



Archives and Special Collections Department,
American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon
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Middle East Photograph Collection, 1927-1950

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB
Prepared by Yasmine Younes

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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: Ph:ME: 1927-1950

Library catalog ID: [b26150992](#)

Record Creator: Gifford Doxsee, Allan Snyder, Leslie Leavitt, Tedford Lewis, Lisa Larsen, Robert Mulky & Sami Halaby.

Collection Title: Middle East Photograph Collection, 1927-1950

Collection Dates: bulk 1945-1950

Physical Description: 128 photographic prints - various sizes.

Language(s): English.

Administrative Information

Source: Middle East Photograph Collection was received from the AUB New York Office, October 24, 2002.

Access Restrictions: The collection can be accessed within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.

Photocopying Restriction: No photocopying restriction except for fragile material.

Preferred Citation: Middle East Photograph Collection, 1927-1950, Ph: ME:1927-1950, Series no., Photo no., American University of Beirut/ Library Archives.

Scope and Content

The Middle East Photograph Collection consists mainly of 128 black and white photos, and 4 postcards, the bulk of these photos were taken in Lebanon (113 photos), Syria (10 photos), Palestine (4 photos), and Yemen (1 Photo). Mostly taken between 1945 and 1950, the photographs depict daily life in cities and towns around the Middle East including Beirut, Sidon, Damascus, Jerusalem, and Aleppo, archeological sites like Baalbek and Nahr el-Kaleb, landscapes, as well as some landmark buildings in Beirut like the government and parliament buildings, UNESCO building in addition to ABC Store, and Khaldeh Airport. Several American Photographers took most of the photos such as Lisa Larsen, Gifford Doxsee, Allan Snyder, Leslie Leavitt, Tedford Lewis, and Robert Mulky along with the Lebanese photographer Sami Halaby.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in four series:

Series I: Lebanon (113 photos)

I.1: Baalbek, 1927, (4 photos + 2 duplicate)

I.2: Beirut (39 photos + 5 duplicates + 3 postcards)

I.2.1: Landmark Buildings

I.2.2: Markets

I.2.3: General

I.3: Nahr el-Kalb (3 photos)

I.4: North Lebanon (7 photos + 1 postcard + 4 duplicates)

I.5: South Lebanon (43 photos + 12 duplicates)

I.5.1: Sidon

I.5.2: Litani River

I.5.3: Beaufort Castle (Qal'at al-Shaqif or Shaqif Arnun)

I.6: Mount Lebanon (7 photos)

I.7: Palestinian Refugees (10 photos)

Series II: Palestine (4 photos)

II.1: Yarmuk River (1 photo)

II.2: Jerusalem (3 photos)

Series III: Syria (10 photos)

III.1: Aleppo

III.2: Damascus

III.3: Archaeological sites

III.4: People

Series IV: Yemen (1 photo)

Historical sketch of some photographers

Gifford B. Doxsee, 1924-2017

Gifford B. Doxsee was born on July 4, 1924, in Bay Shore; N.Y. Gifford attended Cornell University, graduated in 1948, then Harvard University for graduate studies in Modern European History in 1949. Doxsee taught at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon in 1955/1956. Gifford moved to Greece in 1958 to teach European, African, and Middle Eastern History at Ohio University, Athens. Later earned a Ph.D from Harvard University in 1966. He died at the age of 93 on July 16, 2017.

Leslie Leavitt, (Leslie Westbrook Leavitt), 1895-1983

Leslie Leavitt graduated from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire in 1916 and volunteered to teach English at the International School (IC) Preparatory Section of the American University of Beirut for three years but wartime travel difficulties delayed his arrival to Beirut until January 1917. Leavitt returned to the U.S. in 1919, earned an M.A. degree from Columbia University, and married Margaret Bliss in 1920. They both taught in Tripoli until 1928 when he rejoined the staff at the AUB Preparatory School (IC) where he became Assistant Principal in 1934. He devoted forty-three years to teaching the youth of the Middle East.

Leslie Leavitt became principal of IC in 1947 and Director of the Prep Section till 1960. He wrote a book on *“With Youth on Phoenician Shores”* which was published in 1968. The Leavitt family revisited Beirut for the Centennial of International College in 1972.

Allan “Whitey” Snyder, 1914-1994

Allan “Whitey” Snyder was an American Hollywood make-up artist best remembered as Marilyn Monroe's makeup artist, from her first screen test at Twentieth Century Fox in 1946 to her funeral makeup in 1962. The pair developed a very close working relationship.

