E. W. Blatchford Collection, 1880-1900
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB
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Webpage:
http://web.aub.edu.lb/libraries/asc/Pages/index.aspx
Descriptive Summary

Bib ID: b1833557

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 cardboard.

Abstract: An interesting and important collection of photographs covering various regions and countries, from the late 19th c to the early 20th 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. Pictures were taken mostly outdoors or inside buildings and houses but the collection also contains 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: American University of Beirut / Library Archives, E. W. Blatchford Collection, photo no.

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, Greece), 1 on Mecca, 83 on Turkey, 1 on Cyprus, 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:1/39l, Ph:1/341 and Ph:1/4l)

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 business man 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:


**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  
- Jerald Dale Dorman and Marry Gayrold Dorman, 1906 by Adrien Bonfils  
  Ph:SPC-AUB:1906(06):01:35
- Charles Webster with wife Annie and daughter, 1896 by Adrien Bonfils  
• Visit of Roger Bonfils to AUB, 1972  
• Faculty and students at the Syrian Protestant College, 1902  
  Ph:SPC-AUB:1902(02):1-4:33 (One photo by Tancrède Dumas)
• Faculty and staff, 1923-1948 Sarrafian Brothers.  
• 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  
• Portrait of Mary Bliss Dale Sarrafian Brothers.  
  Ph:SPC-AUB:1904-1923:01:26
• West Hall, Sarrafian Brothers 1913  
• 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  
  http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004667914/
• Matson photograph collection , 1898-1946 at the Library of Congress  
  http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2005676184/
• L. Fiorillo Photographs Collection at Princeton University  
  https://rbsc.princeton.edu/collections/l-fiorillo-photographs-collection
• Alexandria Bombardment of 1882 Photograph Album at the American University in Cairo  
  http://digitalcollections.aucegypt.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15795coll9
• Antonio Beato at The J. Paul Getty Museum  
• Zangaki at The J. Paul Getty Museum  
• Magnificent images of Egypt by Zangaki brothers, 1870-1890 at Rare Historical Photos  
  https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/egypt-zangaki-brothers-1870-1890/
• Egypt by The Zangaki Brothers (1870-1890) at Flashbak, Everything Old Is New Again  
https://rbsc.princeton.edu/collections/c-g-zangaki-photographs-collection

Rubellin et Fils Photographs Collection at Princeton University Library
https://rbsc.princeton.edu/collections/rubellin-et-fils-photographs-collection

Photographers in The New York Public Library’s Photography Collection
https://www.nypl.org/sites/default/files/Photographers_in_The_New_York_Public_Library_April_16_2010.pdf

Postcards

- Postcard Collection of SPC and AUB, early 20th 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-Maʿlūf 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,"


Archival Material

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

- 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)

**Books**

- collaboration with the Palestine Exploration Fund and the Harvard Fine Arts Library,


Finding Aid


Research Guides


Theses


Webpages

• 19th & early 20th century photography 1839 – 1939: Early view of Napoli, Italy by Michelle Amodio

- Photoorientalist: A website dedicated to exhibiting 19th and 20th century photographs of the Middle East and North Africa [http://www.photorientalist.org/about/orientalist-photography/](http://www.photorientalist.org/about/orientalist-photography/)
- Antonio Beato, 1825 – 1906; Google Art & Culture [https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/m08wvdc](https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/m08wvdc)
- Early Photographers in Greece and the Mediterranean at the Getty Research Institute [http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/guides_bibliographies/photography_greece/photographers.html](http://www.getty.edu/research/tools/guides_bibliographies/photography_greece/photographers.html)
- G. Lekegian and Company; Fine Art Museum at San Francisco [https://art.famsf.org/g-lekegian-and-company](https://art.famsf.org/g-lekegian-and-company)
- Camera Ottomana: Photography and Modernity in the Ottoman Empire 1840-1914 [https://cameraottomana.ku.edu.tr/gallery/detail/id/8](https://cameraottomana.ku.edu.tr/gallery/detail/id/8)
- Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism [https://www.rem.routledge.com/articles/overview/photography](https://www.rem.routledge.com/articles/overview/photography)