



Archives and Special Collections Department,  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon  
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## **Palestine Archaeological Museum Photo Album, 1910-1976**

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

**Call No.:** Ph:PAM: 1910 -1976

**Library catalog ID:** [b26036587](#)

**Record Creator:** Hitti, Philip Khuri, 1886-1978

**Collection Title:** Palestine Archaeological Museum Photo Album, 1910-1976

**Collection Dates:** 1910-1976

**Physical Description:** 29 photographic prints: albumen (13 x 18 cm.); and 2 postcards (8 x 13)

**Language(s):** English.

## **Administrative Information**

**Source:** The Palestine Archaeological Museum Photo Album was donated by Dr. Philip Hitti to President Samuel Kirkwood in 1969.

**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:** Palestine Archaeological Museum Photo Album, 1910-1976, Ph:PAM: 1910-1976, Drawer #, Album #, Photo #, American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

## **Scope and Content**

The Palestine Archaeological Museum Photo Album (1910-1976) consists of 29 albumen photographic prints of landmarks in Qumran, Palestine, and 2 postcards of Palestine Archaeological Museum. The photos include general view of Qumran, the east walls, the steps to a reservoir cracked by the 31<sup>st</sup> BC earthquake, domestic quarter with an oven for making bread, largest room in the settlement for the Essenes of ceremonial meals and services, the cave near Qumran where most of the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947, the hoard of silver coins and The “Scrollery” where a team of scholars were reconstructing and studying the fragmentary scrolls. The collection is of interest to researchers interested in archaeology of the Middle East and specifically Palestine.

## **Historical Sketch**

The construction of the Palestine Archaeological Museum began in 1930 and was completed in 1935 but the museum, now known as the Rockefeller Museum, did not open to the public until 1938.

In 1948, the Rockefeller Museum was made a private institution by the British Mandate of Palestine.

Excavations in Qumran area were mainly conducted during the British Mandate (1919-1948).

In the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the intensified activity in the Holy land gave rise to the need for a dignified venue to store and exhibit the finds. The building and the supplies got a massive donation from John D. Rockefeller worth 2 million dollars as well as aids and assistance provided by the British government. The donor, John Rockefeller, required that the

museum carrying his name be an archeological museum instead of being a natural science one and he also specified that the museum's exhibits should shed light on by the people of Holy land in world history. The museum was administered by the international council when the area became under Jordanian rule in the mid-20th century. The international council recognized its tremendous value and the Jordanian Government nationalized it. And since 1968 The Rockefeller Museum became an integral part of the National Museum in Jerusalem.

The Rockefeller Archaeological Museum contains thousands of artifacts arranged in chronological order, ranging from prehistoric times to the Ottoman period, including a 9,000-year old statue from Jericho, gold jewelry from the Bronze Age, and much more.

The Museum contains also forty-eight historical black-and-white photographs of archaeological sites. The photographs document the pioneering archaeologists' extensive work throughout Palestine in the first decades of the twentieth century.

## **Subject Headings**

Dead Sea scrolls.

Qumran Site (West Bank).

Excavations (Archaeology) -- Palestine -- Qumran Site (West Bank).

Temples -- Palestine.

Palestine -- History -- 70-638.

Archaeology -- Middle East.

Middle East -- Antiquities.

Palestine Archaeological Museum.

Rockefeller Archaeological Museum.

## **Formats**

Photographic Prints --1910-1980.

Albumen prints --1910-1980.

## **Container list**

### **The Palestine Archaeological Museum Collection**

*(From Philip Hitti's collection)*

- 1- General view of Qumran.
- 2- Plan of Qumran (aerial view)
- 3- East walls of Qumran.
- 4- South view across the ruins.
- 5- The steps of a reservoir, cracked by the earthquake of 31<sup>st</sup> BC.
- 6- The kiln in the potter's workshop
- 7- The top part of the potter's kiln
- 8- Another kiln.
- 9- The pit where the potter turned his wheel.
- 10- The domestic quarter, showing an oven for baking bread.

