Finding aid for the Jacques-Philippe Potteau Portraits of Algerian Soldiers, 1863

Beth Ann Guynn
Descriptive Summary
Title: Jacques-Philippe Potteau Portraits of Algerian Soldiers for the Collection anthropologique du Muséum de Paris
Date (inclusive): 1863
Number: 2018.R.27
Creator/Collector: Potteau, Jacques-Philippe, 1807-1876
Physical Description: 1.33 Linear Feet (20 photographs in 1 box)
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: The 20 frontal and profile portraits of ten Algerian soldiers who visited Paris in 1863 were taken by Philippe-Jacques Potteau as part of his larger anthropological project for the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, known as the Collection anthropologique du Muséum de Paris (1855-1869). Seven pairs of photographs are of soldiers from the 3rd Regiment of Algerian Tirailleurs, an infantry corps, and three pairs depict soldiers from the 2nd and 3rd Regiments of Algerian Spahis, or light cavalry units.
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 French.
Biographical / Historical
Jacques-Philippe Potteau was a member of the anthropology department of the Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Paris. Between 1860 and 1869 he made a series of ethnographic portraits for the museum under the collective title Collection anthropologique du Muséum de Paris. In 1862 Potteau succeeded Louis Rousseau as the departmental photographer. Potteau never accompanied scientific expeditions, but rather organized sittings for members of official groups visiting Paris and other persons in his own studio. His subjects were largely diplomatic delegates or soldiers, and, less frequently, musicians, domestic servants and members of the lower social ranks. Potteau showed his work at the London Photography Exhibit in 1862 and 1863, and at the 1863 Paris International Photography Exhibit.
Conditions Governing Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.
Publication Rights
Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.
Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2018r27
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Acquired in 2018.
Processing Information
In 2018 Beth Ann Guynn processed the collection and wrote the finding aid.
Digitized Material
The collection was digitized in 2019 and the images are available online: http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2018r27
Related Archival Materials
The repository holds another group of Potteau's ethnographic portraits that includes Algerian soldiers, Vietnamese ambassadors and European types among the sitters. See: Portraits from Jacques-Philippe Potteau's Collection anthropologique du Muséum de Paris, Special Collections accession no. 2017.R.20.
Scope and Content of Collection
The 20 frontal and profile photographic portraits of ten Algerian soldiers who visited Paris in 1863 were taken by Philippe-Jacques Potteau as part of his larger anthropological project for the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, known as the Collection anthropologique du Muséum de Paris (1855-1869). Seven pairs of photographs are of soldiers from the 3rd Regiment of Algerian Tirailleurs, an infantry corps, and three pairs depict soldiers from the 2nd and 3rd Regiments of Algerian Spahis, or light cavalry units.

Handwritten on the mounts below the albumen photographs is data related to the specific sitter including, variously, name (used in this finding aid as the photograph's title), age (or birth date), rank or occupation, place of birth and ethnic background. The information is not uniformly present, suggesting a less than exacting documentation process, and the data for the Algerian soldiers is, for the most part, less complete than that found on the portraits of Potteau's more illustrious sitters. Nevertheless, these portraits with their annotated mounts are important examples of early French colonial ethnography.

The photographs are dated on their mounts: Phot. en 1863. The photographs were almost certainly printed before 1872 (when Potteau gave his negatives to the Muséum de Paris for safekeeping), as they present his printing style, derived from Gustave Le Gray, of cutting the corners of the prints on the diagonal.

Arrangement

Subjects - Corporate Bodies
France. Armée. Armée d'Afrique -- Portraits
France. Armée de terre. Régiment de spahis, 3e
France. Armée. Tirailleurs algériens -- Portraits
Muséum national d'histoire naturelle (France)

Subjects - Topics
Photography in ethnology
Algerians -- Portraits

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

Contributors
Potteau, Jacques-Philippe, 1807-1876

Series I. Jacques-Philippe Potteau Portraits of Algerian Soldiers for the Collection anthropologique du Muséum de Paris, 1863

Arrangement
In no discernible original order. Arranged by archivist.

