

Finding aid for the E. G. Rey photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant, 1857-1870 2023.R.29

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Special Collections

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Summary Information

- Repository:** Special Collections
- Title:** E. G. Rey photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant
- ID:** 2023.R.29
- Dates:** 1857-1870
- Extent:** 4 Linear Feet
- Request Materials:** Request access to the physical materials described in this inventory through the [catalog record](#) for this collection. Click here for the [access policy](#).
- Language:** English .
- Abstract:** The collection comprises 42 photographs (32 paper negatives and 10 photographic prints) of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant taken by the French archaeologist, topographer, and amateur photographer, Emmanuel Guillaume Rey during his three expeditions to the Levant between 1857 and 1865. Also present in the collection is a partial dummy of his account of crusader castles in the Levant, *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés* (1871).

Preferred Citation

E. G. Rey photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant, 1857-1870, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, Accession no. 2023.R.29.

<http://hdl.handle.net/10020/archives2023r29>

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Biographical Note

Baron Alban Emmanuel Guillaume Rey (E. G. Rey; born Haute-Marne, Chaumont 1837, died Chartres, 1916), was a French archaeologist, topographer, and amateur photographer with an interest in the Middle East, and the Levant in particular. As a member of various archaeological societies, he undertook three archaeological expeditions to the Levant between 1857 and 1865.

For his first expedition in 1857-1858, undertaken when he was barely 20 years old, Rey focused on the Hauran region (now part of modern-day Syria and northern Jordan), and the Dead Sea. The aims of his second expedition in 1859-1860, during which he was accompanied by the photographer Louis de Clercq, were to explore the topography of the "tribe of Juda" and to search for historical traces of biblical events in Palestine. For his third expedition in 1864-1865, during which he shared a partial itinerary with the French naval officer and photographer Louis Vignes, Rey explored crusader castles in northern Syria.

As a result of his expeditions Rey published a number of books and essays on the history and archaeology of the Levant, including *Voyage dans le Haouran* (1860), an account of his first expedition, and *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés* (1871), a systematic study of crusader fortifications in the Levant.

In 1865, Rey was made a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by the Vatican. The following year, he became a Knight of the Legion of Honor and Foreign Orders as a publicist in charge of missions in the East. During the Franco-Prussian War, Rey was the commanding officer at Eure-et-Loir and camped with his troops at the Château de Lauresse in 1871 which he later purchased when it went up for sale in 1877. Rey donated his collections of antiquities from the Levant to the Louvre and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Chartres.

Sources consulted:

Curinier, C. E. "Rey (Alban-Emmanuel-Guillaume)," *Dictionnaire national des contemporains*. Paris: Office général d'édition, 1889-1906.

Marie de Lombron. "Le Château de Lauresse (ou Loresse)." <https://www.mairie-lombron.fr/notre-commune/patrimoine-architectural/le-chateau-de-lauresse/>

Rey, Emmanuel Guillaume. *Voyage dans le Haouran et aux bords de la Mer Morte: Exécuté pendant les années 1857 et 1858*. Paris: Arthus Bertrand, Libraire-Éditeur, 1861.

_____. *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés en Syrie et dans l'île de Chypre*. Paris: Impr. nationale, 1871.

Terpak, Frances and Hans Pech. "Acquisition Approval Form for "Emmanuel Guillaume Rey (French, 1837-1916), 42 photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant; two related publications and one book dummy by Guillaume Rey, 1857-1871." May 24, 2003.

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Scope and Contents

The collection comprises 42 photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant taken by E. G. Rey during his three expeditions in the Levant during which he focused his photographic lens exclusively

on archaeological architectural remains and artifacts. His resulting images are some of the earliest photographs taken of ancient sites in Syria and Jordan.

The photographs in the collection record 33 distinct structures representing different aspects of ancient and medieval architecture. Included are 32 calotype negatives and ten positive images (seven salt prints and three albumen prints). Seven negatives have corresponding prints, while two prints, one of which has been enhanced with graphite, correspond to an eighth negative.

During the 1850s, the region of Palestine and Syria saw an influx of western photographers, with Auguste Salzmann, Mendel Diness, James Robertson, and Maxime du Camp most notable among them. Only a few of these early photographers, notably du Camp and Salzmann, utilized their cameras in the service of the developing field of archaeology. Whereas Salzmann and du Camp were intellectuals with an interest in ancient sites, Rey was the first archaeologist in the region to make use of the camera.

