Finding Aid for Alary & Geiser Algerian Carte-de-visite Album, circa 1865

Beth Guynn
Descriptive Summary
Title: Alary & Geiser Algerian carte-de-visite album
Date (inclusive): circa 1865
Number: 91.R.6
Creator/Collector: Alary & Geiser
Physical Description: 1 album (33 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 album containing 33 cartes-de-visite by Alary & Geiser documents the architecture and people of Algeria in the 1860s.
Request Materials: To access physical materials on site, go to the library catalog record for this collection and click "Request an Item." Click here for access policy.
Language: Collection material is in French
Biographical/Historical Note
Alary & Geiser was a photographic firm of long standing in Algiers. Lucien-Jacob Geiser (1810-1852), was an ébéniste by trade, who immigrated to Algeria from Switzerland with his wife Julie and three sons in 1850. The exact nature of the business Geiser père established in Algiers is not known, nor is the nature of his involvement with photography. Yet at some point after her husband’s death Madame Geiser, who would have taken over the business, went into partnership with Jean-Baptiste Antoine Alary (1810-approximately 1867), an early daguerreotypist. Eventually the youngest Geiser son, Jean-Théophile (1848-1923), became involved with the photography business, running it into the 1920s.
Sources consulted:
Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.
Conditions Governing Use
Contact Library Reproductions and Permissions.
Preferred Citation
Alary & Geiser Algerian carte-de-visite album, circa 1865, Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Accession no. 91.R.6.
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa91r6
Acquisition Information
Processing History
Processed and cataloged by Beth Guynn; finding aid encoded by Holly Larson with grant funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) in 2009 and updated by Guynn in 2020.
Digitized Material
The album was digitized by the repository in 2009 and the images are available online:
http://hdl.handle.net/10020/91r6
Scope and Content of Collection
The album of 33 cartes-de-visite by Alary & Geiser documents the architecture and people of Algeria. Included are architectural interiors and exteriors, nomadic camps with tents and camels, and images of a variety of peoples photographed both in the studio and in more natural outdoor settings. Occupational portraits include laborers, a water porter, Spahis (Algerian cavalry), a wall painter, merchants, and street vendors. The sitters of a few male portraits are identified by title or status. Other portraits emphasize traditional dress while tropes such as "odalisque" or "dancer,"
common to an objectified European male gaze, are used to identify their female subjects. The album is bound in dark green leather. Its brass clasps are missing, but the latches remain on the fore edge. Titles are taken from the captions written below the carte-de-visite window opening on most of the mounts.

**Arrangement**

Arranged in a single series: Series I. Alary & Geiser Algerian carte-de-visite album, circa 1865.

**Subjects - Topics**

Vernacular architecture -- Algeria
Islamic architecture -- Algeria
Women -- Algeria

**Subjects - Places**

Algeria -- Description and travel

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Albumen prints -- Algeria -- 19th century
Studio portraits -- Algeria -- 19th century
Cartes-de-visite -- Algeria -- 19th century
Photograph albums -- Algeria -- 19th century

**Contributors**

Alary & Geiser

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series I. Alary &amp; Geiser Algerian carte-de-visite album, circa 1865</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrangement</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In original order.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>page 1 recto</th>
<th>91.R.6-1r Intérieur d'une maison mauresque</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>page 1 verso</td>
<td>91.R.6-1v Intérieur de la casbah / palais des beys (coup d'évantail)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The caption is written upside down above the image.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>page 2 recto</th>
<th>91.R.6-2r Campement d'Arabes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>page 2 verso</td>
<td>91.R.6-2v Campement d'Arabes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shows a group of men sitting outside a striped tent.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>page 3 recto</th>
<th>91.R.6-3r [Reclining Figure with Cigarette]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>page 3 verso</td>
<td>91.R.6-3v [Veiled Woman]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 4 recto</td>
<td>91.R.6-4r Intérieur d'un café arabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The photographer's imprint is visible on the border of the carte-de-visite: Alary &amp; Geiser, Phot.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>page 4 verso</th>
<th>91.R.6-4v Joueurs d'echecs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>page 5 recto</td>
<td>91.R.6-5r Jardin de Marengo et mosquée de Sidi Abder Rhaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>page 5 verso</td>
<td>91.R.6-5v Porte d'Isly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series I. Alary & Geiser Algerian carte-de-visite album, circa 1865

Finding Aid for Alary & Geiser
Algerian Carte-de-visite Album, circa 1865

Page 6 Recto

91.R.6-6r **Porte neuve**

Scope and Content Note
Title from carte-de-visite mount. The photographer’s imprint is also visible on the border of the carte-de-visite: Alary & Geiser, Phot. Written on mount below image: Entrée de l’armée en 1830. The photograph depicts a gate at the base of the city walls of Algiers.

Page 6 Verso

91.R.6-6v **[Group of Arabs outside a Door]**

Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: N. 39.

Page 7 Recto

91.R.6-7r **Spahis**

Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: N. 92. The photograph depicts a single mounted cavalryman.

Page 7 Verso

91.R.6-7v **Chasseur d’autruche**

Page 8 Recto

91.R.6-8r **Marchand de charbons**

Page 8 Verso

91.R.6-8v **Sort**

Page 9 Recto

91.R.6-9r **Marchand tunisien**

Page 9 Verso

91.R.6-9v **Peintre en bâtiments**

Page 10 Recto

91.R.6-10r **Chamaux**

Page 10 Verso

91.R.6-10v **Danseuse du désert**

Scope and Content Note
Photographic reproduction of a painting.

Page 11 Recto

91.R.6-11r **Porteur d’eau**

Page 11 Verso

91.R.6-11v **Jeune Maure**

Page 12 Recto

91.R.6-12r **Mauresque en tenue**

Page 12 Verso

91.R.6-12v **Mauresque en tenue de ville**

Page 13 Recto

91.R.6-bl1 **Blank page**

Page 13 Verso

91.R.6-bl2 **Blank page**

Page 14 Recto

91.R.6-14r **Danseuse**

Scope and Content Note
Depicts a standing woman holding a scarf up to her head.

Page 14 Verso

91.R.6-14v **Danseuse**

Scope and Content Note
Shows a standing woman holding a baton.

Page 15 Recto

91.R.6-15r **Négresse marchande de dattes**

Page 15 Verso

91.R.6-15v **Groupe de Mauresques**

Page 16 Recto

91.R.6-16r **Mauresque en négligée**

Page 16 Verso

91.R.6-16v **Marchand arabe**

Page 17 Recto

91.R.6-17r **Hagah de Millanah**

Page 17 Verso

91.R.6-17v **Fils du Hagah de Millanah**

Page 18 Recto

91.R.6-18r **Pacha de Mustapha (Prince)**

Scope and Content Note
Photographer’s partial blind stamp on verso of carte-de-visite: Alary & Geiser / [Photographes] éditeurs / à Alger.

Page 18 Verso

91.R.6-18v **Officier de Spahis**

Scope and Content Note
The mount is lacking the carte-de-visite.