Finding Aid for Middle Eastern and North African Views and Portraits, circa 1870-circa 1900

Beth Guynn
Descriptive Summary
Title: Middle Eastern and North African Views and Portraits
Date (inclusive): circa 1870-circa 1900
Number: 93.R.72
Physical Description: 32 photographic prints
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: This collection of albumen prints dates from the last quarter of the 19th century and comprises views and portraits from North Africa and the Middle East, some of which are signed Bonfils.

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 and English

Biographical/Historical Note
Eighteen images are signed Bonfils in the negative, and two others are attributed to Bonfils. The Bonfils family operated a photographic studio in Beirut from 1867 to 1918. Félix Bonfils produced most of the early work; his wife, Lydie, son, Adrien, and various assistants were responsible for the later work. One image is attributed to Henri Béchard, who was active in Egypt in the 1870s and 1880s.

Access
Open for use by qualified researchers.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
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http://hdl.handle.net/10020/cifa93r72

Acquisition Information
Acquired in 1993.

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).

Scope and Content of Collection
This collection of albumen prints dates from the last quarter of the 19th century and comprises three groups of images: eight unmounted photographs; 16 photographs mounted recto and verso on eight loose blue album leaves; eight photographs mounted recto and verso on four loose buff album leaves. Four of the unmounted photographs and 14 of those mounted on blue leaves are signed Bonfils. These images include studio or otherwise posed portraits of camel drivers, Bedouin musicians, Egyptian dancers and singers, and a variety of young women identified as “mauresque,” Egyptian or Turkish, plus one image of a group of young girls on a road near Mt. Carmel. Geographic locales include Algeria (a mosque and a neighborhood vegetable stand); Syria (Baalbek, a palace door); and Rhodes (rue des Chevaliers). Images in the group on buff leaves, all unsigned (though two are attributed on the mount to Bonfils), are from an album compiled by an English couple touring Egypt and vicinity. Captioned locales include Luxor (Thebes), the pyramids and Petra, and include date of visit. Of particular interest are two images of a man and woman in European dress ascending and descending the Great Pyramid at Giza with the assistance of many local guides (attributed on mount to Béchard).

Arrangement

Finding Aid for Middle Eastern and North African Views and Portraits, circa 1870-circa 190...
Arranged in three series: ; ; .

**Series I.** Photographic prints mounted on blue album leaves

**Series II.** Photographic prints mounted on buff album leaves

**Series III.** Photographic prints, unmounted

**Subjects - Topics**

Pyramids -- Egypt

Africa, North -- Description and travel

Musicians -- Egypt

Women -- Middle East -- Portraits

**Subjects - Places**

Middle East -- Description and travel

Ba'labakk (Lebanon)

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Albumen prints -- 19th century

**Contributors**

Bonfils, Félix

Béchard, Henri

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Series I. Photographic prints mounted on blue album leaves

Physical Description: 1.25 Linear Feet

Scope and Content Note

Loose photos and those mounted on blue leaves have captions in negative in French.

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page 1 recto

93.R.72-1r Bonfils, Femmes égyptiennes, costume de sortie

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 572.

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page 1 verso

93.R.72-1v Groupe de jeune filles D___ Mt. Carmel

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 663.

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page 2 recto

93.R.72-2r Bonfils, Danse des Almée d’____

page 2 verso

93.R.72-2v Bonfils, Foueurs de violin bédouins

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 613.

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page 3 recto

93.R.72-3r Bonfils, Touree[?] de chûtes du 'nahr, Ibrahim a Afka

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 1078.

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page 3 verso

93.R.72-3v Bonfils, Liban, Palais Bl__ la porte, Syrie

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page 4 recto

93.R.72-4r Chapiteau dans la mosquée à Balbek

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 1252.

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page 4 verso

93.R.72-4v Bonfils, Chameleurs en marche dans le désert

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 703.

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page 5 recto

93.R.72-5r Bonfils, Halté de chamliers dans le désert

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 669.
Series I. Photographic prints mounted on blue album leaves

93.R.72-5v Bonfils, Chanteuses arabas au Caire
Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: 611.

93.R.72-6r Bonfils, Dame egyptienne fumant le nargiuleh
Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: 585.

93.R.72-6v Bonfils, Femmes du Caire
Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: 590[?]

93.R.72-7r Bonfils, rue des Chevaliers à Rhodes
Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: 1285.

93.R.72-7v Bonfils, Balbek, Couple de Douris
Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: 466.

93.R.72-8r Bonfils, Jeune femme juive égyptienne
Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: 600.

93.R.72-8v Bonfils, Almée ou danseuse égyptienne
Scope and Content Note
Numbered in negative: 594.

Series II. Photographic prints mounted on buff album leaves

Physical Description: 0.88 Linear Feet
Scope and Content Note
Photos mounted on buff leaves have captions in negative in French and/or captions in English in ink on mount; photographer attributions and image numbers also penciled on some mounts in a different hand.

93.R.72-9r Femme arabe
Scope and Content Note

93.R.72-9v Luxor (Thebes) 16th Jany
Scope and Content Note
Title written on mount in ink. Written on mount in pencil: on east.

93.R.72-10r La Pyramide de Chefre
Scope and Content Note

93.R.72-10v Ascent of the Great Pyramid 30th Jan 7
Scope and Content Note
Title written on mount in ink. Written on mount in pencil: Bechard.
Series II. Photographic prints mounted on buff album leaves

Page 11 Recto
- 93.R.72-11r Descent of the Great Pyramid 30th Jan 7
  Scope and Content Note
  Title written on mount in ink. Written on mount in pencil: Bechard.

Page 11 Verso
- 93.R.72-11v A Nile Dahabeeah
  Scope and Content Note
  Title written on mount in ink. Written on mount in pencil: Bonfils # 95.

Page 12 Recto
- 93.R.72-12r Jeune femme arabe
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: 179. Written on mount: Arab Woman.

Page 12 Verso
- 93.R.72-12v The Khuzneh, Petra 7th - 10th March
  Scope and Content Note
  All titles taken from in negative.

Box 2
- 93.R.72-13 Mauresque (Etude)
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: 198.
  Young woman.

- 93.R.72-14 Bonfils, Dame turque
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: 670.

- 93.R.72-15 Bonfils, Almée Egyptienne
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: 605.

- 93.R.72-16 Arabe de _____
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: 4592.
  Male with hooded cloak.

- 93.R.72-17 Mosquée Sidi ________ Alger
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: No. 176[?] Written on verso: J. Geiser.

- 93.R.72-18 Boutique de mouchnou (Alger)
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: 103.
  Neighborhood vegetable stand.

- 93.R.72-19 Bonfils, Balbek, Débris de frise de l'interieur du temple de Jupiter, Syrie
  Scope and Content Note
  Numbered in negative: 456.
Series III. Photographic prints, unmounted

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box 2

93.R.72-20 Bonfils, Chameaux portant les cymbaliers des noces arabes

Scope and Content Note

Numbered in negative: 1464.