Finding aid for the Carte-de-visite album of Algeria, 1870s-1880s

Beth Ann Guynn
Descriptive Summary

Title: Carte-de-visite album of Algeria
Date (inclusive): 1870s-1880s
Number: 2019.R.1
Physical Description: 1 Linear Foot (Album of 52 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: The carte-de-visite album contains 50 cartes-de-visite of Algeria and Algerians by various photographers including Jean Geiser and Alexandre Leroux; a two-part panorama of Algiers by Jean Geiser made from two joined horizontal cabinet cards; and a panoramic view of Oran by A. Decugis showing the port and military hospital, also on a horizontal cabinet card.
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
Lucien-Jacob Geiser (1810-1852), an ébéniste by trade, immigrated to Algeria from Switzerland with his wife Julie and three sons in 1850, but died shortly thereafter in 1852. It is unclear whether Geiser père opened the photography business or his widow Julie opened it after her husband's death, but the family eventually partnered with Jean-Baptiste-Antoine Alary (1810-c. 1867), an early daguerreotypist, renaming the firm Alary & Geiser. After Alary's death the youngest Geiser son, Jean-Théophile (1848-1923), took over the business, running it into the 1920s under the name Jean Geiser.
Alexandre Leroux owned and operated a photography studio in Algiers from the 1870s until his death in 1912. After his death, his sons continued selling his prints using his stamp.
Little is known about the photographers L. Cairol; A. Decugis; Elie Karsenty; and A. Rigod.

Publication Rights
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Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.

Preferred Citation
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa2019r1

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Acquired in 2019.

Processing Information
The finding aid was written by Beth Ann Guynn in 2019.

Existence and Location of Copies
The collection was digitized by the repository in 2019 and the images are available online:
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2019r1

Scope and Content of Collection
The album contains 50 cartes-de-visite of Algeria and Algerians by various photographers; a two-part panorama of Algiers by Jean Geiser made from two joined horizontal cabinet cards; and a panoramic view of Oran by A. Decugis showing the port and military hospital, also on a horizontal cabinet card.
The Geiser panorama of Algiers is the first image in the album, adhered to the verso of the blank page preceding the carte-de-visite mounts. The first part of the album is devoted to views of Algiers, Baida, and Oran, while the remaining
images are studio portraits of Algerian "types." The larger view of Oran is the final image in the album. Rather than being inserted in their slots back-to-back, the cartes-de-visite are arranged in the album so that their versos are showing. The makers of the bulk of the photographs are not identified by imprints on their versos, and any imprints on their rectos are covered by the album mounts. In addition to Geiser and Decugis, photographers known to be represented in the album include Alexandre Leroux; L. Cairo; Elie Karsenty; and A. Rigod. The album has bossed brown calf covers with floral and geometric designs. Ink annotations are written in French on the versos of 33 of the cartes-de-visite, and on the rectos of the panoramas of Algiers and Oran.

**Arrangement**
The album is arranged in a single series: Series I.Carte-de-visite album of Algeria, 1870s-1880s.

**Subjects - Names**
Cairol, L.
Jean, Geiser, 1848-1923
Decugis, A.
Karsenty, Elie
Leroux, A. (Alexandre), 1832-1912
Rigod, A.

**Subjects - Topics**
Algerians -- Portraits

**Subjects - Places**
Algiers (Algeria) -- Description and travel
Blida (Algeria) -- Description and travel
Oran (Algeria) -- Description and travel

**Genres and Forms of Material**
Albumen prints -- Algeria -- 19th century
Cabinet cards -- Algeria -- 19th century
Cartes-de-visite -- Algeria -- 19th century
Photograph albums -- Algeria -- 19th century
Photographs, Original

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**Series I. Carte-de-visite album of Algeria, 1870s-1880s**

**Scope and Content Note**
Titles from annotations on mount versos unless otherwise noted.

**Arrangement**
In original order.

- box 1, Item front cover: 2019.R.1-fc Front cover
- box 1, page front endpapers: 2019.R.1-fe Front endpapers
- box 1, page front free endpaper verso: 2019.R.1-fe_v Verso of front free endpaper
- box 1, page 1 recto: 2019.R.1-1r Blank page
- box 1, page 1 verso: 2019.R.1-1v Geiser, Jean, Algier, vue générale, not before 1872

**Scope and Content Note**
Two-part joined panorama made from two cabinet cards. Photographer's imprint on both mounts: Jean Geiser, Phot. 7, rue Bab-Azoun, Alger.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Recto</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Almer, place du Gouvernement et mosquée de Djama-Djédid, ca. 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Alger, boulevard de la République, quais, ca. 1880</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Leroux, Alexandre, Intérieur de l’archevêché, not before 1881</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Leroux, Alexandre, Colonnades rue de la Marine, Alger, not before 1881</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Leroux, Alexandre, Intérieur de la grande mosquée, not before 1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Alger, boutique arabe, ca. 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Alger, rue de la Ville Haute, ca. 1880</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Alger, Port de la casbah, not before 1881</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Blidah, la place d’Armes, ca. 1880</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Blidah, le jardin public, ca. 1880</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Environs de Blidah, marabout de Sidi-Yacoub au jardin du Bois-Sacré, ca. 1880</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Photographer unidentified, Environs de Blidah, le ruisseau des Singes, gorges de la Chiffa, ca. 1880</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Photographer unidentified, Oran, ca. 1880

Scope and Content Note
View of docks and city.

