



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

Carol Bier and Lionel Bier Collection

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Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Carol Bier on behalf of both herself and the estate of the late Lionel Bier.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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

Biographical / Historical

Carol Bier is an historian of Islamic art who is Research Associate at The Textile Museum in Washington, DC, where she served as Curator for Eastern Hemisphere Collections from 1984-2001. Her research focuses on Islamic patterns as intersections of art and mathematics.

Biographical / Historical

The late Lionel D. Bier, art historian and archaeologist, taught art history at Brooklyn College for more than 30 years. He was primarily active in researching the archaeological record of pre- and early-Islamic Iran. Among his noted publications are: *Sarvistan: A Study in Early Iranian Architecture* (1986) and *The Sassanian Palaces and their Influence in Early Islam*, from *Ars Orientalis* (Vol. 23, 1993)

Scope and Contents

Photographs taken by Carol Bier and Lionel Bier, comprising two binders of black and white 35mm negatives and contact sheets as well as a collection of color slides documenting both pre-Islamic and Islamic Iranian architectural monuments, taken 1975-1976. Focus primarily on the Sasanian sites of Fars province, focusing on built monuments, rock reliefs, and rock-cut monuments. Sites include: Firuzabad, Naqshi-Rustam, Naqshi-Rajab, Bishapur, Sarvistan, and Taq-i Bustan. Also includes a small number of ethnographic images by Carol Bier, predominantly of the Qashqai and Mamasani. Some of these images have been used previously in publications by both the authors themselves as well as other scholars.

Arrangement

Negatives: organized in 1 box (1 linear foot)

Local Numbers

FSA A2008.01

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Archaeology -- Iran
Architecture, Sassanid
Qashqā'ī (Turkic people) -- Iran
Sassanians

Cultures:

Qashqā'ī (Turkic people) -- Iran
Sassanians

Types of Materials:

Negatives
Slides (photographs) -- 1950-2000

Geographic Names:

Iran -- Fars
Mamasani (Iran)