

Over 8,000 historical photographs added to NSIDC Glacier Photograph Collection

Ann Windnagel and Athea Merredyth

http://nsidc.org/data/glacier_photo/



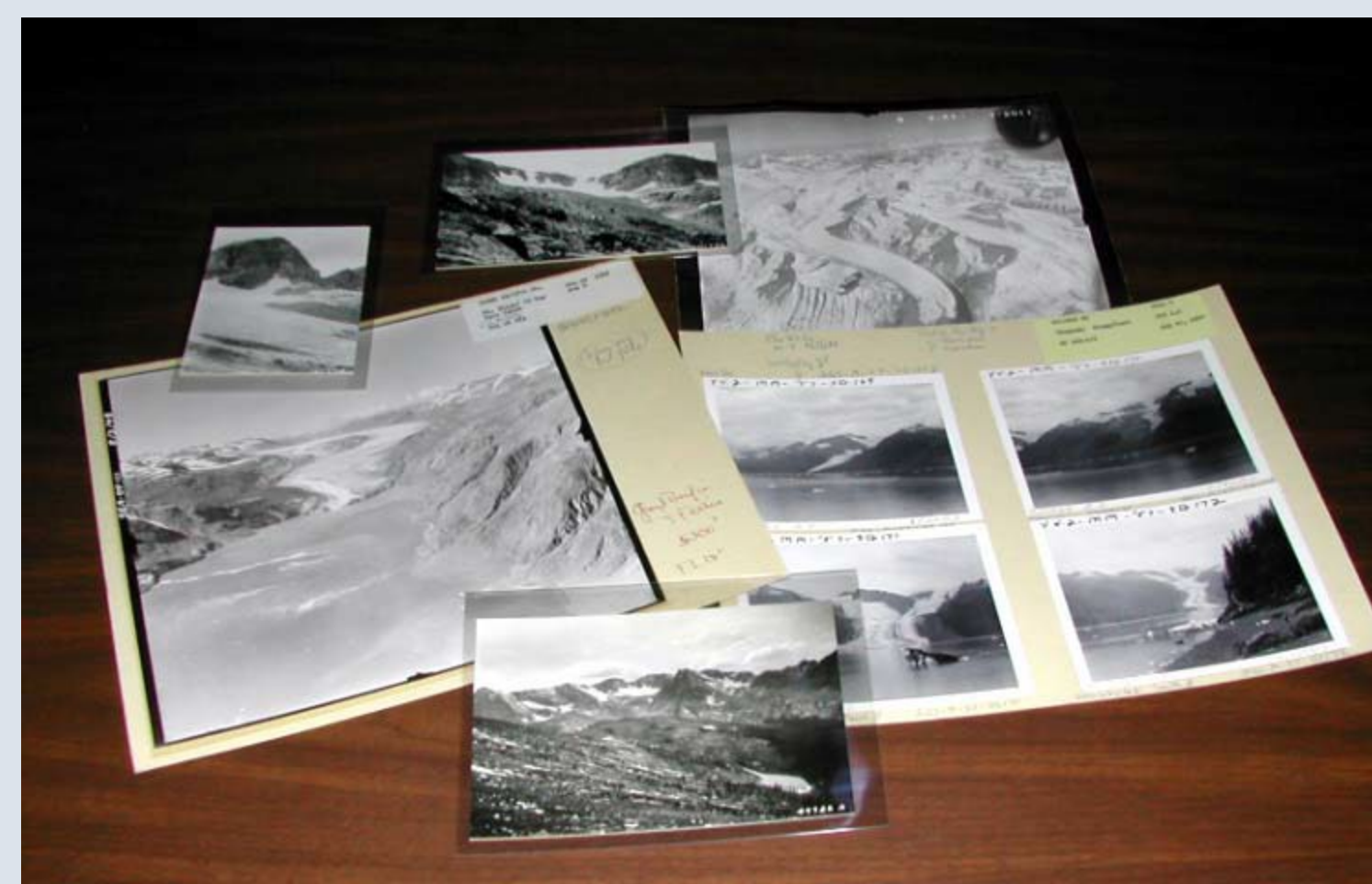
Council on Library and Information Resources



The Glacier Photograph Collection (GPC) is a database of photographs, both scanned from a physical object and ones that originated in digital form, of glaciers from around the world. Some images date back to the mid-19th century and provide an historical reference for glacier fluctuation. The GPC is a component of the Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers (GTN-G).

