



Archives and Special Collections Department,  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon  
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## **E. W. Blatchford Collection, 1880-1900**

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Call No:** Ph:EWB:1880-1900:1-801:1-801

**Library Catalog ID:** [b18335573](#)

**Record Creators: Photographers:** **Bonfils** [Felix] , **Dumas** [Alexandre], **Sarrafian** [Brothers], **Beato** [Antonio or Antione brother of Felice or Felix], **Zangaki** [George and Constantine] , **Fiorillo** [Luigi], and relatively less known ones such as **Rubellin** [Père] **et Fils**, **Lekegian** [Gabriel] **& Fils**, **Hakim S.** [Suleiman] , **Melkonian**, **Dupré**, **Amodio** et al.

**Collection Title:** E. W. Blatchford Collection, 1880-1900.

**Collection Dates:** ca. 1880-1900

**Physical Description:** ca. 800 albumen print photographs of sizes, around 23 x 28 cm mounted on 28 x 35.5 cm cardboards.

**Abstract:** An interesting and important collection of photographs covering various regions and countries, from the late 19<sup>th</sup> c to the early 20<sup>th</sup> c. (ca. 1880 to 1900), The photos feature landscapes, mountains, lakes, rivers, agricultural fields and practices, as well as historical monuments, archeological sites, buildings and architectural details. Also depicted are regions, cities, towns, villages, streets and houses; scenes of daily life, various professions and activities, e.g. sellers, merchants, water carriers, and scenes of economic production such as wheat, sugar canes, pottery, etc. There are also photographs of many populations and different ethnic groups. Most pictures were taken outdoors or inside buildings and houses, in addition to some studio portraits. The collection features samples from various important photographers in the Middle East, e.g. Abdallah Freres, Lekegian, Bonfils, etc... The collection is of great interest to researchers interested in the history of photography, the history of the Middle East, of archaeology, anthropology, cultural studies and visual culture.

## Administrative Information

**Source:** The collection was presented to the Library of the University by Mrs. Howard Bliss, Amy Blatchford Bliss, in 1924.

**Access Restrictions:** Access is limited to digital copy available through the department webpage.

**Photocopying Restriction:** No reproduction restriction.

**Preferred Citation:** E. W. Blatchford Collection, 1880-1900, Ph:EWB:1880-1900, photo no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

## Scope and Content

The collection of around eight hundred photographs is arranged by countries. They are subdivided by cities, towns, sites; then people, activities and other subjects. There are 52 photographs on Europe (France, Italy, Malta, Spain, Belgium, and Greece), 83 on Turkey, 1 on Cyprus. The rest of the photos features the MENA region (1 on Mecca 32 on Syria, 87 on Lebanon (*note that Syria and Lebanon were one entity at the time the pictures were taken, but are separate in list for ease of consultation*); 214 on Palestine (including 141 on Jerusalem), 7 on Jordan, 315 on Egypt, and 14 on Tangiers.

Around 324 items have their photographers still unidentified; the remaining photographs feature many important photographers of the late 19th century in the Middle East: four hundred and forty six photographs are signed by and can be tracked back to around twenty photographers. These include important names such as Bonfils, Dumas, Sarrafian and relatively less known ones such as Dupré and Amodio. Their work in this collection range from one photograph (Melkonian) to one hundred and seventy nine photographs (Bonfils). Some of them are more specialized in specific areas than others, such as Beato, Zangaki and Sebah in Egypt.

The photos are distributed as follows: Bonfils (179 photographs), Jean Pascal Sébah (89 photographs), Zangaki (59 photographs), A. Beato (48 photographs), L. Fiorillo, Phot. (21 photographs), Studio Sarrafian Bros. Beirut (12 photographs), Rubellin et Fils (13 photographs), (Lekegian) Photo Art. G. Lekegian & Fils (10 photographs), Dumas Phot. Beyrouth (11 photographs), S. Hakim (5 photographs), P.Z. (4 photographs), J.E. Puig Escudillers (2 photographs), J. Laurent y Cia. Madrid (2 photographs), B. Agius, Photo (1 photograph), H. Agius, Photo (1 photograph), A. Svoboda, Photo (1 photograph), Melkonian (1 photograph), Amodio: Atelier Photographie (1 photograph), Hell & Cie. (1 photograph), E. Borg, Photo (1 photograph), and Poa (1 photograph). There are 3 oversize items (Ph:1/391, Ph:1/341 and Ph:1/41).