On his first expedition in 1857-1858, undertaken when he was barely 20 years old, Rey focused on the Hauran region (now part of modern-day Syria and northern Jordan), and the Dead Sea. The first group of Rey's photographs present in the collection includes 14 paper negatives and seven salt prints stemming from this expedition. They document the sites of Phaena (Al-Masmiyah), Kanatha (Qanawat), Athela (Atil), and Bosra, all now in modern-day Syria, as well as Gerasa (Jerash), in modern-day Jordan. Present here are photographs of Greco-Roman sites including temple complexes and panoramas of the sites of the ancient cities of Bosra and Gerasa. Monuments depicted include the Praetorium Temple at Phaena; three temples at Kanatha; the north and south temples at Athela; the Roman baths and nymphaeum at Bosra; and the oval forum, western baths, and colonnaded streets of Gerasa. A photograph depicting a colossal head at Kanatha represents the only photograph of a sculptural fragment found in the group.

The photographs resulting from Rey's first expedition are an important historical marker: they were the first photographs to be taken in eastern Syria, and they were also the first photographs taken by an archaeologist-scholar. With these images Rey not only built on the work of earlier photographers, but established a visual canon for depictions of the region. As late as 1865 scholars of the Holy Land relied on Rey's photographs as a basis for illustrations in their own works: Josiah Leslie Porter's *The Giant Cities of Bashan and Syria's Holy Places* (1865) is one such example.

During the early 1860s, the use of photography in the archaeological exploration of the Levant became more professionalized. The most notable of these projects include the British Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem of 1864-1865 and the ambitious project undertaken by the duc de Luynes to survey and photograph the cities and archaeological sites of the Dead Sea basin during his 1863-1864 expedition. At that time, Rey was in the region executing a commission for the French government, and he met Luynes and his photographer, Louis Vignes, during the course of his work. Rey subsequently shared part of his travel itinerary from Beirut northward with Vignes, and he met his fellow photographer again after the latter's return from Palmyra.

The second group of photographs in the collection comprises 18 paper negatives and three albumen prints from Rey's two later expeditions of 1859-1860 and 1864-1865, with the majority originating from his last journey. The locations depicted in this group are the ancient Greek temple complex at Baetocaece (Hosn Suleiman), and the crusader sites of Tortosa (#ar##s), and Sayhun Castle (Kalaat Sayhun), all located in modern-day Syria, as well as Montfort Castle (Kalaat Kreine), near Haifa, in modern-day Israel. Again, Rey's photographs are among the earliest taken in the region. His images of Baetocaece are the earliest known photographs of the site, as are those of Montfort Castle. While de Clercq, Rey's travel

companion for his second expedition, photographed a number of crusader castles in northern Syria, the only location both men photographed was Tortosa where each photographer captured different aspects of the site.

As a result of his expeditions Rey published a number of books and essays on the history and archaeology of the Levant, including *Voyage dans le Haouran* (1860), his first publication; its text volume comprises a travelogue, while its atlas of 26 plates comprises lithographs of monuments and inscriptions as well as engravings of maps and plans of the Hauran region, Bosra, Jerash, and the Dead Sea. Nine of the photographs in the present collection were translated into lithographs for this volume.

Rey's study of crusader fortifications in the Levant, *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés* (1871), was the result of his later expeditions. The four images of Sayhun Castle and the citadel of Tortosa present in the collection were translated as engravings in this work. Also present in the collection is a partial dummy assembled from several proofs of the publication.

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Arrangement

Arranged in a single series: Series I. E. G. Rey photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant, 1857-1870.

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Administrative Information

Publication Rights

Contact [Library Reproductions and Permissions](#).

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired in 2023.

Processing Information

Beth Ann Guynn processed the collection and wrote the finding aid in 2024.

Existence and Location of Copies

The photographs were digitized by the repository in 2024 and the images are available online: <http://hdl.handle.net/10020/2023r29>

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Controlled Access Headings

Subjects - Topics

- Architecture, Medieval -- Latin Orient
- Military architecture -- Latin Orient
- Temples, Greek -- Syria
- Temples, Roman -- Syria

Subjects - Places

- Jordan -- Antiquities
- Syria -- Antiquities

Genres and Forms of Materials

- Albumen prints -- Syria -- 19th century
- Calotypes (negatives) -- Syria -- 19th century
- Panoramas (visual works) -- Jordan -- 19th century
- Panoramas (visual works) -- Syria -- 19th century
- Photographs, Original
- Salted paper prints -- Jordan -- 19th century
- Salted paper prints -- Syria -- 19th century

Collection Inventory

Series I. E. G. Rey photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant 1857-1869

[Series I. E. G. Rey photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant](#)

Scope and Contents:

The collection comprises 42 photographs of Syria and the coastal regions of the Levant by E. G. Rey. Included are 32 calotype negatives, seven salt prints, and three albumen prints. Ten of the photographic prints each correspond to one of the negatives present in the collection.

Also present is a partial dummy for Rey's study of crusader fortifications in the Levant, *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés* (1871).