~25000 photos, spanning 158 years over 40 countries

Preserving the past for the future



In early 2019, the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) and the University of Colorado (CU) Boulder Libraries added over 8,000 newly scanned historical images to the database ranging in years from 1883 to 2012. This increased the size of the online collection by 35%, bringing the total to approximately 25,000 glacier images.

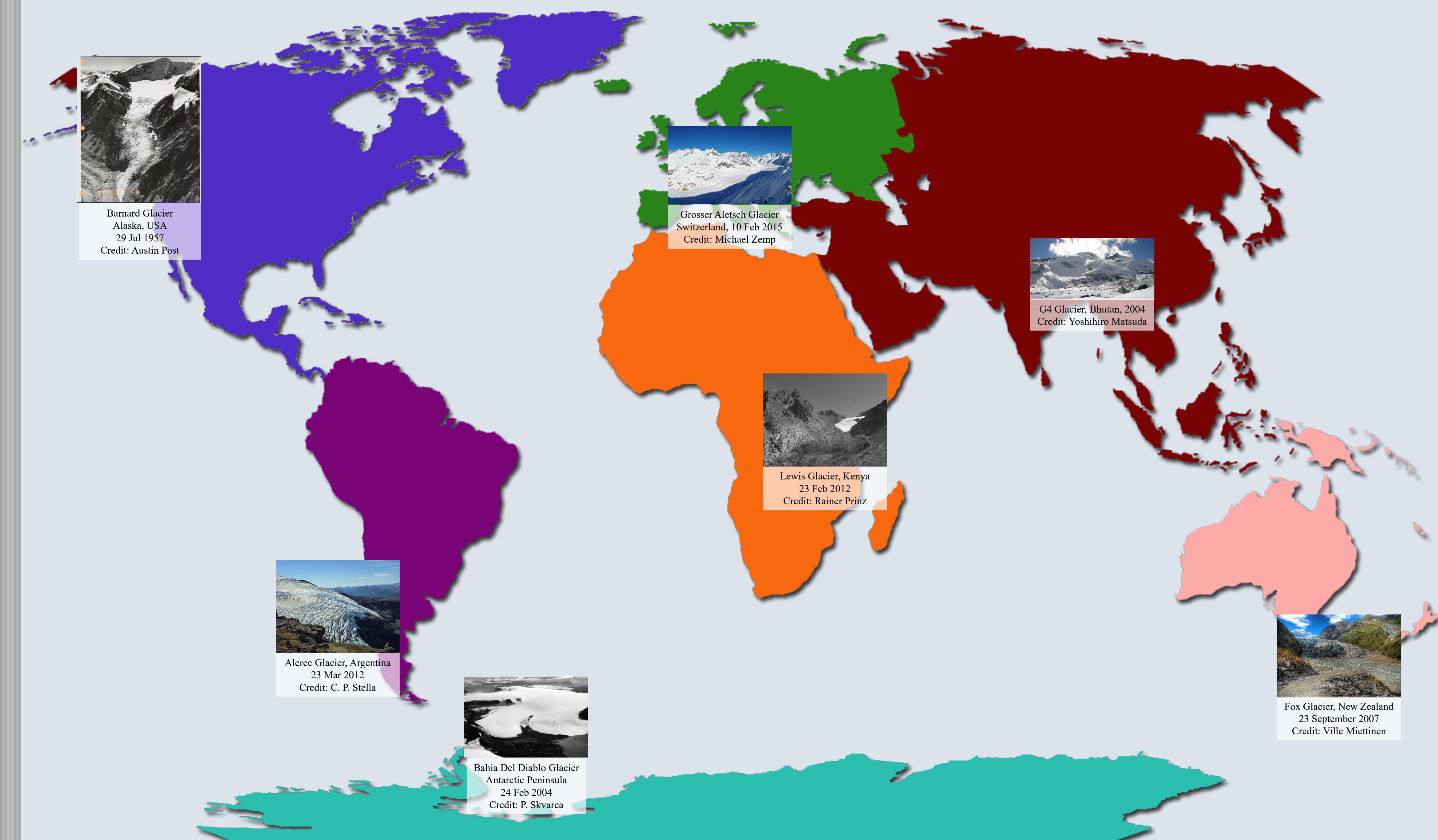
These new images were created by scanning the large analog collection of photographic prints of glaciers previously held at NSIDC and now held in CU's archive. Research was



conducted to find and assign standard metadata such as glacier name, photographer name, and glacier location to each digital image. This was a sometimes-difficult task that was in large part carried out by CU archivists and interns. A grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) funded the work.

