



Archives and Special Collections Department,  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon  
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## **Antoura Orphanage Photograph Album, 1915-1918**

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

**Call No:** Ph:AO:1915-1918

**Library Catalog ID:** [b26036459](#)

**Record Creator:** Unknown

**Collection Title:** Antoura Orphanage Photograph Album, 1915-1918

**Collection Dates:** 1915-1918

**Physical Description:** 1 album (29 photographic prints): 17 x 12 cm

**Language(s):** English and Turkish.

## Administrative Information

**Source:** President Bayard Dodge Collection, 1895-1972.

**Access Restrictions:** No restrictions on access copy.

**Photocopying Restriction:** No Photocopying restriction except for fragile material.

**Preferred Citation:** Antoura Orphanage Photograph Album, 1915-1918, Box. No.-, Photo no.-, American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

## Scope and Content

The photograph album of ‘Aynṭūrah (Aintoura, Antoura) consists of 29 black and white photographs that reflect the life of orphans of the Armenian Genocide at Antoura, Lebanon.

The photographs depict scenes of daily life, workshops, sports, kitchen, classrooms, refectory, and bedrooms, etc. Included also is the well-known photograph of Cemal Pasha (Djemal) and Halide Edib posing in front of the orphanage with the staff of the shelter. Several of these photographs feature workshops where the orphans were being taught trades and crafts such as shoemaking and carpentry for boys and weaving for girls. There is an unsigned text at the beginning of the album entitled “*The Turkish war time orphanage at Antoura, Lebanon*” also the last page bears the legend in Turkish, “To the Honorable Dr. Bliss the President of the American College. Presented as a memento of Antoura.” Signed by “Director of the Antoura Orphanage Mehmed Muhtar” and dated March 21, 1934. (*The late date might indicate that the album was taken to Turkey and sent later back to AUB President*) Some of the photographs appear in “*Memoirs of Halidé Edib*” which may indicate that the album was in Edib’s property before ending with President Bayard Dodge who became the first President of the American University of Beirut after the war in 1923.

## Historical Sketch

The Jesuit priests established the Antoura College, Lebanon in 1656 and later was taken over by the Lazarist Order. During World War I and the Armenian Genocide 1915-1917, the institution was transformed into an orphanage under the direction of Djemal Pasha (1872-1922), and Halidé Edib Adıvar (1884-1964), where around 1200 young orphans of whom 1000 Armenians and 200 Kurds were turkified and had their Armenian Christian names changed to Muslim ones.

In 1918, at the end of the war and the departure of the Turkish forces from Syria, Halide Edib, who was concerned about the fate of the orphans, approached President Bayard Dodge (1888-1972), a member of the faculty of the Syrian Protestant College and later president of the American University

of Beirut, to take care of the orphanage. He drove out to Antoura and found scarce provisions (a single bag of flour was left), damaged ceilings and walls (a sharp earthquake had just hit the area), and dispirited teachers and staff (who had not been paid for at least three months). The next day, and at the plea of Bayard Dodge, a French civilian officer, who was in charge of the area, gave an order for flour and supplies to be immediately sent to Antoura.

Early in October, when the American Red Cross established itself in Beirut, it took over full responsibility of the Antoura Orphanage. Professor J. Stuart Crawford, instructor of Bible and Ethics in the Preparatory Department at the Syrian Protestant College (SPC), was released from his duties to assume the directorship of the orphanage.

The photo album was sent to President Dodge as a token of appreciation for the help he extended to the orphanage following the retreat of the Ottoman Officials.

## **Arrangement**

The collection is listed as received in the album.

## **Subject Headings**

Armenian massacres, 1915-1923.  
Armenians -- Turkey -- History -- 20th century.  
Armenians -- Children -- Lebanon -- 1910-1920.  
Armenian massacres survivors -- Lebanon.  
Orphans -- Lebanon -- 'Aynṭūrah.  
Orphanages -- Lebanon.  
World War, 1914-1918 -- Atrocities -- Turkey.

المجازر الأرمنية، ١٩١٥-١٩٢٢ -- تركيا.  
الأرمن -- تركيا -- تاريخ -- القرن العشرون.

## **Form/Genre**

Photographic prints -- 1910 -- 1920.  
Photograph albums -- 1910 -- 1920.

