Finding Aid for the Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon Photographs of Chichén Itza, Uxmal and Yucatán, 1873-1910

Beth Ann Guynn
Descriptive Summary

Title: Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon Photographs of Chichén Itzá, Uxmal and Yucatán

Date (inclusive): 1873-1910

Number: 2007.R.8

Creator/Collector: Le Plongeon, Augustus

Physical Description: 46 photographs

Repository:
The Getty Research Institute
Special Collections
1200 Getty Center Drive, Suite 1100
Los Angeles 90049-1688
reference@getty.edu
URL: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/askref
(310) 440-7390

Abstract: Photographs by Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon document Maya architecture and sculpture at the archaeological sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal in the Yucatán peninsula. Images of Yucatán towns, flora, fauna and peoples are also included in the collection.

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 English.

Biographical/Historical Note
Augustus Le Plongeon was a medical doctor, photographer, antiquarian, and amateur archaeologist of French origins. In the early 1860s, after spending time in Chile and northern California, Le Plongeon moved to Lima, Peru, where he practiced medicine and photography, and became interested in Peruvian archaeology. On a trip to London he met and married Alice Dixon, daughter of the architectural photographer Henry Dixon. The couple returned to North America where they devoted their lives' work to excavating, documenting, and interpreting the Maya ruins and culture of the Yucatán peninsula. They spent over a decade exploring Yucatán and Central America, excavating at Chichén Itzá and Uxmal.

Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights
Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.

Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2007r8

Acquisition Information

Processing History

Related Archival Materials

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection of photographs by Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon documents Maya architecture and sculpture at the archaeological sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal in the Yucatán peninsula. Images of the towns, flora, fauna and peoples of Yucatán are also included. One photograph shows Alice Le Plongeon in front of the Pyramid of Kinich Kak Moo at Izamal. A late portrait of Alice Le Plongeon is also present.
Photographs taken during the Le Plongeons’s visits to Chichén Itzá between 1873 and 1883 include general views of Chichén Itzá, and views and details of the Upper and Lower Temples of the Jaguars, Las Monjas, La Iglesia, Akab-Dzib, and the Platform of Venus. Also included are a photograph of Alice Le Plongeon and workers with the Chacmool statue shortly after it was excavated, and another view of the statue after it had been taken to Mexico City and installed in the National Museum.

Photographs taken during the Le Plongeons’s stay at Uxmal in 1876 include general views as well as views and details of the Adivino Pyramid and Chenes Temple, the Nunnery Quadrangle, and the Governor’s Palace. The couple’s activities at the site are represented by a photograph of the Le Plongeons in their living quarters in the Governor’s Palace and by photographs taken by Alice of Augustus photographing the east facade of the Governor’s Palace and making molds of its reliefs.

During their years in Yucatán both the Le Plongeons took and developed photographs. Photographs known to have been made by Alice Le Plongeon or unidentified photographers are labeled as such, otherwise the photographs can be attributed to Augustus and/or the couple. The photographs are on cardboard mounts and are either albumen or collodion prints, as noted. Dates recorded are for the date the original negatives were made. The collodion prints were made in the late 1880s and 1890s, whereas the albumen prints were made closer to the dates that the images were taken. Unless otherwise noted the mounts are annotated in the hand of Maude Blackwell, a close friend of the Le Plongeons. Annotations such as “Blackwell,” “property of Maude Blackwell,” or similar wording, and phrases such as “Photograph by Dr. Le Plongeon,” “Le P.,” or “Plongeon” are found on most mounts. Titles of the photographs are devised by the cataloger, except as noted.

**Arrangement**

Arranged thematically by cataloger.

**Subjects - Topics**

- Mayas -- Mexico -- Yucatán (State) -- Antiquities
- Maya sculpture
- Maya mural painting and decoration
- Maya architecture
- Indian art -- Mexico
- Chac Mool

**Subjects - Places**

- Mexico -- Description and travel
- Izmal Site (Mexico) -- Antiquities
- Yucatán Peninsula -- Description and travel
- Uxmal Site (Mexico) -- Antiquities
- Chichén Itzá Site (Mexico) -- Antiquities

**Genres and Forms of Material**

- Albumen prints -- Mexico -- 19th century
- Collodion prints-Mexico-19th century
- Photographs, Original

**Contributors**

- Le Plongeon, Alice D. (Alice Dixon)
- Le Plongeon, Augustus

---

Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon photographs of Chichén Itza, Uxmal and Yucatán

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>box 1, folder 1</th>
<th>Chichén Itzá, 1873-1883</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 1</td>
<td>2007.R.8-e General View of Chichén Itzá as Seen from Las Monjas, 1876</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and Content Note**

2007.R.8-2 General View of Chichén Itzá as Seen from Las Monjas, 1876
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. Same image as above, but without clouds. "Chichén forest ruins of Chichén Itzá"--written on verso of mount. "Chichén Itzá"--written on verso of mount.

2007.R.8-3 Serpent Head, West Entrance, Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, approximately 1875
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print.

2007.R.8-4 Atlante with Jaguar Breastplate from the Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, 1875
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print.

