



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

Still Prints of Asia: Inside the  
Secunderabagh, Lucknow

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Still Prints of Asia: Inside the Secunderabagh, Lucknow
<b>Identifier:</b>	FSA.A1999.27
<b>Date:</b>	circa 1858
<b>Creator:</b>	Beato, Felice, b. ca. 1825
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Print (albumen; image 26 x 30 cm., mounted 38 x 41 cm.)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): Still Prints of Asia: Inside the Secunderabagh, Lucknow</a>
<b>Container:</b>	Box 3
<b>Container:</b>	Box 4

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Purchased, 1999.

### 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

Although he was born in Greece, Felice Beato worked as a press photographer in England and achieved recognition for his coverage of British political conflicts, photographing the Crimean War of 1855 and, together with his brother-in-law, James Robertson, the 1858 Indian Mutiny in Delhi and Lucknow. After moving to Yokohama in 1863, Beato opened the area's first photography studio and documented the people and culture of Japan for the next twenty years, taking photographs and selling them to tourists. During his travels, Beato was able to gain access to Japanese ports that were open only to diplomats by acting as an official photographer for the British navy.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Sikandar Garden is a villa and garden complex located on the outskirts of Lucknow, which was the capital of the former state of Oudh (now spelt Awadh, and a region in the state of Uttar Pradesh), in India. The prolonged defense in Lucknow by the British proved to be one of the key episodes in the unsuccessful

Indian Rebellion of 1857-1858. During the siege of the city, the Sikandar (or Secundra) Garden was used as a refuge by hundreds of sepoy who were under attack by British troops. On November 16, 1857, the villa was overrun and approximately 2000 sepoy were killed. After the fighting, the British dead were buried in a deep trench but the Indian dead were left to rot. In early 1858 Beato took this well-known photograph, possibly the first photographic depiction of human corpses, although there is some controversy over whether he had some of the corpses disinterred for dramatic effect.

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## Scope and Contents

One albumen print by Felix Beato, mounted on card, with "Lucknow. Inside the Secunderabagh Shewing [sic] where 2600 Sepoy were Killed" inscribed in black ink below the print. View taken circa 1858 of the interior of the Sikandar Garden, with skeletal remains strewn across the grounds.

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## Arrangement

One flat box.

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## Local Numbers

FSA A1999.27

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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
- Photographs

### Places:

- India -- Uttar Pradesh -- Lucknow
- Lucknow (India)
- Lucknow (India) -- History -- Siege, 1857
- Sikandar Garden (Lucknow, India)