Photographer unidentified, Oran, ca. 1880

Scope and Content Note
View of the city.

Photographer unidentified, Oran, fort de Santa Cruz, ca. 1880

Photographer unidentified, Oran, ca. 1880

Scope and Content Note
View of the shore.

Photographer unidentified, Oran, place Kléber, ca. 1880

Scope and Content Note
Group of palms with tents behind them. Annotation on verso written over elaborate Leroux imprint that includes images of medals won in 1880 and 1881.

Photographer unidentified, Tentes arabes, ca. 1880

Scope and Content Note
Large tent.

Geiser, Jean, Lecture de la lettre (Alger), not before 1872

Scope and Content Note
Title from a larger copy of this image held in the Ken and Jenny Jacobson collection of Orientalist photography (item number 2008.R.3-3677). This image is part of an elaborately staged "Oriental" series of photographs clearly intended for use by painters.

Geiser, Jean (?), [Two Men Playing Chess at a Low Table], not before 1872

Scope and Content Note
Photographer's imprint on verso: Photographie artistique / de Paris / A. Rigod. / Succursales / à Mascara et Mostaganem.
box 1, page 18 2019.R.1-18r2 Cairol, L., [Portrait of an Algerian Caid], not before 1878
Scope and Content Note
Bust portrait of a man with several medals pinned to his robes. Photographer's imprint on verso below his monogram flanked by medals won at 1878 Paris and Oran expositions: L. Cairol / photographe / boulevard Oudinot / Oran / (Algérie).

box 1, page 19 recto-1 2019.R.1-19r1 Photographer unidentified, Saüda, 1883
Scope and Content Note
Full-length portrait of an Algerian man standing next to a balustrade with a pot of flowers atop it. Dated on verso: 6 février 1883.

box 1, page 19 recto-2 2019.R.1-19r2 Photographer unidentified, Mauresque, ca. 1880

box 1, page 20 recto-1 2019.R.1-20r1 Photographer unidentified, Arabe, ca. 1875
Scope and Content Note
Full-length portrait of an Algerian man wearing a dark cloak over his robes.

box 1, page 20 recto-2 2019.R.1-20r2 Cairol, L., [Portrait of a Woman Wearing a Printed Dress], not before 1878
Scope and Content Note
Photographer's imprint on verso, below his monogram flanked by medals won at 1878 Paris and Oran expositions: L. Cairol / photographe / boulevard Oudinot / Oran / (Algérie).

box 1, page 21 recto-1 2019.R.1-21r1 Photographer unidentified, [Algerian Standing next to Chair, Cigarette in Hand], ca. 1880
box 1, page 21 recto-2 2019.R.1-21r2 Photographer unidentified, [Seated Woman], ca. 1880

box 1, page 22 recto-1 2019.R.1-22r1 Photographer unidentified, [Woman with Baby on Her Back Kneeling to Cut a Gourd], ca. 1880
box 1, page 22 recto-2 2019.R.1-22r2 Photographer unidentified, Arabe sur un chameau, ca. 1880
box 1, page 23 recto-1 2019.R.1-23r1 Photographer unidentified, [Woman Seated with Hand on Cheek], ca. 1880
box 1, page 23 recto-2 2019.R.1-23r2 Photographer unidentified, Femme arabe en lieu enfant, ca. 1880
Scope and Content Note
Woman in profile with bonneted baby on her back.

box 1, page 24 recto-1 2019.R.1-24r1 Photographer unidentified, [Bust Portrait of Man in Dark Garments with Tasseled Turban], ca. 1880
box 1, page 24 recto-2 2019.R.1-24r2 Photographer unidentified, [Moorish Woman Wearing Conical Hat], ca. 1880
box 1, page 25 recto-1 2019.R.1-25r1 Photographer unidentified, [Algerian Man Standing next to a Window], ca. 1880
box 1, page 25 recto-2 2019.R.1-25r2 Photographer unidentified, [Woman Wearing Long Dress], ca. 1880
box 1, page 26 recto-1 2019.R.1-26r1 Photographer unidentified, [Child Standing between Parents], ca. 1880
box 1, page 26 recto-2 2019.R.1-26r2 Cairol, L., [Woman with Lace Bodice], not before 1878
Scope and Content Note
Photographer's imprint on verso, below his monogram flanked by medals won at 1878 Paris and Oran expositions: L. Cairol / photographe / boulevard Oudinot / Oran / (Algérie).

box 1, page 27 recto 2019.R.1-27 Decugis, A., Oran, port et hôpital militaire, ca. 1880
Scope and Content Note
<table>
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<td>2019.R.1-be</td>
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<tr>
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