Snyder was twice nominated for Primetime Emmy Awards, under the category of Outstanding Achievement in Make-Up, in 1978, for his work on the TV Biopic Marilyn: “The Untold Story” and in 1981, for “Little House on the Prairie”. His last project was the 1984 television

series, "Highway to Heaven" which he worked on from 1984 to 1987. Snyder died on April 16, 1994, in Hansville, Washington.

Lisa Larsen, 1925-1959

Lisa Larsen was one of LIFE's pioneering female photojournalists. Born in Germany, in 1925, she moved to the United States as a teenager. Larsen started her professional life as a picture file clerk, but soon became a freelance photographer for many publications, including Vogue, The New York Times, Parade, Glamour, Charm, Holiday, and LIFE. After 1948, the bulk of Larsen's photojournalism was mainly for LIFE. She started first shooting the official portrait of First Lady Bess Truman and then shooting the Dwight D. Eisenhower presidential campaign in 1950. Her most famous US political work is her photographs of the John F. Kennedy/Jacqueline Bouvier wedding in 1953. Later she traveled around the world shooting political leaders and was given special permissions to photograph the Russian leader Nikita Khrushchev and Yugoslavian leader Marshall Josip Tito etc. Larsen died of cancer in 1959.

Subject Headings

Temples -- Lebanon -- Baalbek.
Baalbek (Lebanon) -- Antiquities.
Cities and Towns -- Lebanon -- Beirut.
Nahr el-Kalb -- Lebanon -- Pictorial works.
Archaeological sites -- Lebanon -- 1940-1950.
Archaeology -- Middle East.
Harbors -- Lebanon -- Tripoli.
Cities and Towns -- Palestine -- Jerusalem.
Cities and Towns -- Syria -- Pictorial works.
Yemen (Arab Republic) -- Pictorial works.

Formats

Photographic Prints -- 1945-1950.

Container List

The collection is arranged by geographical location and in alphabetical order:

Series I: Lebanon (113 photos)

Subseries I.1: Baalbek, 1927, (4 photos + 2 duplicates)

- Baalbek temples 1927 - Photographer: Near East College Association

Subseries I.2: Beirut, 1950, (39 photos + 5 duplicates + 3 postcards)

I.2.1: Landmark Buildings (23 photos + 4 duplicates + 3 postcards)

- Chief Mosque formerly Crusader Church of St. John (Omari Mosque in Downtown)

- (2 photos + 2 duplicates)
- “Petite Serail”, Government house built by the Turks, March 1, 1950. (1 photo + 1 duplicate)
- Turkish house and modern apartments in Beirut 1950. (1 photo + 1 duplicate)
- UNESCO buildings (5 photos + 2 duplicates + 2 postcards)
- Jardin du Grand Serail government building and clock tower (1 photo)
- Parliament building and clock tower, known as Al-Abed Clock Tower, presented by a wealthy Lebanese Mexican emigrant, Michel Abed, living in South America. (1 postcard)
- President Bshara al Khoury and MP Riad al Solh present at the Khaldeh Airport groundbreaking ceremony, 1950. (1 photo).
- The Municipal Tramcar passing by the American University of Beirut Main Gate
Photographer: Allan Snyder. (2 photos).
- Trans Arabian Pipeline Company, Tapline, New office buildings located near the American University of Beirut - Photographer: Allan Snyder (1 photo).
- Trans Mediterranean Airways (TMA) showrooms. (2 photos).
- ABC Store in downtown Beirut Bab Idriss - Photographer: O.W.I and paramount. (5 photos)
- BCW/Beirut College for Women currently known as Lebanese American University (LAU) (2 photos)

I.2.2: Markets, 1948-1950 (8 photos + 1 duplicate)

- Woman baking bread on saj - Photographer: Lisa Larsen. (4 photos)
- Mini market - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Souk in Beirut - March 1950 (1 photo + 1 duplicate)
- Americans bargaining for jewelry in an Oriental shop (Terzis) - Photographer: Allan Snyder (1 photo)
- Morning shot in the vegetable and meat souk. The basket boy delivers groceries all over the city - Photographer: Allan Snyder (1 photo)

I.2.3: General Views: Place des Canon, Ras Beirut, Beirut - Tripoli highway, undated, (8 photos)

- Downtown Beirut - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee (3 photos).
- Place des Canon, Downtown Beirut or “Bourj” - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (2 photos)
- Ras Beirut, the Mediterranean in the background - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Highway between Beirut and Tripoli - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Ain-el-Mrayse, Beirut. Bain al-Jamal. (1 photo)

Subseries I.3: Nahr el Kalb (Dog River), 1950s (3 photos)

