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American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon
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Nahr Ibrahim Photo Collection

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

Call No.: Ph: NI: 1920s

Library catalog ID: [b26036526](#)

Record Creator: N/A

Collection Title: Nahr Ibrahim photo collection.

Collection Dates: [1920s]

Physical Description: 1 box; 27 black and white photos; 24.5x18cm

Administrative Information

Source: N/A

Access Restrictions: The collection can be used 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: Nahr Ibrahim Photo Collection, Ph: NI: 1920s, Series no., Photo no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

Scope and Content

This small photographic collection comprises 27 black and white photos of sizes around 24.5x18cm. It contains photos of Mount Lebanon landscape, particularly Afqa Valley, cave and waterfalls. The Afqa waterfall is one of the finest mountainous waterfalls in the Middle East, which feeds into the Adonis River (known today as Abraham River or Nahr Ibrahim in Arabic). The Afqa Valley is ideal for exploring on foot and has numerous caves, inlets, a Roman temple, and the splendid wild nature of Jannet Chouwen Valley; a marvelous site appropriate for hiking to discover groves of diverse trees like oak, pine and mulberry along with many other plant species.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series:

Series I: Afqa Valley and Waterfalls

Series II: Janneh, (Janne or Jannet Chouwen)

Historical Sketch

Dominated by spectacular mountains, Lebanon is famous for its dozens of steep, winding valleys that have taken on a deep cultural significance for the country's people. Nahr Ibrahim Valley, also known as the River of Adonis, which lies not far from the ancient city of Byblos north of Beirut, is one of the most underrated parts of Lebanon's mountainous interior.

The Afqa waterfall rushes from its abundant source at Afqa cave, 1800 meters above sea level, down to the shoreline barely 20 kilometers away. It leaps over the rocks that it has scoured and polished, passing between vertical cliffs soaring hundreds of meters, to which clings a luxurious growth of plane trees, evergreen oaks and other rich greenery. Overhead at Mashnaqa and at Shir El Meidan the impressive remains of a Roman temple and a citadel.

The river was the subject of many legends. Its source at Afqa where it pours forth from a two-hundred-meter high rock was thought to be sacred and was consecrated to the Goddess of Fertility Astarte, or Ishtar or Aphrodite or Venus as she was variously named. The ruins may be seen there of a most ancient temple. Every year the people of Byblos celebrated the death and resurrection of the young god Adonis, whom a savage boar had killed in the forest wilderness and whom his sister or betrothed mourned inconsolably. It was said that each springtime, as the snows melted on high, the reddened waters of the river were the blood of the god.

(Retrieved on February 26, 2021 from:

http://www.discoverlebanon.com/en/panoramic_views/mount_lebanon/jbeil_byblos/river_nahr_ibrahim.php)

Subject Headings

Afqa (Lebanon).

Ibrahim River (Lebanon).

Mount Lebanon (Lebanon).

Nahr Ibrahim (Lebanon).

Landscape photography.

Lebanon -- Description and travel.

Waterfalls -- Lebanon.

Container List

Series I: Afqa Valley and Waterfalls (10 photos)

Afqa (Arabic: أفقا; also spelled Afka) is a village and municipality located in the Byblos District of the Mount Lebanon Governorate, 71 kilometers (44 mi) northeast of Beirut in Lebanon. It has an average elevation of 1,200 meters above sea level.

Known in ancient times as Apheca or Afeka, the word can be interpreted as "source", is located in the mountains of Lebanon, about 20 kilometers from the ancient city of Byblos.

It is the site of one of the finest waterfalls in the mountains of the Middle East, which feeds into the Adonis River (known today as Abraham River or Nahr Ibrahim in Arabic), and forms Lake Yammoune. The waterfall at Afqa is the source for the River Adonis and is located on a 180 m bluff that forms an immense natural amphitheater. The river emerges from a large limestone cave in the cliff wall which stores and channels water from the melted snow of the mountains before releasing it into springs and streams below. At Afqa, several watery threads flow from the cave to form numerous cataracts, a scene of great beauty. The cave has over two miles passageways inside.

The Afqa cave is located a few hundred meters above a small stone bridge... "One of the most beautiful sites in the world". At the bottom, the Nahr Ibrahim (Adonis River) flows out of a large hole cut in the rock and then flows peacefully into the valley.

During the 2006 Lebanon War, the Afqa Bridge that connects Mount Lebanon with the Beqaa valley was one of five bridges destroyed by Israeli jets.

- Source at Afqa: 3 falls and cave from left of bank, below temple
- The upper fall, from temple of Venus

- The upper fall, from the right bank
- Camping ground at Afqa, looking northward from near the temple (evening view)
- Afqa Valley from road just above the upper fall, looking westward
- Wild Cypresses on the Aqûreh road, above al-Muneitirek, looking westward towards Bulhus notch
- Under the plane trees, near Afqa
- Under plane trees near Afqa
- The three falls at al-Thâbât, below Afqa
- One of the al-Thâbât falls

Series II: Jannah, (Janne or Jannet Chouwen) (17 photos)

Jannet Chouwen is one of the most picturesque places, the stream that runs down from the mountain flows in "Nahr-Ibrahim" known as the river of the God Adonis, (river of immortal love).