The photos were acquired for a variety of reasons by both amateur and professional photographers. Some notable photographers are pioneer glaciologist, William O. Field; renowned photographer and glaciologist, Austin Post; and American geophysicist, Harry Fielding Reid.

Contains photographs of glaciers from every continent

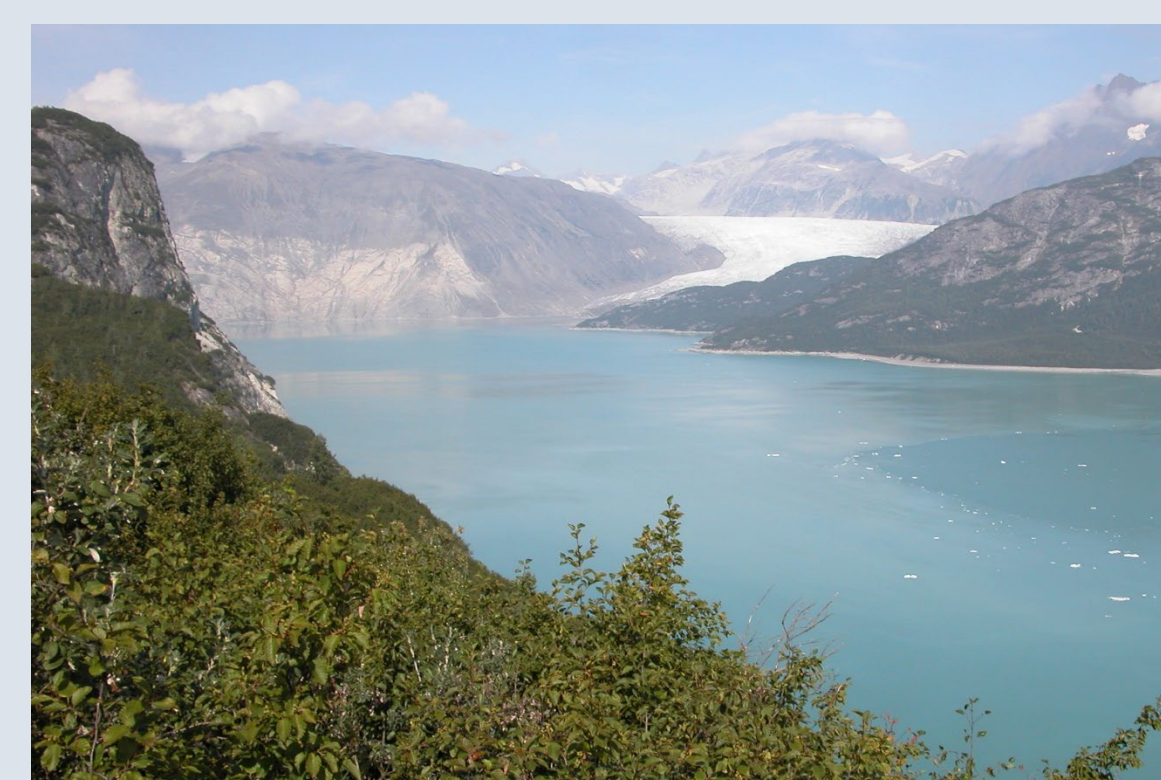


Documenting change through photographs

The Glacier Photograph Collection contains a sub-collection of repeat photography of glaciers. This special collection displays photographs of some glaciers taken from the same vantage point, at the same time of year, but taken many years apart.