box 1 2018.R.27-1 Ben Bakri ben Salem
Scope and Content Note
Frontal view. Caption continues: Tirailleur algérien / né à Tunis de père et mère cafres.

box 1 2018.R.27-2 Ben Bakri ben Salem
Scope and Content Note
Profile view. Caption continues: Tirailleur algérien / né à Tunis de père et mère cafres.

box 1 2018.R.27-3 Mohamed ben Miloud
Scope and Content Note
Frontal view. Caption continues: Tirailleur algérien / né à Cherchell, division d'Oran (Algérie).
box 1 2018.R.27-4 Mohamed ben Miloud
Scope and Content Note
Profile view. Caption continues: Tirailleur algérien / né à Cherchell, division d'Oran (Algérie).

box 1 2018.R.27-5 Mecaoud ben Ahmed
Scope and Content Note
Frontal view. Caption continues: (31 ans) Tirailleur algérien / né à Bousilkand (Nigritie).

box 1 2018.R.27-6 Mecaoud ben Ahmed
Scope and Content Note
Profile view. Caption continues: (31 ans) Tirailleur algérien / né à Bousilkand (Nigritie).

box 1 2018.R.27-7 Abd-el-Kader ben Lerouke
Scope and Content Note
Frontal view. Caption continues: (29 ans) Tirailleur algérien / né à Orléanville (Algérie).

box 1 2018.R.27-8 Abd-el-Kader ben Lerouke
Scope and Content Note
Profile view. Caption continues: (29 ans) Tirailleur algérien / né à Orléanville (Algérie).

box 1 2018.R.27-9 Kaddour ben Abdaloz
Scope and Content Note
Frontal view. Caption continues: né à Orléanville (Algérie) / Sergent au 3ème tirailleurs algériens.

box 1 2018.R.27-10 Kaddour ben Abdaloz
Scope and Content Note
Profile view. Caption continues: né à Orléanville (Algérie) / Sergent au 3ème tirailleurs algériens.

box 1 2018.R.27-11 Mohamed Berber
Scope and Content Note
Frontal view. Caption continues: (35 ans) né à Médeah (Algérie) / d'un pére turc et d'une mère de Bournou (Soudan) / Sergent au 3ème tirailleur algérien.

box 1 2018.R.27-12 Mohamed Berber
Scope and Content Note
Profile view. Caption continues: (35 ans) né à Médeah (Algérie) / d'un pére turc et d'une mère de Bournou (Soudan) / Sergent au 3ème tirailleur algérien.

box 1 2018.R.27-13 Abd-el-Kader ben Mohamed
Scope and Content Note
Frontal view. Caption continues: (35 ans) né à Blidah (Algérie) / Caporal au 3ème tirailleurs.

box 1 2018.R.27-14 Abd-el-Kader ben Mohamed
Scope and Content Note
Profile view. Caption continues: (35 ans) né à Blidah (Algérie) / Caporal au 3ème tirailleurs.
| Box 1 | 2018.R.27-15 **Mohamed ben Ahmed**  
Scope and Content Note  
Frontal view. Caption continues: (32 ans) Brigadier au 3ème spahis / né à Sétif, province de Constantine (Algérie). |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Box 1 | 2018.R.27-16 **Mohamed ben Ahmed**  
Scope and Content Note  
Profile view. Caption continues: (32 ans) Brigadier au 3ème spahis / né à Sétif, province de Constantine (Algérie). |
| Box 1 | 2018.R.27-17 **Brahim ben Salah**  
Scope and Content Note  
| Box 1 | 2018.R.27-18 **Brahim ben Salah**  
Scope and Content Note  
Profile view. Caption continues: Spahis né à Souk-Arach / province de Constantine (Algérie). |
| Box 1 | 2018.R.27-19 **Embarik ben Khdnin**  
Scope and Content Note  
Frontal view. Caption continues: au deuxième spahis. / Province de Oran (Algérie). |
| Box 1 | 2018.R.27-20 **Embarik ben Khdnin**  
Scope and Content Note  
Profile view. Caption continues: au deuxième spahis. / Province de Oran (Algérie). |