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Port of Beirut Photographic Slides, 1994

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

Call No.: Ph:POB:1994

Library catalog ID: [b26198423](#)

Record Creator: Abi Kheirs, Joseph; Aswad, Naim; Chamoun, Fady; Haddad, Fady; Hage Korban, Elie, Khoury, Joseph; Maalouf, Grace; Pashayan, Nora.

Collection Title: Port of Beirut Photographic Slides, 1994.

Collection Dates: 1994

Physical Description: 19 slides; color; 5x5cm

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: Port of Beirut Photographic Slides, 1994, Ph:POB:1994, Series no., Slide no., American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of 19 slides of the Port of Beirut prepared by AUB medical students for a project entitled: "The Prevalence of Respiratory Diseases and Back Pain among Male Employees of the Port of Beirut", 1994.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series I: Beirut Port: overview, geographical location and architecture [6 slides]

Series II: Silos [9 slides]

Series III: Warehouse [4 slides]

Subject Headings

Port de Beyrouth.

Beirut Harbor (Lebanon).

Port de Beyrouth -- Employees.

Silos -- 1990-2000.

مرفأ بيروت (لبنان).
الموانئ -- لبنان -- بيروت.

Form/Genre

Slides -- Color -- 1990-2000.

Historical Sketch

The Port of Beirut (Arabic: مرفأ بيروت, French: Port de Beyrouth) is the main port in Lebanon on the eastern part of the Saint George Bay on Beirut's northern Mediterranean coast. It is one of the largest ports on the Eastern Mediterranean.

In 1887, during Ottoman rule, the Port was granted to a French Company, the Compagnie du Port, des Quais et des Entrepôts de Beyrouth (Company of the Port, Quays and Warehouses of Beirut). The Ottoman administration granted further concessions and autonomy to the company, in managing the Port of Beirut, as it became an important harbour in Lebanon. In 1920, Lebanon came under French Administration, under the Mandate for Syria and the Lebanon. The Port of Beirut would continue to be operated by the same French Company, which was renamed the Gestion et Exploitation du Port de Beyrouth (GEPB) in 1960.

Much of the port was damaged during the Lebanese Civil War. In 1976, all shipping at the port stopped for nine months due to militia clashes. A 1977 article in the Middle East Economic Digest reported, "not a warehouse or piece of equipment was intact" when the port officially reopened on 15 December 1976.

After the war, the seaport and surrounding area were reconstructed and again became a major seaport. The port is operated and managed by the Gestion et Exploitation du Port de Beyrouth ("Port Authority of Beirut"). In 1990, the Port of Beirut came under direct ownership of the Government of Lebanon, following the expiration of the company's charter, and continues to be operated by GEPB.

Since December 2004, container terminal operations are subcontracted to the private Beirut Container Terminal Consortium (BCTC). The terminal quay was expanded to 1100 m and has 16 post-panamax ship-to-shore gantry cranes, and extensive on-shore container handling equipment. In addition to exports and imports, the terminal handles significant container transshipments.

On 4 August 2020, a series of explosions occurred in the port. At least 204 people were killed, 6,500 were injured and around 300,000 homeless. The explosions destroyed large parts of the port, including its silos, warehouses and equipment; however, satellite imagery taken after the explosion shows the container port largely intact.

Container List

Series I: Port: overview, geographical location and architecture, 6 slides

- Slide 1: Port of Beirut in the 19th century.
- Slide 2: Port of Beirut, a key to the Middle East; its geographical location.
- Slide 3: Overview of the port's architecture and design in 1971.
- Slide 9: View of the general cleanliness and miserable environmental situations in the port.
- Slide 14: General traffic in the port.
- Slide 15: Port area contaminated with dust due to the traffic in the port.

Series II: Silos, 9 slides

- Slide 4-6: Silos of the port (3 slides). (اهراءات القمح)

- Slide 7: View of port from the roof of the silos.
- Slide 8: Pipes that suck up grains from the ships to the silos.
- Slide 16-19: Workers inside the silos (4 slides).

Series III: Warehouse, 4 slides

- Slide 10: A forklifter working inside the warehouse.
- Slide 11: A forklifter working outside the warehouse, near a ship.
- Slide 12: A forklifter being unloaded.
- Slide 13: Cargo being unloaded.

