



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Alix Naff photographs of Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean and audio tapes on Mediterranean folklore, circa 1957-1972

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Alix Naff photographs of Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean and audio tapes on Mediterranean folklore
Date:	circa 1957-1972
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.2011-02
Creator:	Naff, Alixa, 1919-2013
Extent:	28 Color prints 13 Sound tapes (open reel) 1,500 Slides (circa 1500 black & white and color slides) 300 Prints (circa; silver gelatin) 1 Boxe (35 mm acetate negatives)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Alixa Naff, 1986.

Location of Other Archival Materials

One reel of 8mm film of Zahle, Lebanon was donated with this collection. It has been relocated to the Human Studies Film Archives.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Archives Center, National Museum of American History holds the Faris and Yamna Naff Arab American Collection and several other Naff accessions.

Location of Other Archival Materials

The National Anthropological Archives also holds a 1950 map of Cairo donated by Alixa Naff (MS 7449).

Other Finding Aids

Preliminary inventory available in repository.

Available Formats

Cassette tape copies were made for most of the open reel audio tapes.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 2011-02, Alixa Naff photographs of Europe, the Middle East and the Mediterranean and audio tapes on Mediterranean folklore, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

Negatives are not available for viewing. Some restrictions on open reel audio tapes.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Alix Naff began collecting Arab folklore in 1962 when she visited 16 communities in the U.S. and eastern Canada. After earning her MA and PhD, she taught at California State University, Chico, and at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Naff left academia in 1977 to research and collect material relating to the Arab immigrant experience (particularly Syrian and Lebanese immigrants from the turn of the 20th century). In 1984, with prompting from Richard Ahlborn, curator of the Smithsonian Institution Community Life Division (now the Department of Cultural Affairs), Naff donated her collection of Arab immigrant material. Naff eventually became the archivist of the "Faris and Yamna Naff Arab American Collection", named in honor of her parents, at National Museum of American History Archives Center.

Scope and Contents

Photographs taken by Alixa Naff between 1957 and the early 1970s on trips to England, Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East, and open reel audio tapes of interviews regarding Syrian-Lebanese folklore that Naff conducted in 1965 in the Lebanese Village of Rashaya al-Wadi. Comprising this collection are images of cities, structures, art, people, activities, and scenery, and two folders of Dr. Naff's notes relating to the recorded interviews. Photographic formats include 35mm slides, black and white prints, and 35mm negatives. Naff annotated many of the slide mounts or verso of prints with descriptions and identifications.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 2011-02

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Arabs
- Architecture
- Art
- Folklore
- Language and languages -- Documentation

Cultures:

- Arabs

Types of Materials:

- Audiotapes
- Photographs

Places:

- Egypt

England
Greece
Lebanon
Spain
Syria
Turkey