- 11- The largest room at the settlement, used by the Essenes for their ceremonial meals and services.
- 12- The pantry.
- 13- Water came through an aqueduct (bottom middle) into small pools where it settled before flowing into the cisterns.
- 14- A view of the aqueduct.
- 15- The domestic quarter, showing the mill for grinding corn.
- 16- South-West view of the ruins from the tower.
- 17- View of the ruins showing an oven in the foreground.
- 18- Main aqueduct conducting water into the settlement.
- 19- Cave four where most of the Manuscripts were found.
- 20- Two bronze Scrolls as they were found.
- 21- A reconstructed Scroll jar and one of the three hoards of coins.
- 22- Two reconstructed scroll jars, with covering lids.
- 23- One of the three hoards of Tyrin silver coins of the 1<sup>st</sup> cent. B.C.; a Bronze Pot; Oil lamps and other objects found in the ruins.
- 24- The reconstructed writing table and bench from the scriptorium.
- 25- Three Inkstands; the middle one of bronze and the two others of Terra-Cota found in the scriptorium.
- 26- A complete Basalt Mill for grinding corn.
- 27- The “Scrollery” at the Palestine Archaeological Museum where a team of scholars is reconstructing and studying the fragmentary scrolls.
- 28- Fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls: Rule of the congregation and small Biblical Fragments.
- 29- An order to Yoshua Ben Gilgolah from barkokheba, the chief of the Jewish second revolt, with his signature (from Wadi Murabba’at – Date 134 A.D.)
- 30- Two postcards of Palestine Archaeology Museum, Jerusalem, view from the old wall and the inner courtyard.

## **Related Materials**

### **Articles**

- Reed, S. A. (1991). Survey of the Dead Sea Scrolls fragments and photographs at the Rockefeller Museum. *Biblical Archaeologist* 54(March): 44-51

### **Archival Materials**

- Philip Khuri Hitti Collection, 1910-1976. [AA:6.2.8](#)

### **Books**

- Baillet, M., Milik, J. T., Vaux, R., & Baker, H. W. (1962). *Les "petites grottes" de Qumran: Exploration de la falaise, les grottes 2Q, 3Q, 5Q, 7Q à 10Q, le rouleau de cuivre*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. [F 221.44:D278p:v.1-v.2](#)
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- Fritsch, C. T. (1956). *The Qumrân community: its history and scrolls*. New York: Macmillan. [J 221.44:F91q](#)
- Gallez, E.-M. (2012). *Le messie et son prophète: Aux origines de l'islam*. Versailles: Editions de Paris. [J 297:G167m:v.1](#)
- García, M. F. (1994). *The Dead Sea scrolls translated: The Qumran texts in English*. Leiden: E.J. Brill. [J 221.44:D278d](#)
- Hamidovič, D. (2007). *Les traditions du jubilé à Qumrân*. Paris: Geuthner. [J 296.155:H669t](#)
- Hirschfeld, Yizhar. (2004). *Qumran in context: reassessing the archaeological evidence*. Peabody MA: Hendrickson Publishers. [J 933:H669q](#)
- Humbert, J.-B., Chambon, A., Młynarczyk, J., & Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française. (2016). *Fouilles de Khirbet Qumrân et de Aïn Feshkha, fouilles du P. Roland de Vaux: 3A*. [F 933:K457k:v.3a](#)
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## Digital Materials

- Laurent, B. and Taşkömür, H. (2013). [The Imperial Museum of Antiquities in Jerusalem, 1890-1930: An Alternate Narrative](#) (Institute for Palestine Studies)

## Photographs

- Asia Minor Photograph Collection, 1884-1887. [Ph:AM:1884-1887](#)
- Near East Archaeological sites by the American Exploring Party (*not processed yet*)
- Qatar Petroleum Company Photographs, 1980s-1960s. [Ph:QPC:1950s-1960s](#)
- The Karanis-Fayum Excavations Photo Album, 1924-1935