



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

Felix Bonfils Photographs

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Felix Bonfils Photographs
Date:	undated
Identifier:	FSA.A1997.03
Creator:	Bonfils, Félix, 1831-1885 (Photographer) Bonfils, Lydie, 1837-1918
Extent:	15 Prints (albumen; 22.5 x 28.5 cm sheets.)
Language:	Undetermined .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs Image(s): Felix Bonfils Photographs

Administrative Information

Provenance

Purchased, May 1997.

Preferred Citation

Felix Bonfils Photographs, FSA A1997.03. National Museum of Asian Art 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.

Biographical / Historical

Felix Bonfils was a French photographer who began his professional career as a bookbinder and printer, specializing in photoengravings. After visiting Lebanon as part of Napoleon III's expeditionary corps, in 1867 he became the first French photographer to settle in the Near East. With his wife Lydie, Bonfils established a studio, Maison Bonfils, in Beirut, then part of the Ottoman Empire. Known for his interest in architectural photography, Bonfils traveled widely in the Near East. His 1876 catalog is credited with introducing the genre of Near Eastern photographic portraiture.

Scope and Contents

Panoramic view in 360 degrees of Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey, circa 1870. 10 sheets of albumen print, of which five bear the photographer's signature and number.

Scope and Contents

Panoramic view of Damascus, Syria, circa 1870. 5 sheets of albumen print, all bearing the photographer's signature and number.

Arrangement

Organized in two flat boxes.

Arrangement

First Box: Panoramas of Constantinople

Arrangement

Second Box: Panoramas of Damascus

Local Numbers

FSA A1997.03

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 -- 1860-1880
- Panoramas
- Photographs

Places:

Constantinople (Turkey)

Damascus (Syria)

Istanbul (Turkey)

Syria -- Damascus -- Damascus

Turkey -- Istanbul Province -- Constantinople (Istanbul)