Chouwen Lake is located between two green hills on the banks of the Ibrahim River in Mount Lebanon - Kesrouan District. The river that penetrates through the valley separating Byblos and Kesrouan is distinguished by its environmental wealth and picturesque nature. The remoteness of this picturesque area from the noise of the city and the difficulty of accessing cars and vehicles is the reason why it remains green as no human hand has contaminated it until today. In Chouwen, you will experience the pleasure of hiking in the majestic nature, mixed forests with oak, pine and many other plant species, until you reach its marvelous lake known as Jannet Chouwen.

- The "Amphitheater," near Jinneh looking westward
- The "Crag," near Jinneh looking westward
- The River at Jinneh, looking westward
- The River at Jinneh, looking northward
- Broken pine near the hamlet of El-Frâu
- The "sweetly mournful" pines between Bulhus and El-Frâu, looking southwest (evening view)
- Bulhus Mountain, from road to Mishshâu, above Shuwwân, looking eastward
- Down the valley from the Mishshâu road, above Shuwwân, looking westward
- The old Roman Bridge near the mouth of River
- On way to Jinneh beginning of the descent
- Jinneh plain and river
- On the river above Jinneh
- On the river above Jinneh
- On the river above Jinneh (still waters)
- Pine slope near El-Frat
- "The Glue" near Shuwwân
- Reid-thicket near the river's mouth

Related Material

Books

- Panagopoulou, H. (1997). *Form versus function: lithic use-wear analysis and its applications to a class of Levantine Mousterian tools*. Ann Arbor, MI: UMI Dissertation Information Service. [J 939.4:P187f:c.1](#)
- Haber, R. M. (2013). *Adonis River: valley of the dancing shadows*. Jounieh, Lebanon: Authors. [J 939.44:H114a](#)
- Harfouche, R.; Poupet, P. (2015). *Du Mont Liban aux sierras d’Espagne: sols, eau et sociétés en Montagne: autour du projet Franco-Libanais CEDRE "Nahr Ibrahim"*. Oxford: Archaeopress Archaeology. [J 939.44:D893h](#)
- Harfouche, R. (2017). *Paysages et peuplement du Mont Liban: La vallée du Nahr Ibrahim et l’hinterland de Byblos*. Beyrouth: Ministère de la culture. Direction générale des antiquités. [J 939.44:B111ba:no.17:c.1](#)
- FAO Mediterranean development project: country report. Rome, 1959-1967. [S 630.94:F686f:v.1-v.8.](#)

Digital material

- [The Fouad Debbas Collection](#)
- [Lebanon's Nahr Ibrahim Valley: A Hike across Myth and Faith](#)
- [Abraham River](#)
- [Fleuve Nahr Ibrahim - Janneh – Chouwen](#)
- [River Nahr Ibrahim - Janneh – Shouwen - 1](#)
- [River Nahr Ibrahim - Janneh – Shouwen - 2](#)
- [River Nahr Ibrahim - Janneh – Shouwen - 3](#)
- [River Nahr Ibrahim - Janneh – Shouwen - 4](#)
- [Nahr Ibrahim valley. The Adonis myth, Lebanon](#)
- [The River of Abraham and its impressive waterfalls](#)
- [Afqa](#)
- [Afqa grotto and temple](#)
- [Afqa waterfall](#)
- [From Pagan to Modern Times: Afqa](#)
- [Afqa Grotto \(Spring Cave\)](#)
- [A letter from Gertrude Bell describing Afqa in 1900](#)
- [Bradt Travel Guides – Adonis Valley and Afqa Grotto p.148](#)
- [Jannat Chouwen: A Hidden Gem You Must Explore with Your Friends in Lebanon](#)

Maps

- Lebanon. Ministry of National Defense. Directorate of Geographic Affairs. [MP 912.5692d:LEBt-M7:Afqa 1962:c.1](#)

Photos

AUB Community at Nahr Ibrahim

- Franklin Moore Photograph Collection, 1892-1902. [Ph:AUB:1892-1915:1-80:30](#)
- Robert Black photo album, 1935-1937. [Ph:AUB:1935-1937:1-289:41](#)
- Hiking trip to Nahr Ibrahim by AUB Faculty Members, 2011. [Ph:AUB:2011/06/05:1-9:88](#)
- Students trip to Nahr Ibrahim, 1991. [Ph:AUB:1991\(02\):01:59](#)

Non-AUB Community at Nahr Ibrahim

- Lebanon 1896-1898 donated by Joseph and Joyce Stein Ph:1896-1898/1-19
- [Manoug Photographs Collection.](#)
- Lecture by Pierre-Louis Gatier on Les Fouilles de Yanouh: Un sanctuaire Hellenistico-Romain dans la vallee du Nahr Ibrahim, 2003. [Ph:AUB:2003/06/11\(02\):1-5:75](#)

Posters

- Protection du Patrimoine National. [Ps:AUB:1983/05/16-20:02](#)
- The Club La Reserve: Afqa. [Ps:AUB:1998/63a-b:2/7](#)
- La Reserve Afqa. [Ps:AUB:2003/05/13:10](#)

Theses

- Shahinian, K. G. (1957). *Project, bridge over Nahr Ibrahim.* [EPsn:293](#)
- Jabbur, N. E. (1957). *Beirut-Tripoli autostrade: residency, Nahr-Ibrahim – Fidar.* [EPsn:278](#)
- Nader, F. H. (2000). *Petrographic and geochemical characterization of the Jurassic-Cretaceous carbonate sequence of the Nahr Ibrahim region, Lebanon.* [T:4031](#)
- Abboud, M. M. (2002). *Ibrahim River: a case study for investigating vegetation patterns and assessing riparian habitats.* [ST:4301](#)