Related Material

Archival material

- [Genevieve Maxwell Collection, 1950-2000. AA:6.2.13.2](#) Envelope IV.1 Architecture, 1956-1971 [IV.1.1.13 Aerial view of Beirut Port, USA Operation Mission, undated. (3 photos)]

Audiovisuals

- Al-Ḥawḍ al-khāmis = Gate #5. Beirut, Lebanon: MC Distribution, 2011. [DVD-A:466](#)

Books

- Abcarius, M. F. (1952). *Harbours and communications*. Beirut. [CA 387.1:A13h:c.1](#)
- Colonna de Lega, R. (1957). *La zone franche du port de Beyrouth*. Beyrouth: Impr. Catholique. [CA 387.133:C71zF:c.1](#)
- Compagnie du port, des quais et des entrepôts de Beyrouth (Beirut, Lebanon). (1953-1974). *Trafic maritime du port de Beyrouth, comprenant le mouvement des navires, les cargaisons et le nombre des passagers débarqués et embarqués*. Beyrouth: Compagnie du port, des quais et des entrepôts de Beyrouth. [CA:F 387.1:B42tF:1953-1974](#)
- Compagnie du port, des quais et des entrepôts de Beyrouth. (1950). *Le port de Beyrouth (Liban): renseignements généraux: tarifs*. Beyrouth: La Compagnie [CA 387.109:C736p:c.1](#)
- Khalīfah, 'I. K. (2013). *Abḥāth fī tārikh Lubnān al-ḥadīth wa-al-mu'āṣir*. Bayrūt: 'Iṣām Kamāl Khalīfah. [J 956.92:K451abA](#)
- Elayi, J.; Sayegh, H. (1998). *Un quartier du port phénicien de Beyrouth au fer III/Perse: les objets*. Paris: Gabalda. [J 939.4:T772ta:no.6:c.1](#)
- Sharikat Marfa' wa-Arṣifat wa-Ḥawāṣil Bayrūt. (1950). *Marfa' Bayrūt (Lubnān): Ma'lūmāt 'āmah, ta'rīfāt*. Bayrūt: Sharikat Marfa' wa-Arṣifat wa-Ḥawāṣil Bayrūt [CA 387.109:C736pA:c.1](#)
- - لبنان. وزارة الموارد المائية والكهربائية. (١٩٧١). *تقرير حول اوضاع مرفأ بيروت ومستقبله*. الجمهورية اللبنانية، وزارة الموارد المائية والكهربائية، الوزير. [CA:F 387.1:L92tA:c.1](#)

Digital Resources

- [Port of Beirut](#)
- [Développement du port de Beyrouth et hinterland.](#)
- [La reconstruction du port de Beyrouth: un chantier crucial laisse à l'abandon.](#)
- [2.1.1 Lebanon Port of Beirut](#)
- [Liban/Patrimoine: le Port de Beyrouth à travers l'Histoire](#)

Maps

- Beirut. London, 1969. [MP 912.56925:BEI:1969:c.1](#)
- Baies de Beyrouth et de St. Georges d'après les leves anglais de 1859. Paris: Service hydrographique de la marine, 1925. [MP 912.56925:BEI:1925:c.1](#)

Postcards

- [‘Īsá Iskandar al-Ma‘lūf Postcard Collection.](#) [SC Ph:iim:1900-1940:783](#) Beyrouth: Port la Grue électrique et les Entrepôts. [SC pc iim lb bey 0025](#)
- Une Caresse de Syrie: Beyrouth. Le petit Serail. Beyrouth: École des Arts et Métiers. Beyrouth: un coin de port, Débarquement de la Douane. [SC pc iim sy gen 0046](#)

Theses

- Owen, E. B. (1951). *Ports, roads and railroads in Lebanon and Syria.* [T:63:c.1](#)
- Karam, J. M. (1963). *The free zone of the port of Beirut and its effects on the Lebanese economy.* [T:488:c.1](#)
- Al-Farr, K. I. K. (1971). *A comparative study of the ports of Beirut, Lattakia, and Aqaba: time and cost study.* [T:1463:c.1](#)
- Farhana, C. (1975). *The movement of cargo and the discharging conditions at the Port of Beirut: factors of attraction to shipowners and marine underwriters.* [T:2366:c.1](#)
- Abbas, Samar (1985). *Beirut Port: past, present and future.* [Pj:102:c.1](#)
- Eid, G. E. (1997). *Feasibility study of the expansion and rehabilitation of the Beirut Sea Port.* [Pj:648:c.1](#)
- El-Rayes, N. A. (1997). *The role of the Port of Beirut in the Lebanese economy: past performance and future development.* [T:3783:c.1](#)
- Madi, M. H. (2005). *Beirut port, first basin: a contested urban space.* [ET:4561:c.1](#)
- Khraibani, R. M. (2006). *A financial framework for ports privatization: case study: Beirut Port.* [EPj:1374:c.1](#)
- El Rifai, O. K. (2012). *Flexible employee scheduling in the context of the Port of Beirut.* [T:5770:c.1](#)
- Aoun, W. Z. (2014). *Third party logistics: cold storage facility in Beirut Port.* [Pj:1821](#)