



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to Reproduction of Madaba mosaic map

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Reproduction of Madaba mosaic map
Date:	before 1899
Identifier:	NAA.MS281099
Creator:	Unknown
Extent:	1 Map (colored linen paper; 71.25 x 29.5 inches)
Language:	Greek, Ancient (to 1453) .
Container:	Roll 281099

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of S.W. Woodward to the United States National Museum, January 12, 1914. Woodward acquired the map from a bookdealer in Jerusalem in 1899. The map was transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1976.

Preferred Citation

Reproduction of Madaba mosaic map (MS 281099), National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Historical Note

The Madaba mosaic map is part of a floor mosaic in the early Byzantine church of Saint George in Madaba, Jordan. The map depicts part of the Middle East and contains the oldest surviving original cartographic depiction of the Holy Land and especially Jerusalem. It dates to the sixth century CE and was rediscovered in 1884 during the construction of a new Greek Orthodox church.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of a color reproduction on linen of the Madaba mosaic map, made prior to 1899. The map was displayed for many years in Old World Archaeology Hall, United States National Museum.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Publication Note

The map is discussed in detail in I.M. Casanowicz, "Collections of Old World Archeology in the U.S. National Museum," *Smithsonian Annual Report, 1922*, pages 451-52 and "A Colored Drawing of the Medeba Mosaic Map of Palestine in the U. S. National Museum," *Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum*, volume 49, pages 359-76, 1916.

Variant Title

Map of Palestine of Byzantine period with emphasis on places of Biblical importance

Medeba mosaic map

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Archaeology

Types of Materials:

Maps

Works of art

Places:

Jordan

Middle East

Preferred Titles:

Madaba map