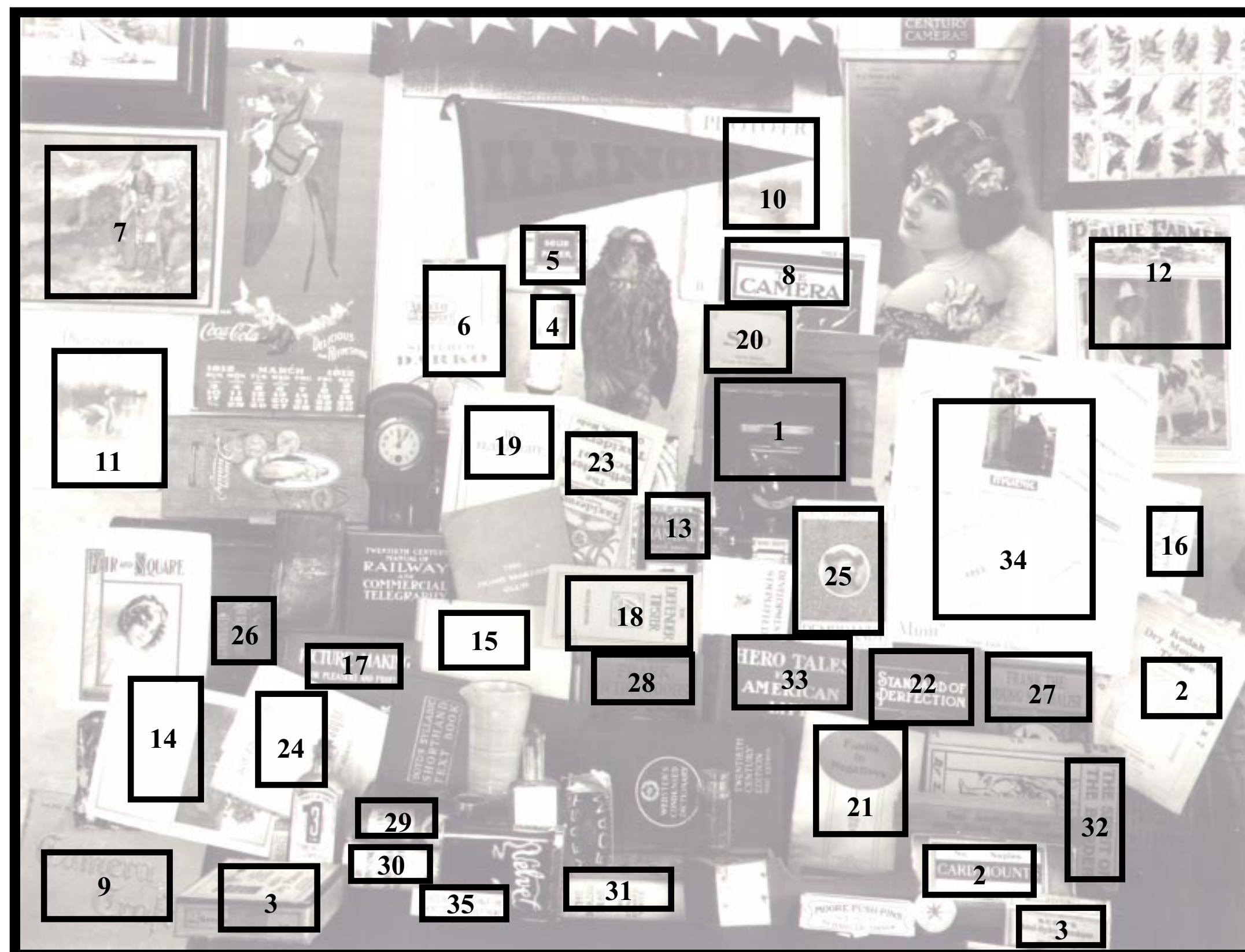


“VICISSITUDES OF AN ARTIST”

This complicated still-life of over fifty objects would have taken Frank hours, if not days, to build. The front of the card mount is inscribed three times: on the left, “Vicissitudes of an Artist,” on the right, “Sadorus,” and in the middle, in ink as light as a whisper, “A Love Story.” On the back, he added one more title, “A Medley of Many Thinks,” then his notations that the photo was taken Saturday March 16th, 1912, and finished Sunday, March 17th, 1912.

His father had died the previous year. The debate over selling the farm may have begun—or a decision may have been reached. This photograph seems to be a response to anticipated loss and the vicissitudes of fate. It is clearly a document—a tribute, perhaps, even, a memorial, to the life he loved. In this remarkable still-life, he brings together memorabilia worthy of record. Through this collection of highly personal, iconographic objects, he lays bare the fabric of his life.