- Roman plaque near Dog River. (1 photo)
- Dog River - Photographer: Sami Halaby. (1 photo)
- The Earring Pantheon at Dog River Caves. (1 photo)

Subseries I. 4: North Lebanon, 1950s (7 photos + 1 postcard + 4 duplicates)

- Tripoli Port - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 postcard)

- Byblos: General View, Temple, Crusader church and Port. (7 photos + 4 duplicates)

Subseries I.5: South Lebanon, 1950s (43 photos + 12 duplicates)

I.5.1: Sidon (24 photos + 12 duplicates)

- The fortress of Sidon (1 photo + 1 duplicate)
- Across the bay from Crusader Castle, later modern quarter (Sidon) - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Inside the fortress. (2 photos)
- Shipbuilding at Sidon - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Sidon City - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee (1 photo)
- View of the City of Sidon. (1 photo)
- Market - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Pastry in the making - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Buildings under construction. (4 photos + 3 duplicates)
- Sidon Grand Hotel, Tanios Hotel. (3 photos)
- Tapline in Sidon. (8 photos + 8 duplicates)

I.5.2: Litani River (11 photos)

- Litani Project - with descriptions on the back of each photograph (10 photos)
- Litani River - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)

I.5.3: Beaufort Castle, Qal'at al-Shaqif (8 photos)

- Beaufort Castle (Crusades Castle) atop a barren hill of South Lebanon - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Beaufort Castle. (1 photo)
- Beaufort Castle - Photographer: Leslie Leavitt. (1 photo)
- South Lebanese Mountains - Photographer: Velox (5 photos)

Subseries I.6: Mount Lebanon (7 photos)

- Mukhtara, Junblatt house. Shouf. (5 photos)
- Jounieh Bay from the mountains near Ghosta - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)
- Ghazir, Jesuit Monastery, terracing of the hillside by farmers - Photographer: Gifford Doxsee. (1 photo)

Subseries I.7: Palestinian Refugees (10 photos)

- Bourj Barajneh School for Refugees in Lebanon, Feb. 1950. (7 photos)
- Palestinian Refugees in Beqaa, 1950. Photographer Abbas Gebril. (3 photos)

Series II: Palestine (4 Photos)

Subseries II.1: Yarmuk River, 1950s (1 photo)

- Yarmuk River flowing down to Jordan Valley with Lake Tiberias in the background. MJ Photo Service (1 photo)

Subseries II.2: Jerusalem: 1945 (3 photos)

- Kids in a street in Jerusalem. (2 photos)
- Wailing Wall, Jerusalem. (1 photo)

Series III: Syria, 1950 (10 Photos)

Subseries III.1: Aleppo (2 photos)

- Municipal Stadium, with Aleppo College in the background. (1 photo)
- New Agricultural Department Headquarters-Aleppo. (1 photo)

Subseries III.2: Damascus (1 photo)

- City of Damascus - Photography: Robert Mulky (1 photo)

Subseries III.3: Archaeological sites (4 photos)

- View of one of Syria's old mosques. (1 photo)
- Tartous interior of Crusader Cathedral. (1 photo)
- Krak des Chevaliers, finest specimen of all Crusader Castles. (1 photo)
- Exterior of Crusader castle - Photographer: Tedford Lewis. (1 photo)

Subseries III.4: People (3 photos)

- An elderly man begging in the streets of Syria. (1 photo)
- An elderly man sitting on all his worldly goods. (1 photo)
- A man studying Syrian plant life. (1 photo)

Series IV: Yemen, 1950s (1 Photo)

- Water drawing from wells at Wadi Beihaan, Western Aden protectorate. Device is used for drawing water by animal power, camel usually, for irrigation purposes. The wells are very deep some over 300 feet deep. (1 photo)

Related Materials

Books

- Matson, G. E. (1980). *The Middle East in pictures*. New York: Arno Press.
[CA:F 956:M434m.v.1-3](#)
- Huot, J.-L., & Kardous, A. S. (2001). *Photographies du Levant =: Suwar min al-Mashriq*. Beyrouth, Liban: Institut français d'archéologie du Proche-Orient.
[CA 915.69:H957p](#)

Photographs

- Asia Minor Photograph Collection, 1884-1887. [Ph:AM:1884-1887](#)
- Qatar Petroleum Company Photographs, 1980s-1960s. [Ph:QPC:1950s-1960s](#)
- Karanis-Fayum Excavations Photo Album of the University of Michigan, 1924-1935.
[Ph:KF:1924-1935](#)
- Middle East Photo Album, 1933-1943. [Ph:MEP:1933-1943](#)
- Robert Black Album, 1935-1937. [Ph:AUB:1935-1937:1-272:41](#)