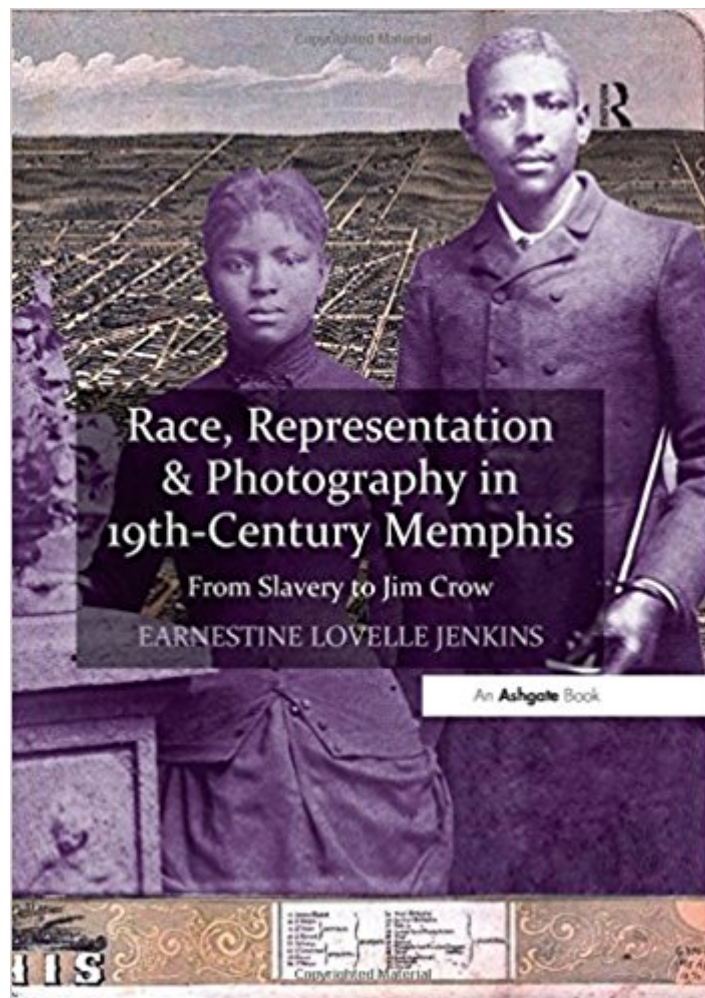


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# Race, Representation & Photography In 19th-Century Memphis: From Slavery To Jim Crow



## Synopsis

*Race, Representation & Photography in 19th-Century Memphis: from Slavery to Jim Crow* presents a rich interpretation of African American visual culture. Using Victorian era photographs, engravings, and pictorial illustrations from local and national archives, this unique study examines intersections of race and image within the context of early African American communities. It emphasizes black agency, looking at how African Americans in Memphis manipulated the power of photography in the creation of free identities. Blacks are at the center of a study that brings to light how wide-ranging practices of photography were linked to racialized experiences in the American south following the Civil War. Jenkins' book connects the social history of photography with the fields of visual culture, art history, southern studies, gender, and critical race studies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Race, Representation & Photography in 19th-Century Memphis is an exemplary tour de force consisting of breathtaking scholarship and compelling and exceptional research, as well as brilliant archival excavation and investigation.' Celeste-Marie Bernier, Nottingham University, UK

'Earnestine Jenkins' extraordinarily rich and unique visual study of nineteenth-century Memphis makes an invaluable contribution to the history of African Americans in slavery and freedom. *Race, Representation & Photography in 19th-Century Memphis* is richly textured and illuminates the multi-layered efforts of black people to create new representations of themselves, their families and institutions, and enables us to better comprehend their strivings. She brilliantly and persuasively argues that the material culture and documents produced by an array of black community

photographers laid the foundation for what would become the "New Negro" movement in the early twentieth century. We are indebted to Jenkins for the prodigious research, insightful and persuasive analysis, and the amazing diversity of images that make *Race, Representation & Photography in 19th-Century Memphis* so uniquely important and a must-read.' Darlene Clark Hine, Northwestern University, USA and co-editor of *The Black Chicago Renaissance*

Earnestine Lovelle Jenkins is Associate Professor of Art History, Department of Art, University of Memphis, USA.

Dr. Jenkins's research and photographs have produced an excellent and thought-provoking study, which covers the history of African Americans in Memphis from slavery to the end of the 19th century. She has drawn from many primary sources--wills, census reports, slave records, newspaper articles, Congressional reports, Freedman Bank records, etc.--as well as a variety of secondary sources to write a history of Black Memphians of all classes, from ordinary, working-class people to the emerging middle and upper classes, with a focus on women of the period. Her book is a "must read" for all Memphis historians.

The information and perspective I've been looking for!

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