## **Container List**

- Page 1: Panoramic view of Antoura orphanage and its surroundings.
- Page 2 : Front entrance of Antoura orphanage.
- Page 3: (Cemal) Djemal Pasha (center forefront), commander of the Turkish Army in Syria, and Halidé Edib, Turkish feminist leader, (right forefront) with Turkish dignitaries on the stairs of the French College at Antoura.
- Page 4: Interior view of a seating area at the orphanage.
- Page 5: Group portrait of Halidé Edib and staff members of the orphanage.
- Page 6: The orphans lined up in the courtyard with the music band in the center.
- Page 7: Orphans and teacher in their classroom.
- Page 8: Orphans and teacher in their classroom.

Page 9: Group of boys with a female teacher.  
 Page 10: Group of orphan boys wearing their uniforms with a male teacher.  
 Page 11: Group of orphans mostly girls with a female teacher.  
 Page 12: Orphan boys sitting at tables in the classroom.  
 Page 13: Orphans and their teacher.  
 Page 14: Orphans and their teacher outside the orphanage.  
 Page 15: Orphans doing physical training exercises.  
 Page 16: Orphans and their teacher.  
 Page 17: Music band of the orphanage.  
 Page 18: The orphanage supply room.  
 Page 19: The orphanage kitchen.  
 Page 20: The orphanage dining room.  
 Page 21: Orphans in the dining room.  
 Page 22: Orphans' sleeping area.  
 Page 23: Shoemaking classroom.  
 Page 24: Orphans in the courtyard.  
 Page 25: Carpentry classroom.  
 Page 26: Carpentry classroom.  
 Page 27: The orphanage store.  
 Page 28: Ottoman soldiers.  
 Page 29: Flock of sheep.

## Related Material at AUB

### Books

- Adivar, H. E. (1926). *Memoirs of Halidé Edib*. New York: Century Co. [CA 949.6:A235m](#)
- Banean, G. (2015). *Goodbye, Antoura: A memoir of the Armenian genocide*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. [J 956.62:B215g](#)
- Bobelian, M. (2009). *Children of Armenia: A forgotten genocide and the century-long struggle for justice*. New York: Simon & Schuster. [J 956.62:B663c](#)
- Ḥakīm, Y. (1980). *Bayrūt wa-Lubnān fī ‘ahd Āl ‘Uthmān*. Bayrūt: Dār al-Nahār lil-Nashr. [J 956.925:H155b2A](#)
- Kerr, S. E. (1973). *The lions of Marash: Personal experiences with American Near East Relief, 1919-1922*. Albany: State University of New York Press. [CA 361.530924:K41L:c.1](#)
- Miller, D. E., & Miller, L. T. (1993). *Survivors: An oral history of the Armenian genocide*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [J 956.62:M647s:c.1](#)
- Viragyan, A., Avagyan, G., Baghdasaryan, L., In Step‘an-Sargisean, G., Badalyan, G., Martirosyan, M., & Hayastani Azgayin Arkhiv. (2013). *Armenian Genocide by Ottoman Turkey, 1915: Testimony of survivors; collection of documents*. Info. Yerevan: Zangak Publishing House. [J 956.62:A728v](#)
- Yalman, A. E. (1930). *Turkey in the World War*. New Haven: Yale University Press. [J 956:Y19t:c.1](#)

## Archival material

- Dodge, Bayard: “*Relief Work in Syria during the Period of the War,*” (1919), Howard Bliss Collection: AUB President, 1902-1920. [AA: 2.3.2](#) Box 18, File 3.

## Articles

- Fisk, R. (2010). *Living proof of the Armenian genocide.* [The Independent](#), October 22, 2011.
- Deringil, S. (2019) *.Your Religion is Worn and Outdated,* [Études arméniennes contemporaines](#), Online since 28 February 2019, connection on 23 January 2021.
- Death of Dr. Bliss (1920, July 1). *Al Kulliyah.* v.6, no. 11. p:81-85.

## Videos

- Jourdan, L., & Valero, J.-L. (2005). *Le génocide arménien.* Paris: ARTE. [DVD:461](#)

## Dissertation

- Tanielian, M. (2012). *The War of Famine: Everyday Life in Wartime Beirut and Mount Lebanon (1914-1918)* [UC Berkeley, UC Berkeley Electronic Theses and Dissertations](#)

## Webpage

- [Antoura Orphanage Memorial](#)

## Online Exhibitions

- [The Syrian Protestant College and the Great War \(1914-18\) .1918. The End of the War.](#)