## Arrangement

- Series I:** Europe
- Series II:** Mecca & Turkey
- Series III:** Cyprus & Syria
- Series IV:** Lebanon
- Series V:** Palestine
- Series VI:** Egypt
- Series VII:** Tangiers

## Historical Sketch

In 1924, Mrs. Howard Bliss, Amy Blatchford Bliss, presented to the Library of the University a collection of photographs on the Middle East mainly, with a few on Europe. She named it "E.W. Blatchford Collection" after her father's name Eliphalet Wickes Blatchford a philanthropist and businessman from the city of Chicago, 1826-1914. He, with her mother, had collected these photographs during their travels. They were probably bought as souvenirs or as our present postcards in remembrance of countries and places visited.

## Subject Headings

American University of Beirut.  
Armenians -- Middle East -- History -- 19th century.  
Blatchford Collection (American University of Beirut, Jafet Library).  
Costume -- Middle East.  
Egypt -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Europe -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Italy -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Jerusalem -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Landscapes -- Middle East.  
Landscape archaeology -- Middle East.  
Lebanon -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Lebanon -- Description and travel.  
Middle East -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Middle East -- Antiquities.  
Middle East -- Pictorial works.  
Monuments -- Middle East.  
Photograph collections -- Middle East.

Photography -- Middle East -- History -- 19th century.  
Palestine -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Syria -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Geography -- Social aspects.  
Turkey -- History -- 19th century -- Pictorial works.  
Travel -- Middle East -- 1880-1900.  
Beato, Antonio, -1903, photographer.  
Sébah, Pascal, 1823-1886, photographer.  
Fiorillo, F, fl 1900, photographer.  
Bonfils, Félix, 1831-1885, photographer.  
Dumas, Alexandre, 1824-1895, photographer.  
Adelphoi Zangaki (Firm), photographer.  
Sarrafian Brothers, photographer.

## Container List

- Series I:** Europe: France, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Greece (Ph: 1-52)  
**Series II:** Mecca & Turkey (Ph: 53-136)  
**Series III:** Cyprus & Syria (Ph: 137-168)  
**Series IV:** Lebanon (Ph: 169-258)  
**Series V:** Palestine (Ph: 256-469)  
**Series VI:** Egypt (Ph:470-784)  
**Series VII:** Tangiers (Ph: 785-798)

For the complete list of photographs under each of the above series, follow the link below:

<https://lib-webarchive.aub.edu.lb/BorreLudvigsen/https://almashriq.hiof.no/ddc/projects/jafet/blatchford/index.html>

## Related Material

### Photographs at AUB

- Portrait of Eliphalet Wickes Blatchford, 1900s  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1900s\(07\):01:32](#)
- Collection of photographs of the Syrian Protestant College, 1907-1913] photo number ...  
Mr. & Mrs. Bliss riding the first automobile  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1907-1913:1-73:35](#)
- Jerald Dale Dorman and Marry Gaylord Dorman, 1906 by Adrien Bonfils  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1906\(06\):01:35](#)
- Charles Webster with wife Annie and daughter, 1896 by Adrien Bonfils  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1896\(01\):01:32](#)
- Visit of Roger Bonfils to AUB, 1972  
[Ph:AUB:1972/10\(03\):01:53](#)
- Faculty and students at the Syrian Protestant College, 1902  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1902\(02\):1-4:33](#) (One photo by Tancredè Dumas)
- Faculty and staff, 1923-1948 Sarrafian Brothers.

- [Ph:AUB:1923-1948\(05\):1-7:39](#)
- Faculty and staff, Syrian Protestant College, 1904-1905 Sarrafian Brothers.  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1905\(05\):1-5:34](#)
- Summer Seminar by Professor Zeine Zeine, 1950 Sarrafian Brothers  
[Ph:AUB:1950\(14\):1-2:44](#)
- Portrait of Mary Bliss Dale Sarrafian Brothers.  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1904-1923:01:26](#)
- West Hall, Sarrafian Brothers 1913  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1913:1-21:36](#)
- Dr. Daniel Bliss and Dr. George Washburn, 1910 Sarrafian Brothers  
[Ph:SPC-AUB:1910\(05\):01:35](#)