- 1 BLACK BEAUTY CAMERA, manufactured by Seneca Camera Company of Rochester New York.
- 2 BOX of EASTMAN KODAK CARD MOUNTS and package of KODAK DRY MOUNTING TISSUE.
- 3 BOX of SEED'S DRY PLATES and a box of SEED'S METOL-HYDRO DEVELOPER.
- 4 TIN of PHOTOGRAPHIC BLUE PRINT, Montgomery Wards, Chicago Illinois.
- 5 EASTMAN'S SOLIO PAPERS.
- 6 SILVERED DARKO PAPER, ARISTO GOLD PAPER & VELVET VELOX PAPER.
- 7 SENECA CAMERA advertising.
- 8 THE CAMERA, July 1911. This periodical was published monthly by Camera Inc., Baltimore Maryland between 1897-1949.
- 9 CAMERA CRAFT: A PHOTOGRAPHIC MONTHLY, July 1910, This periodical was published by the Photographers' Association of California in San Francisco California between 1900-1942.
- 10 PHOTO-ERA, AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FEBRUARY 1912. This monthly periodical was published in Boston Massachusetts from 1898-1932.
- 11 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC TIMES. This monthly periodical was published by the Photographic Times Publishing Association, New York, New York between 1905-1915.
- 12 THE PRAIRIE FARMER. First published monthly in 1841, and then semimonthly in 1882 by the Prairie Farmer Publishing Company, Chicago Illinois.
- 13 CRAMER'S MANUAL, 20TH CENTURY NEGATIVE MAKING AND FORMULAS, 20TH EDITION. A manual published by the Cramer Dry Plate Works of St. Louis Missouri, c. 1900.
- 14 THE KODAK ON THE FARM. Published by the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester New York, 1908.
- 15 THE MODERN WAY IN PICTURE MAKING. Published by the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester New York, 1905.
- 16 BROMIDE ENLARGING WITH A KODAK: A BOOK FOR AMATEURS. Published by the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester New York, 1908.
- 17 PICTURE MAKING FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT: A COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED HAND-BOOK ON THE MODERN PRACTICES OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN ALL ITS VARIOUS BRANCHES, FOR AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL by T. Smith Baldwin. Published by F. J. Drake, Chicago Illinois in 1903.
- 18 THE DEFENDER TIPSTER: A BOOKLET OF PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION. First published in 1900 by the Defender Photo Supply Co, Rochester New York.
- 19 BY FLASHLIGHT. An early book on flash photography published by the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester New York in 1912.
- 20 SEED "FROM WHICH GOOD PICTURES GROW." A manual of photographic processing published by the M.A. Seed Dry Plate Company, in 1906.
The Seed Dry Plate was introduced by English-American photographer Miles Ainscoe Seed of St. Louis in 1876. The dry plate is a sensitively prepared plate that can be carried anywhere, exposed, and developed later at the photographer's leisure. Seed sold his company in 1902 to Eastman Kodak Company, who continued to use the Seed Dry Plate Company name.
- 21 FAULTS IN NEGATIVES. Published by the Imperial Dry Plate Company, London, England.
- 22 STANDARD OF PERFECTION. Possibly the American Poultry Association's *Standard of Perfection*, published in 1905 or American Rabbit Breeders Association's *Standard of Perfection*, Bloomington Illinois, 1900s (serial publication).
- 23 TAXIDERMISTRY TAUGHT BY CORRESPONDENCE next to a TAXIDERMISTRY MOUNT.
The Northwestern School of Taxidermy, founded in 1903 by J. W. Elwood in Omaha Nebraska, and was one of the first institutions to teach taxidermy by correspondence. Frank may well have mounted the specimens pictured in both still life photographs.
- 24 LATIN SELF TAUGHT. One of numerous volumes in by John Adams' *Self Education Series*, published by Saalfeld Publishing Company, Akron, OH in 1912.
- 25 THE MASTERPIECES OF REMBRANDT: SIXTY REPRODUCTIONS OF PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ORIGINAL PAINTINGS by Franz Hanfstaengl. First published in 1905 by Gowans & Gray, Glasgow Scotland.
- 26 MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITY: A DESCRIPTION OF ANCIENT LIFE: THE EMPLOYMENTS, AMUSEMENTS, CUSTOMS AND HABITS, THE CITIES, PALACES, MONUMENTS AND TOMBS, THE LITERATURE AND FINE ARTS OF 3,000 YEARS AGO by Levi W. Yaggy. First published in 1880 by the Western Publishing House, Chicago Illinois.
- 27 FRANK THE YOUNG NATURALIST by Harry Castlemon, first published in 1892 by John C. Winston, Philadelphia Pennsylvania.
- 28 FRANK IN THE WOODS by Frank Castlemon, first published in 1865 by Porter and Coates, Cincinnati Ohio.
- 29 FRANK ON THE PRAIRIE by Harry Castlemon, first published in 1865 by Porter and Coates, Cincinnati Ohio.
Three volumes of a six volume *The Gunboat Series* (1864-1868?) by the popular adventure writer, Harry Castlemon, the pseudonym of Charles A. Fosdick (1842-1915). Fosdick wrote three other series of Frank Nelson Stories: *Rocky Mountain Series*, *Sportsman Club Series* and the *Frank Nelson Series*.
- 30 THE WINNING OF BARBARA WORTH by Harold Bell Wright and Graham Coates. Published in 1911 by The Book Supply Company, Chicago Illinois.
- 31 THE BLAZED TRAIL: BLAZED TRAIL STORIES AND STORIES OF THE OLD WEST by Stewart Edward White. First published in 1904 by the Council on Books in Wartime, Inc., New York New York.
- 32 THE SPIRIT OF THE BORDER by Zane Grey. Published in 1906 by W. J. Black, Roslyn New York.
- 33 HERO TALES FROM AMERICAN LIFE by Frances Trevelyan Miller. Published in 1909 by The Christian Herald, New York New York.
- 34 Frank also created a POSTER showing a young man and woman flirtatiously kissing. Around them, are a series of slogans (probably created with a rubber stamp kit or cut out of magazines) to create a montage. Some of the sayings include: "American Beauty," "New Woman," "A Beautiful Kid," "The Girl I left Behind." "Your Last Chance."
- 35 At the bottom of the photograph, leaning against the tin of VELVET PIPE TOBACCO is a sign that offers good advice, "A GOOD NEGATIVE IS HALF THE MAKING OF A PERFECT PRINT."