2 images

Cheshter (Mass.)

2018

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2018

4 images

Chesterfield (Mass.)

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[Chesterfield Public Library](#)

2017

3 images

[First Congregational Church](#)

2017

2 images

Chicopee (Mass.)

2018-2019

[Chicopee Public Library](#)

2018

25 images

[Chicopee Public Library Bookmobile](#)

2019

4 images

[Chicopee Public Library, Fairview Branch](#)

2018

6 images

Clarksburg (Mass.)

2017

[Clarksburg Town Library](#)

2017

5 images

Colrain (Mass.)

2016-2018

[Griswold Memorial Library](#)

2016-2018

54 images

Conway (Mass.)

2016-2017

[Field Memorial Library](#)

2016-2017

24 images

Cummington (Mass.)

2017

[Bryant Free Library](#)

2017

7 images

[William Cullen Bryant homestead](#)

2017  
3 images  
Dalton (Mass.)  
2017  
[Dalton Free Public Library](#)  
2017  
11 images  
East Brookfield (Mass.)  
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[East Brookfield Public Library](#)  
2018  
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East Longmeadow (Mass.)  
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[East Longmeadow Public Library](#)  
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Easthampton (Mass.)  
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[Emily Williston Memorial Library and Museum](#)  
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Florence (Mass.)  
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[Lilly Library](#)  
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[Florida Free Public Library](#)  
2017  
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[Gilbertville Public Library](#)  
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Granby (Mass.)  
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3 images  
Granville (Mass.)  
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[Granville Public Library](#)  
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Great Barrington (Mass.)  
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[Mason Public Library](#)  
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[Ramsdell Public Library](#)

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[Former Greenfield Library Association \(1879\) Library](#)  
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[Hampden Public Library](#)  
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[Taylor Memorial Library](#)  
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Hardwick (Mass.)  
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[Hatfield Public Library](#)  
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Hawley (Mass.)  
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[Heath Free Public Library](#)  
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[Hinsdale Public Library](#)  
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Holland (Mass.)  
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[Holland Public Library](#)  
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Holyoke (Mass.)  
2019  
[Holyoke Public Library](#)  
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34 images  
Huntington (Mass.)  
2018  
[Huntington Public Library](#)  
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Lanesborough (Mass.)  
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[Jonathan Smith Memorial](#)

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2 images  
[Lanesborough Public Library](#)  
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[Newton Memorial Town Hall](#)  
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2018  
[Lee Library](#)  
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13 images  
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2003-2017

[New Salem Public Library](#)

2003-2017

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[New Salem Academy](#)

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North Adams (Mass.)

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[All Saints Episcopal Church](#)

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[First Baptist Church](#)

2017

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[North Adams Public Library](#)

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North Amherst (Mass.)

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[North Amherst Library](#)

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17 images

Northampton (Mass.)

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[Forbes Library](#)

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Northfield (Mass.)

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[Dickinson Memorial Library](#)

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23 images

[Field Memorial Library](#)

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Northampton (Mass.)

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Orange (Mass.)

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[Moore-Leland Library](#)

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[Wheeler Memorial Library](#)

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13 images

[Women's Christian Temperance Union Drinking Fountain](#)

2017

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Otis (Mass.)

2019

[Otis Public Library and Museum](#)

2019

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Palmer (Mass.)

2017-2019

[Memorial Hall](#)

2017

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[Palmer Public Library](#)

2019

32 images  
Pelham (Mass.)  
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[Pelham Town Library](#)  
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Peru (Mass.)  
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[Peru Library](#)  
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6 images  
Peterborough (N.H.)  
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[Peterborough Town Library](#)  
2016  
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Petersham (Mass.)  
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[Petersham Memorial Library](#)  
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images  
[Petersham Town Hall](#)  
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images  
Pittsfield (Mass.)  
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[Berkshire Athenaeum](#)  
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8 images  
Plainfield (Mass.)  
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[Shaw Memorial Library](#)  
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Richmond (Mass.)  
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[Springfield City Library, Indian Orchard Branch](#)  
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[Springfield City Library, Mason Square Branch](#)  
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[Springfield City Library, Sixteen Acres Branch](#)  
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[South Egremont Free Library](#)  
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South Hadley (Mass.)  
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[Gaylord Memorial Library](#)  
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15 images  
[South Hadley Public Library](#)  
2017  
20 images  
Southampton (Mass.)  
2018  
[Edwards Public Library](#)  
2018  
9 images  
[Heritage Books \(bookshop\)](#)  
2018  
3 images  
Southwick (Mass.)

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[Southwick Public Library](#)  
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South Deerfield (Mass.)  
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[Tyringham Library](#)  
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[Young Mens Library Association](#)  
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images  
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[Merriam-Gilbert Public Library](#)  
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West Stockbridge (Mass.)  
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16 images  
[Worthington Historical Society](#)  
2017  
1 image

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Carlos Heiligmann, June 2017.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2017.

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