Finding Aid for the Al Djazair and Tunis Album

Beth Ann Guynn
Descriptive Summary

Title: Al Djazair and Tunis album
Date (inclusive): 1881
Number: 2001.R.20
Creator/Collector: Al-Wahhāb, Abdu Rabbih
Physical Description: 1 album (107 photographs)
Repository: The Getty Research Institute
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles 90049-1688
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URL: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/askref
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: The album compiled by one Abdu Rabbih al-Wahhāb contains photographs of the Maghreb region of North Africa. The first half features views of Algeria and Tunisia, while the second half is devoted to portraits of a variety of North African peoples. These are mainly studio portraits of prostitutes and dancers from various ethnic groups, although some male types and dignitaries such as the Agha and Califa of Ouargla, are included.

Request Materials: Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the catalog record for this collection. Click here for the access policy.

Language: Collection material is in Arabic and Judeo-Arabic.

Biographical/Historical Note
The title page lists a person known as Abdu Rabbih al-Wahhāb as the "author" of the album. This may be a pseudonym or fictitious name.

Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights
Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.

Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2001r20

Acquisition Information

Processing History

Digitized Material
The collection was digitized in 2015 and the images are available online:
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2001r20

Scope and Content of Collection
The album contains photographs of the Maghreb region of North Africa. The first half features views of Algeria and Tunisia. There are images of mosques, tombs, and palaces, as well as local neighborhoods and streets. Natural sites, such as gorges, oases and desert areas are also depicted, as are views of Roman ruins. The second half is devoted to portraits of a variety of North African peoples. These are mainly studio portraits of prostitutes and dancers from various ethnic groups, although some male types, and dignitaries such as the Agha and Califa of Ouargla, are included. Many of the sitters are identified by name. A few scenes of daily life showing coffee houses, shops, markets, and street life are interspersed among the portraits.

The album was compiled from an Arab perspective. Only a few images containing portions of French buildings allude to a western presence. This fact, along with the album's elaborate box and covers, suggests that it may have been compiled for a high ranking official or wealthy Arab. The photographs are unsigned.
The covers of the album are made of carved wood and tooled and painted leather set into brass backings and closed with brass hinges; decorations are in a North African artisanal style comprising calligraphic and geometric elements. On the front cover a tugra (i.e. in the style of an Ottoman ruler's signature) written in a combination of colloquial and classical Arabic reads: Algiers/Tunis. Do not look at the beauty of appearances, look at your deeds. Appearance is not as important as the inner self.

The inscription on the brass inner cover reads in the center: I start with the name of God; and in the border: In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful [first sura of the Qur'an].

The title page reads: Author: Abdu Rabbih al-Wahhāb - Fernand tunisi baldati min Kusa (?) (called Gabriel the Christian, in the year 1881).

The album is housed in a carved wooden box. Carved on the box cover, as a tugra, are the names of two brothers, Kheireddine and Arrouj, famous 16th-century corsairs.

Titles are translations of the captions written on the mounts in either Arabic or Judeo Arabic (noted); a few images are uncaptioned and titles were devised. The Arabic captions were translated by Karim Boughida. The Judeo-Arabic captions were translated by Jona Sabir. Cataloger's notes are in brackets.

Arrangement
Arranged in a single series: Series I. Al Djazair and Tunis Album.

Subjects - Topics
Clothing and dress -- Algeria
Clothing and dress -- Tunisia
Architecture, Islamic -- Algeria
Architecture, Islamic -- Tunisia
Women -- Tunisia
Women -- Algeria
Streets -- Algeria
Tombs -- Algeria
Occupations -- Algeria -- History -- 19th century
Occupations -- Tunisia -- History -- 19th century
Indigenous peoples -- Tunisia -- Portraits
Mosques -- Algeria
Gorges -- Algeria
Indigenous peoples -- Algeria -- Portraits

Subjects - Places
Tunisia -- Antiquities -- Roman
Tunisia -- Description and travel
Tunisia -- Social life and customs
France -- Colonies -- Africa
Algeria -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
Algeria -- Antiquities, Roman
Algeria -- Description and travel

Genres and Forms of Material
Photographs, Original
Albumen prints -- Algeria -- 19th century
Studio portraits -- Tunisia -- 19th century
Studio portraits -- Algeria -- 19th century
Albumen prints -- Tunisia -- 19th century

Contributors
Al-Wahhāb, Abdu Rabbih
2001.R.20

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2001.R.20

page 1 recto 2001.R.20-1r. **The New Mosque**
Scope and Content Note
Mosque al Djadid.

page 1 verso 2001.R.20-1v **Interior of the Mosque of Sidi bou Mediene in the City of Tiemcen**

page 2 recto 2001.R.20-2r **Entry to the Mosque of Sidi bou Mediene**

page 2 verso 2001.R.20-2v **Interior of Mosque al Kebir, Algiers**

page 3 recto 2001.R.20-3r **Door of Mosque al Kebir**

page 3 verso 2001.R.20-3v **The New Mosque, Algiers**

page 4 recto 2001.R.20-4r **The Palace of Mustapha, Dey of Algiers**
Scope and Content Note
Palace of Mustapha.

