



Smithsonian  
*Freer Gallery of Art and  
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

Felice Beato Photograph  
Album - "Photographs of Delhi"

# Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
Local Numbers.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Biographical / Historical.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Felice Beato Photograph Album - "Photographs of Delhi"
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1858
<b>Identifier:</b>	FSA.A1993.04
<b>Creator:</b>	Beato, Felice, b. ca. 1825 (Photographer)
<b>Extent:</b>	35 Items (albumen prints mounded into album (2.5 linear ft.); black and white) 1 Photograph (black and white) 1 Glass negative (black and white)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Felice Beato Photograph Album - "Photographs of Delhi"</a>

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Purchased by Milo Beach from Ken and Jenny Jacobson Victorian Photography, Essex, England, 1993

### Citation

Felice Beato Photograph Album - "Photographs of Delhi." Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C.

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository.

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## Biographical / Historical

Felice Beato (born 1833 or 1834, died c. 1907), sometimes known as Felix Beato, was a Corfiote photographer. At the time of his birth, Corfu was part of the British protectorate of the Ionian Islands, and so Beato would have qualified as a British subject. Corfu had previously been a Venetian possession, and this fact goes some way to explaining the many references to Beato as "Italian" and "Venetian" member of the Corfiot Italians. The Beato family is recorded as having moved to Corfu in the 17th century and was one of the noble Venetian families that ruled the island during the Republic of Venice.

## Biographical / Historical

Beato was one of the first photographers to take pictures in East Asia and one of the first war photographers. His photographs represent the first substantial oeuvre of what came to be called photojournalism. He is noted for his genre works, portraits, and views and panoramas of the architecture and landscapes of Asia and the Mediterranean region. Beato's travels throughout Asia gave him the opportunity to create powerful and lasting images of countries, people and events that were unfamiliar and remote to most people in Europe and North America. To this day his work provides the key images of such events as the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and the Second Opium War. The Indian Rebellion or Indian Mutiny, also called Sepoy Mutiny (1857-58), was a widespread uprising against British rule in India begun by Indian troops (sepoys) in the service of the British East India Co. Beato documented the aftermath of the gruesome events, depicting military groups, bullet-scarred walls, blown-out battlements, corpse-littered courtyards, and the hangings of mutineers.

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## Scope and Contents

35 albumen prints by Felice Beato, mounted into album format with captions, entitled "Photographs of Delhi and c.," depicting views of the Indian Mutiny near Delhi, India, ca. 1858. The photographs are an important record of buildings in Delhi which were subsequently destroyed by the British.

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## Arrangement

One box; Arranged by size of material

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## Local Numbers

FSA A1993.04

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Types of Materials:

- Albumen prints
- Glass negatives
- Photograph albums
- Photographs -- 1850-1900

### Places:

- India -- Delhi -- Delhi
- India -- History -- Sepoy Rebellion, 1857-1858