### Other photograph Collections

- [Portraits of people of the Middle East and views of Ba‘labakk and Gerasa, at the Library of Congress](#)
- [Matson photograph collection , 1898-1946 at the Library of Congress](#)
- [L. Fiorillo Photographs Collection at Princeton University](#)
- [Alexandria Bombardment of 1882 Photograph Album at the American University in Cairo](#)
- [Antonio Beato at The J. Paul Getty Museum](#)
- Colin Osman (1990) Antonio Beato, Photographer of the Nile, History of Photography, 14:2, 101-111, DOI: [10.1080/03087298.1990.10441036](#)
- [Zangaki at The J. Paul Getty Museum](#)
- [Magnificent images of Egypt by Zangaki brothers, 1870-1890 at Rare Historical Photos](#)
- [Egypt by The Zangaki Brothers \(1870-1890\) at Flashbak, Everything Old Is New Again](#)
- [C. & G. Zangaki Photographs Collection at Princeton University.](#)
- [Rubellin et Fils Photographs Collection at Princeton University Library](#)
- [Photographers in The New York Public Library’s Photography Collection](#)

### Postcards

- Postcard Collection of SPC and AUB, early 20<sup>th</sup> century: A collection of 52 postcards documents the buildings of the Syrian Protestant College and later the American University of Beirut campus in the form of picture postcards. The bulk of the collection is by Sarrafian Bros, Beirut-Lebanon while 4 postcards by Breger Frères, Paris- France.  
**Pc:SPC-AUB:1900-1930s**
- ‘Īsá Iskandar al-Ma‘lūf Postcard Collection: The collection is composed of around 202 photomechanical and photographic prints of Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria, around 1920s-1940s.  
**Pc:IIMC:1920s-1940s**
- The Fouad Debbas Collection: A photographic collection comprising over 30,000 images from the Middle East – namely Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, and Turkey- from 1830 till the 1960s.

Among these works are 3,000 images produced by Maison Bonfils, one of the first commercial studios in the Ottoman Empire in the late 19th-century. The collection is accessible in digital format on site at the AUB Archives Department. For any subsequent publications, researchers will be responsible for obtaining copyright permission from the owners of the collection.

<https://sursock.museum/content/fouad-debbas-collection>

**Pc:TFDC:1830-1960s**

## Related Publications

- AUB 2008 Calendar, entitled "Bonfils: The Region through 19th Century Photographs, AUB's Blatchford Collection,"
- The 40<sup>th</sup> Middle East Medical Assembly Social Program, Photography at AUB, May 11-14, 2006, p: 21.

## Archival Material

- Howard Bliss Collection, 1860-1920, ARCHIVE AA:2.3.2

## Articles

- Sheehi, S. (2007). A Social History of Early Arab Photography or a Prolegomenon to an Archaeology of the Lebanese Imago. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 39(2), 177-208. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30069572>
- Shaw, W. (2009) Ottoman Photography of the Late Nineteenth Century: An 'Innocent' Modernism? *History of Photography*, 33, (1), 80-93.  
[https://www.academia.edu/3267284/Ottoman\\_Photography\\_of\\_the\\_Late\\_Nineteenth\\_Century\\_An\\_Innocent\\_Modernism](https://www.academia.edu/3267284/Ottoman_Photography_of_the_Late_Nineteenth_Century_An_Innocent_Modernism)
- Forbes, G. (January 01, 2005). Nancy Micklewright. A Victorian Traveler in the Middle East: The Photography and Travel Writing. *Journal of British Studies*, 44, 3, 620.
- Colin Osman (1990) Antonio Beato, Photographer of the Nile, *History of Photography*, 14:2, 101-111, DOI: 10.1080/03087298.1990.10441036
- Antonio Beato: Life on the Nile, *Barnum Review*, photo-graphic Magazine, <http://www.barnum-review.com/portfolio/vintage/>
- La mémoire photographique du Caire - Bibliotheca Alexandrina  
[https://www.bibalex.org/Attachments/Publications/Files/2016102610371981373\\_MmoirePhotoduCaire.pdf](https://www.bibalex.org/Attachments/Publications/Files/2016102610371981373_MmoirePhotoduCaire.pdf)
- CHEVEDDEN, PAUL E. "Making Light of Everything: Early Photography of the Middle East and Current Photomania." *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, vol. 18, no. 2, 1984, pp. 151–174. JSTOR, JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/41887989](http://www.jstor.org/stable/41887989).