page 4 verso 2001.R.20-4v **Palace of the Dey**

page 5 recto 2001.R.20-5r **Heart of the Palace of the Dey in Algiers**

page 5 verso 2001.R.20-5v **Quarter in Algiers**

page 6 recto 2001.R.20-6r **Quarter in Algiers**

page 6 verso 2001.R.20-6v **Neighbor of the al Djadid Gate near Mosque Zeitun**

page 7 recto 2001.R.20-7r **Quarter of Sidi Helal**

page 7 verso 2001.R.20-7v **Palace of the Dey, Neighborhood of Mustapha near Algiers**

page 8 recto 2001.R.20-8r **Garden of an Islamic House near Algiers**

page 8 verso 2001.R.20-8v **Roman Cistern, Carthage**
Scope and Content Note
Title devised.

page 9 recto 2001.R.20-9r **Bananas**

page 9 verso 2001.R.20-9v **Gorge of Lakhara near Bejaya**

page 10 recto 2001.R.20-10r **Blida--the Gorge Chiffa, River of Monkeys between Blida and Médéa**

page 10 verso 2001.R.20-10v **Set of Palm Trees in Hamma**

page 11 recto 2001.R.20-11r **Camels in Desert**


page 12 recto 2001.R.20-12r **Dromedary [Mehari]**

page 12 verso 2001.R.20-12v **Saharan Traveler**

page 13 recto 2001.R.20-13r **Gorge of Lakhara**


page 14 recto 2001.R.20-14r **Tomb/memorial Sidi Yjacoub in Grove of Olive Trees, Blida**

page 14 verso 2001.R.20-14v **Tomb of Sidi Okba, near Biskra**

page 15 recto 2001.R.20-15r **Quarter in Biskra**


page 16 recto 2001.R.20-16r **Gardens near Biskra**

page 16 verso 2001.R.20-16v **Wall with Graffiti**
Scope and Content Note
Title devised.

page 17 recto 2001.R.20-17r **Old Quarter in Laghouat**

page 17 verso 2001.R.20-17v **Ruins of Massoura near Tiemcen**

page 18 recto 2001.R.20-18r **El Kantara between Batna and Biskra**

page 18 verso 2001.R.20-18v **[Blank page]**

page 19 recto 2001.R.20-19r **Roman Gate in Lambessa**

page 19 verso 2001.R.20-19v **Coffee House for Muslims, Tougourt**

page 20 recto 2001.R.20-20r **Quarter in Biskra**

page 20 verso 2001.R.20-20v **Coffee House for Muslims in Ouargla**
Scope and Content Note
Ouargla is in southern Algeria.
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2001.R.20-21r Sahara, View from Theniet Siffa, the Road of Sepha
Scope and Content Note
Six images.


Scope and Content Note
Four images.

2001.R.20-22v "Baba Salem"--Algiers

2001.R.20-23r Slave Boy

Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

2001.R.20-24v Magician of Biskra

2001.R.20-25r Kabyle Woman


2001.R.20-26r Fatma, Daughter of the Turkish [?] Hassan in the Quarter Sour and Es-Settara, number 7, 30 Years Old

2001.R.20-26v Algiers Woman in City Costume

Scope and Content Note
Earliest inhabitants.

2001.R.20-27v Algiers Woman in City Costume

2001.R.20-28r Fatma, a Local Girl, 15 Years Old

2001.R.20-28v Woman of Algiers

2001.R.20-29r Girl of Algiers


2001.R.20-30r Yemina

2001.R.20-30v Blank page

2001.R.20-31r Yemina

2001.R.20-31v Painting by Lazerges, 1879
Scope and Content Note
Reproduction of a painting by Jean-Raymond-Hippolyte Lazerges, depicting two women at a well.

2001.R.20-32r Behya 20 Years

2001.R.20-32v Woman of Algiers

2001.R.20-33r Fatma, Daughter of Yenjet [?], Also Known as Fatma, Daughter of France, Neighborhood of Sidi Abdallah Number 40, 15 Years Old

2001.R.20-33v Fatma, Daughter of France

2001.R.20-34r Fatma, Daughter of France

2001.R.20-34v Fatma of France

Scope and Content Note
Judeo Arabic caption: Joya, daughter of Darmush
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Page 35 verso
2001.R.20-35v Namja ["Star"] of Algeria
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 36 recto
2001.R.20-36r Young Woman
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 36 verso

Page 37 recto
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 37 verso

Page 38 recto
2001.R.20-38r [Jewish Woman] of Constantine
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 38 verso

Page 39 recto
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 39 verso

Page 40 recto
2001.R.20-40r Ashtar [Esther?] Daughter of Malili the Algerian
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 40 verso

Page 41 recto
2001.R.29-41r Ashtar
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 42 recto
2001.R.20-42r "I Didn't Know Your Name at All..."
Scope and Content Note
Title continues: I asked [?] and was told [it is] Zahri/From the day I knew you/You have dug my grave. Caption in Judeo-Arabic; possibly words of a song.

Page 42 verso

Page 43 recto
2001.R.20-43r Zahri
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 43 verso
2001.R.20-43v People and Soldiers of Tunis
Scope and Content Note
Four images.

Page 44 recto
2001.R.20-44r Kabyle Woman

Page 44 verso
2001.R.20-44v Jewish Women of Tunisia
Scope and Content Note
Four images; caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Page 45 recto
2001.R.20-45r Woman of the Sahara
A Tunisian [Jewish] Woman
Scope and Content Note
Caption in Judeo-Arabic.

Women of Naail--Baraka and Zinja
Scope and Content Note
Four images.

Baraka
Blank page

Algerian Woman
The Kaid Bin Diriss [of Ouargla?]
Chaouch
Scope and Content Note
A first-level administrator.

Lioness of Sidi Ben Ouda Visiting Algiers
Touareg Man
Touareg Man