2007.R.8-5 Bas Relief, Lower Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, 1876
Scope and Content Note

2007.R.8-6 Detail of Mural, Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, 1873
Scope and Content Note

2007.R.8-7 Detail of mural, Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, 1873
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "Fresco painting Memorial Hall. Citam the friend of Queen Moo consulting an auspice"--written in pencil on recto of mount. "(15)"--written in ink on verso of mount.

2007.R.8-8 Detail of Mural, Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, 1873
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "Fresco in Coh's Memorial Hall - Chichén - Coh's Memorial Hall. Queen Moo's suitor consulting fate"--written in pencil on recto of mount.

2007.R.8-9 Detail of Mural, Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, 1873
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "Fresco in Coh's Memorial Hall - Chichén. Prince Aac proffering his love to the (widow) Queen Moo"--written in pencil on recto of mount.

2007.R.8-10 Excavation of the Platform of Venus, Chichén Itzá, 1882 or 1883
Scope and Content Note
Albumen photograph with pen and ink washes. "Drawing by Dr. A. J. Le Plongeon"--written on recto of mount.

2007.R.8-11 Facing Stone, Platform of Venus, Chichén Itzá, 1883
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "'Wisdom' head in serpent's jaws"--written on recto of mount in hand of Maude Blackwell. "Chichén Itzá"--written on verso of mount.
Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon photographs of Chichén Itza, Uxmal and Yucatán

2007.R.8-12 Back of an Atlante, Upper Temple of the Jaguars, Chichén Itzá, 1875
Scope and Content Note

2007.R.8-13 Facade, Second Level of Las Manjas, Chichén Itzá, 1876
Scope and Content Note

2007.R.8-14 Roof Comb, West Facade, La Iglesia, Chichén Itzá, 1876
Scope and Content Note

2007.R.8-15 Cast of Hieroglyphic Slab from Akab Dzib, Chichén Itzá, 1875?
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "Inscription Akab-zib. Chichén"--written on recto of mount. "Inscription at Akabzib Chichén"--written on verso of mount in hand of Augustus Le Plongeon. This mold of the bas-relief was made made by Augustus Le Plongeon. The image appears as Plate LIII (p. 146) in Queen Moo. For another print of this image see accession number 2004.M.18-b11.7 for the negative see accession number 2004.M.18-b15.7a.

2007.R.8-16 Augustus Le Plongeon, Alice Le Plongeon and Workers with Chacmool after Excavation, 1875
Scope and Content Note

2007.R.8-17 Chacmool in the National Museum, Mexico City, 1880
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "Statue of Prince Coh - unearthed by Le Plongeon"--written on recto of mount in hand of Alice Le Plongeon.

2007.R.8-18 "Standard Bearer" Sculpture from the Platform of Venus, Chichén Itzá, 1882 or 1883
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "Chichén, statue from Cay tomb hidden by Dr. Le Plongeon"--written on recto of mount.

2007.R.8-19 Relief, Platform of Venus, Chichén Itzá, 1882 or 1883
Scope and Content Note
Hand-colored albumen print.

2007.R.8-20 Projectile Points from the Platform of Venus, Chichén Itzá, 1882 or 1883
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print.

Uxmal, 1876
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box and Folder</th>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| box 1, folder 2 | 2007.R.8-21 | The Le Plongeons in their Living Quarters in the Governor’s Palace, Uxmal, 1876  
Scope and Content Note  
Collodion print. "No. 8 Domicile of Dr. and Mme. Le Plongeon in Governor’s House"--written on verso in hand of Alice Le Plongeon. For a cabinet card of this image see accession number 2004.M.18-b10.59. |
| box 1, folder 2 | 2007.R.8-22 | View of the Cemetery Group, Uxmal, 1876  
Scope and Content Note  
Collodion print. "Temple of Death, Uxmal"--written on verso of mount. |
| box 1, folder 2 | 2007.R.8-23 | Adyvin Pyramid, Uxmal, 1876  
Scope and Content Note  
Collodion print. The right half of a panorama taken from the Governor’s Palace. It includes the end of the Nunnery Quadrangle, which continues into the left half of the panorama. |
| box 1, folder 2 | 2007.R.8-24 | West Facade of the Adyvin Pyramid, Uxmal, 1876  
Scope and Content Note  
Collodion print. "Adyvin dwarf’s house. The Sanctuary at Uxmal, the west-side (details of the carvings will appear later)"--written on recto of mount. "Illustration for Origin of Egyptians The Word" --written on verso. The photograph was taken from the roof of the Nunnery Quadrangle, and shows the Puuc style temple above the Chenes style temple. |
| box 1, folder 2 | 2007.R.8-25 | Crouching Figures above “Chac Nose,” Chenes Temple, Adyvin Pyramid, Uxmal, 1876  
Scope and Content Note  
| box 1, folder 2 | 2007.R.8-26 | Northeast Corner of the South Facade, North Building, Nunnery Quadrangle, Uxmal, 1876  
Scope and Content Note  
| box 1, folder 2 | 2007.R.8-27 | Northwest Corner of the East Building, Nunnery Quadrangle, Uxmal, 1876  
Scope and Content Note  
Collodion print. "Northwest corner of east wing King Can’s palace. An example of glyph inscriptions at Uxmal"--written on recto of mount. Wet stamp for The Word on verso. For additional prints of this image see accession numbers 2004.M.18-b12.103 and 104. |
Augustus and Alice Dixon Le Plongeon photographs of Chichén Itzá, Uxmal and Yucatán

2007.R.8-28 Alice Le Plongeon, Augustus Le Plongeon on Scaffolding, East Facade, Governor's Palace, Uxmal, 1876
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. Augustus Le Plongeon is making plaster molds of the central motif on the facade.