Franz Josef Glacier, New Zealand
16 Feb 1957, Credit: Unknown (left)
29 Jan 2015, Credit: J.P. Fiat (right)

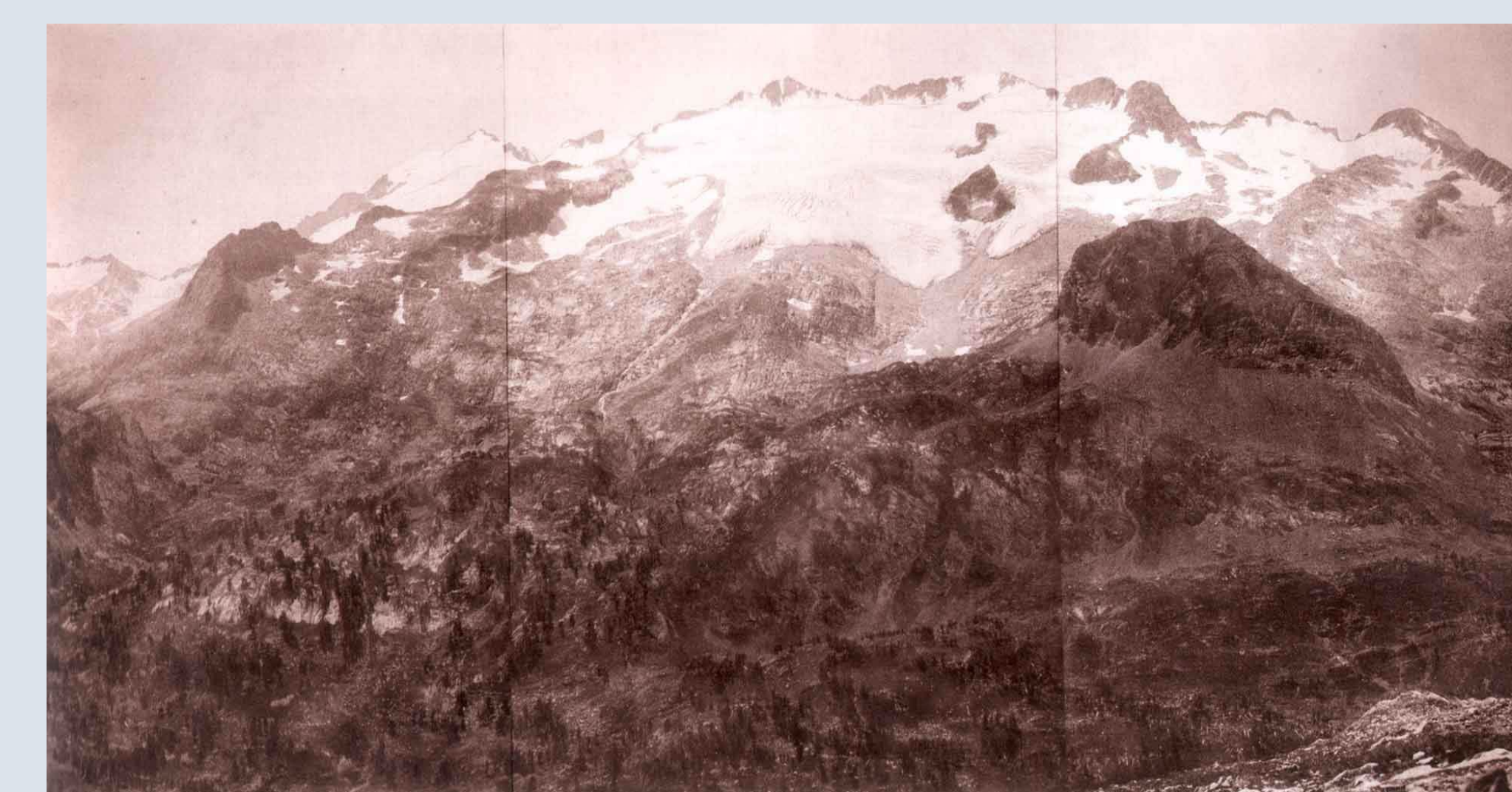


Muir Glacier, Alaska, USA
13 Aug 1941, Credit: W.O. Field (left)
31 Aug 2004, Credit: B.F. Molnia (right)



Qori Kalis Glacier, Peru
Jul 1978, Credit: L.G. Thompson (top)
Jul 2004, Credit: L.G. Thompson (bottom)

Contains photographs as old as 1857 and as recent as 2015



Maladeta Glacier, Spain
1857, Photographer unknown



Findelen Glacier, Switzerland
2015, Credit: Ladina Glaus