

**Mark Klett & William L. Fox: *The Half-Life of History***  
**Collection CAE1215**

**Introduction/Abstract**

The *Mark Klett & William L. Fox: The Half-Life of History* archive contains research materials, notes, essay drafts, work prints, book dummies, press, and .50 caliber shell casings related to Klett & Fox's research of the deteriorating remnants of the Wendover Air Base, the largest military base in the world during WW II, while in residence at the Center for Land Use Interpretation (CLUI) facility in Wendover, Utah from 2000 – 2005. The book about the project *Wendover: The Half-Life of History*, was published in 2011.

**Biographical Note: Mark Klett**

Trained as a geologist, Mark Klett was born in 1952 and holds a BS in geology from St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York (1974), and an MFA in photography from the State University of New York at Buffalo, Program at the Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, New York (1977). He established his artistic perspective on the Western American landscape as the chief photographer for the *Rephotographic Survey Project* (1977-79), which rephotographed scenes visited by the first photographic surveys of the West in the 1860s and 1870s. His work has been shown in one-person exhibitions at the Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; and the Phoenix Art Museum. Klett lives in Arizona, where he teaches photography at Arizona State University, Tempe.

**Biographical Note: William L. Fox**

William L. Fox, Director of the Center for Art + Environment at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada, has variously been called an art critic, science writer, and cultural geographer. He has published thirteen books on cognition and landscape, numerous essays in art monographs, magazines and journals, and fifteen collections of poetry. Among his nonfiction titles are *Aereality: On the World from Above*; *Terra Antarctic: Looking Into the Emptiest Continent*; *In the Desert of Desire: Las Vegas and the Culture of Spectacle*; and *The Void, the Grid, and the Sign: Traversing the Great Basin*. Fox is also an artist who has exhibited in numerous group and solo shows in eight countries since 1974. Fox has researched and written books set in the extreme environments of the Antarctic, the Arctic, Chile, Nepal, and other locations. He is a fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society and Explorers Club and he is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and National Science Foundation. He has been a visiting scholar at the Getty Research Institute, Clark Art Institute, the Australian National University, and National Museum of Australia.

**Scope and Content**

Klett & Fox were in residence at the CLUI facility in Wendover, Utah for a week each year from 2000 through 2005 to photograph the deteriorating remnants of the Wendover Air Base, which during WW II was the largest military base in the world and the location of the “Enola Gay Hangar” where the bomber was housed before deployment over Hiroshima. The photographic and writing project was not concerned so much with questioning the decision to deploy the A-bomb as it was with the contrast between how Japan handles the history of the bombing versus the United States, and the consequent preservation of structures in Hiroshima, contrasted with the deterioration of the base in Wendover. A book about the project, *The Half Life of History*, was published in 2011. Materials include notes, research materials, essay drafts, work prints, book dummies, and .50 caliber shell casings.

**Inclusive Dates**

1991 – 2012

**Bulk Dates**

2003 – 2011

**Quantity/Extent**

1 cubic foot

**Language**

English

**Arrangement**

*Mark Klett & William L. Fox: The Half-Life of History* is organized into 18 folders, arranged in project work order.

**Related Publications**

Klett, Mark and William L. Fox, Wendover: The Half-Life of History. Santa Fe, NM: Radius Books, 2011.

**Related Archive Collections**

CAE1041: *Center for Land Use Interpretation: Wendover Residencies*

**Container Listing:****CAE1215: Folders 1-18, 1991 - 2012****CAE Box 35**

- 1 Klett/Fox articles, 1992 - 2004
- 2 Research, The 509<sup>th</sup> Composite Group, 2006
- 3 Research, Enola Gay, 2005 – 2006
- 4 Research, Hiroshima & Nagasaki, 2005
- 5 Research, Hiroshima Survivor Accounts, 2005
- 6 Research, Historic Photographs, not dated
- 7 Research, Wendover, 1998 – 2004
- 8 Research, Wendover Air Base, 1991 – 2010
- 9 Research, William L. Fox Research Notes, 2001
- 10 Work Prints (1 of 3), 2003 – 2011
- 11 Work Prints (2 of 3), 2003 – 2011
- 12 Work Prints (3 of 3), 2003 – 2011
- 13 Proof Prints, 2011
- 14 Correspondence, 1999 – 2011
- 15 Draft Texts, 2001 - 2011
- 16 Book Dummy, 2006
- 17 Publishing information, 2007 – 2011
- 18 Press Coverage, 2011 – 2012

## CAE1215: Additional Materials

### CAE Box 26: Objects

8#1 .50 Caliber Shell Casings

### CAE Flat File F2: Oversized Items

(Work Prints)

10#67 Bomb Victim 12inH v2  
 10#68 Japanese Soldier Walking  
 10#69 B-29 Ceremony 12inH  
 10#70 B-29 Ceremony 12inH v2  
 10#71 Names on Bomb 12inH v3  
 10#72 Rocks Near Base v2  
 10#73 Stud Walls Hanger  
 10#74 Hanger doors Cover v2  
 10#75 Hanger doors Cover  
 10#76 Storm Over Playa  
 10#77 W  
 10#78 Clouds and Hangar v2  
 10#79 Figure and Window  
 10#80 Bags on B Wire v2  
 10#81 Sun Over Hangar  
 10#82 Building in Trees  
 10#83 Cemetery Pic v3  
 10#84 History Book v2  
 10#93 Hanger Pan 1 through 4

(Proof Prints)