2007.R.8-29 Alice Le Plongeon, Augustus Le Plongeon Photographing the East Facade of the Governor's Palace, Uxmal, 1876
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "East side of Governor's House - Uxmal - Dr. Le Plongeon taking photo"--written on recto of mount. "E. lado cas de G"--written on verso of mount. For the glass plate negative for this image see accession number 204.M.18-b15.18.

2007.R.8-30 Base of Wall, West Side of the Governor's Palace, Uxmal, 1876
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. "Uxmal"--written on recto of mount. "Base of wall on west side of G.H."--written on verso of mount.

2007.R.8-31 Detail, West Facade, Governor's Palace, Uxmal, 1876
Scope and Content Note
Albumen print. "No. 2 Cornice and entablature said to be now destroyed on west side of Governor's House"--written on recto of mount.

2007.R.8-32 Vaulted Room, Governor's Palace, Uxmal, 1876
Scope and Content Note

Views around Yucatán, portraits and other subjects, 1873-1910
2007.R.8-33 Group of People in Front of a Ceiba Tree, 1881
Scope and Content Note
Retouched albumen print. Two men shaking hands and four children stand in the foreground. This was probably taken at Hacienda X-Canchacan. For additional prints of this image see accession numbers 2004.M.18-b10-23 and 2004.M.18-b12-114.

2007.R.8-34 The Church of Saint Christopher, Mérida, 187-?
Scope and Content Note

2007.R.8-34 View of Mérida from the Cathedral Bell Tower, after 1879
Scope and Content Note
Albumen print.

Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. For the glass plate negative for this image see accession number 2004.M.18-b18.13.

2007.R.8-36 Entrance to a Yucatán Town, between 1873 and 1883
Scope and Content Note
Collodion print. Title from annotation on verso in hand of Alice Le Plongeon. "Entrance to a town in Yucatán"--written on recto of mount in hand of Maude Blackwell.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box Folder</th>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Scope and Content Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-37      | View of a Cenote, between 1873 and 1884 | Scope and Content Note  
Collodion print. |
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-38      | Vendor of Cakes and Preserves, between 1873 and 1884 | Scope and Content Note  
Retouched albumen print. Title from inscription on recto of mount in hand of Alice Le Plongeon: Vender [sic] of Cakes and Preserves. "1880"--on recto of mount in hand of Maude Blackwell. "Yucatán"--on verso of mount in hand of Maude Blackwell. |
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-39      | Tree Trunk with Vines and Birds, 188-? | Scope and Content Note  
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-40      | Leopard, 188-? | Scope and Content Note  
Retouched collodion print. In this composite photograph an image of a lion, probably taken in a zoo, has been placed in a jungle setting. The image was used as Plate LXXII in *Queen Moo*. "Leopard of Central America. 'Coh' (totem) 'chaac Mol'"--written on recto of mount. For another print of this image see accession number 2004.M.18-b11.25; for a lantern slide illustration of this image see 2004.M.18-b31.13. |
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-41      | Photographer unknown, Late Portrait of Alice Dixon Le Plongeon, approximately 1910 | Scope and Content Note  
Gelatin silver p.o.p (printing-out paper). This studio portrait was likely taken shortly before Alice passed away. For another print of this image see accession number 2004.M.18-b10.7; see 2004.M.18-b14.3 for the printing block made from this image. |
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-42      | Alice Le Plongeon in Front of the Pyramid of Kinich Kak Moo, Izamal, between 1873 and 1874 | Scope and Content Note  
Collodion print. "A near view of the ruins of the famous temple of Kab-Ul the miraculous hand. Izamal, Yucatán"--written on verso in hand of Alice Le Plongeon. "The ancient mound at Izamal"--written on verso in hand of Alice Le Plongeon. |
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-43      | Photographer unknown, Stela b, Copan, 188? | Scope and Content Note  
Retouched collodion print. "Le Plongeon photo (Blackwell's) Yucatán"--written on recto of mount in hand of Maude Blackwell. |
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-44      | Cast of pre-Inca Wall Decorations, after 1885 | Scope and Content Note  
Albumen print. "Peru. Le Plongeon illustration in his books"--written on recto of mount in hand of Maude Blackwell. For another print of this image see accession number 2004.M.18-b10.76. |
| 1, 3       | 2007.R.8-45      | Portrait of Bishop Landa (?), 187-? | Scope and Content Note  
Albumen print with crayon. Photograph of an illustration, heavily reworked. |