## Books

- Cizgen, E. (2007). *Photography in the Ottoman Empire, 1839-1919*. BeyogluIstanbul : Haset Kitabevi [CA 770.9:C582p:c.1](#)
- Fathallah, A. (2000). *Guide to the E.W. Blatchford collection of photographs*. [CA:AUB 956.002:F252g:c.1](#)
- Gavin, C. E. S. (1978). *Bonfils and the early photography of the Near East*. Cambridge: Harvard University Library. [CA 741:G283b:c.1](#)
- Gavin, C. E. S. (1982). *The image of the East: nineteenth-century Near Eastern photographs by Bonfils: from the collections of the Harvard Semitic Museum*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. [CA 956.01:G283i:c.1](#)
- Hajj, B., & Ghandour, S. (2013). *Shweir and its hills: a photographic record*. Bayrut: Kutub [CA 956.92:H154sA](#)
- Haller, D. (2000). *In Arab lands: the Bonfils collection of the University of Pennsylvania Museum*. Cairo: American University in Cairo Press. [CA 779.995:I351h](#)
- Hallote, R., Cobbing F. and Spurr J. [2016]. *The photographs of the American Palestine Exploration Society*. Boston, MA: American Schools of Oriental Research in Sheehi, S. [2016]. *The Arab imago: a social history of portrait photography, 1860-1910*. Princeton : Princeton University Press [J 770.956:S541a](#)
- Hannavy, J. (Ed.). (2008). *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*. New York: Routledge, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203941782>
- Institut du Monde Arabe; Khazindar, M. Chakour, D. (2007). *L'orient des photographes arméniens*. Paris: Institut du monde arabe. [CA 770:O691a](#)
- Jacobson, K. (2007). *Odaliques & arabesques: Orientalist photography, 1839-1925*. London: Quaritch. [J 770.9:J177o:c.1](#)
- Khatib, H. (2003). *Palestine and Egypt under the Ottomans: Paintings, books, photographs, maps and manuscripts*. London: Tauris Parke Books [CA:F 759.94:K455p:c.1](#)
- Miclewright, N. (2003). *A Victorian traveler in the Middle East: the photography and travel writing of Annie Lady Brassey*. London : Ashgate [CA 779:M625v:c.1](#)
- Özendes, E. (1998). *Abdullah Frères: Ottoman court photographers*. Beyoğlu, İstanbul: YKY. [CA 770.9:C582o](#)
- Perez, N. (1988). *Focus East: early photography in the Near East (1839-1885)* .New York: H.N. Abrams. [CA:F 770.956:P438f:c.1](#)
- Toubia, S. (2008). *Sarrafiyan Liban 1900-1930*. Lebanon: Aleph [CA:F 915.692:T722s:c.1](#)

## Finding Aids

- [Finding aid for Egyptian Mounted Prints Collection](#): Visual Resources Collections Department of the History of Art University of Michigan

## Research Guides (LibGuides)

- [AUB Libraries: Lebanon and the Middle East](#)

## Theses

- Miller, D. (1981). The craftsman's art : Armenians and the growth of photography in the Near East (1856-1981) T:2910

## Webpages

- [19th & early 20th century photography 1839 – 1939: Early view of Napoli, Italy by Michelle Amodio.](#)
- [Photorientalist: A website dedicated to exhibiting 19th and 20th century photographs of the Middle East and North Africa.](#)
- [Photography in Ottoman Empire: Second Half of the 19th Century – Beginning of the 20th Century.](#)
- [The Public Domain Review: Armenians and Armenian Photographers in the Ottoman Empire.](#)
- [Luminous-Lint - Photographer - Tancrède Dumas.](#)
- [Masters of Photography.](#)
- [Biography: 19th Century Architecture photographer Antonio Beato; Monovision black & white Photography Magazine.](#)
- [Antonio Beato, 1825 – 1906; Google Art & Culture](#)
- [Antonio Beato, American Academy in Rome. Digital Humanities Center.](#)
- [Early Photographers in Greece and the Mediterranean at the Getty Research Institute](#)
- [Gabriel Lekegian; Lusadaran: Armenian photography Foundation](#)
- [G. Lekegian and Company; Fine Art Museum at San Francisco](#)
- [Camera Ottomana: Photography and Modernity in the Ottoman Empire 1840-1914](#)
- [Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism](#)