13#30 Pg. 78-79-80  
 13#31 Pg. 63-64-57-58  
 13#32 Pg. 59-60-61-62  
 13#33 Pg. 56  
 13#34 Pg. 40 Pg. 41  
 13#35 Pg. 104 Pg. 105  
 13#36 Pg. 22 Pg. 23  
 13#37 Pg. 44 Pg. 45  
 13#38 Pg. 44 Pg. 45  
 13#39 Pg. 42 Pg. 43  
 13#40 Pg. 42 Pg. 43  
 13#41 Pg. 40 Pg. 41  
 13#42 Pg. 50 Pg. 51  
 13#43 Pg. 50 Pg. 51  
 13#44 Pg. 102 Pg. 103  
 13#45 Pg. 102 Pg. 103  
 13#46 Pg. 100 Pg. 101  
 13#47 Pg. 100 Pg. 101  
 13#48 Pg. 22 Pg. 23  
 13#49 Pg. 104 Pg. 105  
 13#50 Pg. 63-64-57-58  
 13#51 Pg. 81-82-77  
 13#52 Pg. 1  
 13#53 Pg. 2 pg. 3

13#54	Pg. 6 pg. 7
13#55	Pg. 4 pg. 5
13#56	Pg. 12
13#57	Pg. 10 Pg. 11
13#58	Pg. 8 Pg. 9
13#59	Pg. Liner
13#60	Pg. Case
13#61	Pg. 59-60-61-62
13#62	Pg. 59-60-61-62
13#63	Pg. 81-82-77
13#64	Pg. 81-82-77
13#65	Pg. 78-79-80

### CAE S-Box 7

(Work Prints)

10#1	Dart Board Color
10#2	Union Hall Before Bomb
10#3	Hiroshima Watch
10#4	Bullet Hole Window
10#5	Light on Bedsprings
10#6	Discarded Photo Face v2 9.5w
10#7	A Bomb Dome
10#8	Toy Soldier in Salt
10#9	Figure on Conc [concrete] Pad
10#10	Hole in Roof v2
10#11	Bomber Painting Tinian
10#12	Cowboy Pete
10#13	Hanger
10#14	Bomb Painting
10#15	Enola Gay Tail Fin
10#16	Nail on Floor
10#17	Bomb Book
10#18	Hiroshima Today
10#19	Bulletin Board
10#20	Open Door Barracks
10#21	Image of Sun and Hand
10#22	Broken Green Glass with Sun v2
10#23	Moments In
10#24	Hanger Doors
10#25	Sky with Contrail
10#26	Antenna Interstate
10#27	Holes in Window Mesh
10#28	Juke Box Cave
10#29	Lights Above Wendover
10#30	Sun on Shard
10#31	Barbed Wire Mountains
10#32	Screen with Big Hole
10#33	Broken Mullion
10#34	Crumbling Map
10#35	Bullet Holes Plywood
10#36	77-BT-182 with Screen

- 10#37 Names on Bomb
- 10#38 A Bomb Dome After
- 10#39 326-HN-1-002 with Screen
- 10#40 EG Parking
- 10#41 77-BT-91 with Screen
- 10#42 77-BT-187 with Screen
- 10#43 Fat Man on Trailer
- 10#44 Nagasaki Bomb
- 10#45 208-N-43888 with Screen
- 10#46 Smokestack
- 10#47 Broken Window and Screen v2
- 10#48 Barracks Pan 2
- 10#49 Barracks Pan 1
- 10#50 Barracks Pan 3
- 10#51 Barracks Pan 4
- 10#52 Shadow on Steps 12in v2
- 10#53 Sign as Newspaper v4
- 10#54 208-LU-13H with Screen
- 10#55 Tibbets in EG
- 10#56 Bullet 6 v2
- 10#57 Hanger Pan 4
- 10#58 Hanger Pan 1
- 10#59 Hanger Pan 3
- 10#60 Hanger Pan 2
- 10#61 Bullet 7 v2
- 10#62 Bullet 4 v2
- 10#63 Bullet 3 v2
- 10#64 Bullet 1 v2
- 10#65 Bullet 2 v2
- 10#66 Bullet 5 v2
- (Proof Prints)
- 13#1 Cracked Window, Barracks / Smokestack
- 13#2 Bullet Holes in Plywood Covering a Window that Once Secured Bombsights
- 13#3 Light and Bed Frame, Empty Barracks
- 13#4 Untitled
- 13#5 Broken Window Mullion Where the Top Secret Norden Bombsite was stored
- 13#6 Hole in Screen, Enlisted Men's Barracks
- 13#7 Goshute Mountains from the Perimeter of South Base, Wendover
- 13#8 Holes Torn in Window Screen, Airmen's Barracks
- 13#9 Untitled
- 13#10 Light and Bed Frame, Empty Barracks
- 13#11 Holiday Lights Above Wendover, Utah
- 13#12 Sun Over Juke Box Cave, Improvised Recreation Site Near Wendover Airbase
- 13#13 Antenna Above Interstate 80, Wendover, Utah
- 13#14 Bullet Holes in Plywood Covering a Window that Once Secured Bombsites
- 13#15 Sun Reflected in Glass Shard, Found in the Hanger that Housed the Enola Gay
- 13#16 Untitled
- 13#17 Untitled
- 13#18 Goshute Mountains from the Perimeter of South Base, Wendover
- 13#19 Goshute Mountains from the Perimeter of South Base, Wendover
- 13#20 Screen Enlisted, Men's Barracks

13#21	Broken Window Mullion Where the Top Secret Norden Bombsite was Stored
13#22	Untitled
13#23	Antenna Above Interstate 80, Wendover, Utah
13#24	Sun Over Juke Box Cave, Improvised Recreation Site Near Wendover Airbase
13#25	Holes Torn in Window Screen, Airmen's Barracks
13#26	Holiday Lights Above Wendover, Utah
13#27	Sun Reflected in Glass Shared, Found in the Hangar That Housed the Enola Gay
13#28	Untitled
13#29	Untitled