Arrangement:

Arranged by expedition and site.

Title/Description	Containers
<p>Rey's first expedition (1857-1858), 1857 or 1858</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> This group comprises 14 calotype negatives and seven salt prints stemming from Rey's journey made during 1857 and 1858 through the Hauran and Dead Sea regions in what is now Syria and northern Jordan. The images included here record the locations of Phaena (Al-Masmiyah), Kanatha (Qanawat), Athela (Atil), and Bosra (Bursa al-Sham), in modern-day Syria, as well as Gerasa (Jerash), in modern-day Jordan.</p>	
<p>Phaena (Al-Masmiyah, Syria)</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Phaena was the name of the Greco-Roman city at what is now Al-Masmiyah, Syria (also known as Elmismya, Musmiyeh, Mesmiyeh, Mismiya, and Musmeih). The Roman temple known as the Praetorium was built between 160 and 169 C.E. and was converted into a church during the Byzantine period.</p>	
<p>2023.R.29-1: [Phaena: Facade of the Praetorium Temple]</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. General view of the entrance wall. Now completely destroyed.</p>	Box 2
<p>2023.R.29-2: [Phaena: Detail of the Facade of the Praetorium Temple Showing the Circular Apse and Niche]</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative.</p>	Box 2
<p>Kanatha (Qanawat, Syria)</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> The Greco-Roman city of Kanatha (Canatha) is now Qanawat, Syria.</p>	
<p>2023.R.29-3: [Colossal Medusa Head from Kanatha]</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. Rey photographed what he identified as a Medusa head almost 20 years before the only other known photograph of the sculpture was taken by Tancredè Dumas, at which point it had been flipped upside down.</p>	Box 2
<p>[Temple of Rabbos, Kanatha]</p> <p><i>Scope and Contents:</i> East-facing Corinthian hexastyle peripteral temple with a double row of six columns on its front, single rows of nine columns on its sides, and a single row of seven columns in the rear. View facing southwest (?).</p>	
<p>2023.R.29-4: Calotype negative</p>	Box 2

2023.R.29-5: Salt print	Box 1
2023.R.29-6: [Kanatha: Temple of Zeus Megistos]	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Corinthian tetrastyle prostyle temple. View facing southeast(?). Reproduced as a lithograph in Rey, <i>Voyage dans le Haouran</i> (1860).	
2023.R.29-6: Calotype negative	Box 2
2023.R.29-7: Salt print	Box 1
2023.R.29-8: [Kanatha: The Seraya Facing South]	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. The temple was built in the second century CE and later became the circa fourth-fifth century Basilica of Es-Serai.	
2023.R.29-9: [Kanatha: The Seraya Facing Southeast]	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative.	
Athela (Atil, Syria)	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> The Roman town of Athela is now Atil, Syria.	
[Athel: South Temple]	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Reproduced as a lithograph in Rey, <i>Voyage dans le Haouran</i> (1860).	
2023.R.29-10: Calotype negative	Box 2
2023.R.29-11: Salt print	Box 1
2023.R.29-12: [Althea: North Temple]	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative.	
2023.R.29-12: Calotype negative	Box 2
2023.R.29-13: Salt print	Box 1
Bosra (Busra al-Sham, Syria)	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Bosra, the capital of the Roman province of Arabia is now Busra al-Sham, Syria.	
[View of Bosra, Facing Northeast from the Southern Baths]	
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Partial panoramic view.	

2023.R.29-14: Calotype negative	Box 2
2023.R.29-15: Salt print	Box 1
2023.R.29-16: [Bosra: Interior of the Mosque of Omar] <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Salt print.	Box 1
Gerasa (Jerash, Jordan) <i>Scope and Contents:</i> The Greco-Roman city of Gerasa or Antioch on the Golden River is now Jerash, Jordan.	
2023.R.29-17: [Gerasa: View of the Oval Roman Forum Facing Northeast] <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative.	Box 2
2023.R.29-18: [Gerasa Partial Panorama of a Colonnaded Street, Facing Southwest] <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. Rey reproduced this negative along with 2023.R.29-19 and 2023.R.29-20 as a lithograph in his <i>Voyage dans le Haouran</i> .	Box 2
Panorama of Gerasa	
2023.R.29-19: [Panorama of Gerasa, Left Side] <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. Left side of a two-part panorama showing a colonnaded street with baths in the foreground, the temple of Artemis, the propylaeum, and the north theater. Rey reproduced this negative along with 2023.R.29-18 and 2023.R.29-20 as a lithograph in his <i>Voyage dans le Haouran</i> .	Box 2
[Panorama of Gerasa - Right Side] <i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. Right side of two-panel panorama facing south-west showing a colonnaded street and city walls. Rey reproduced this negative along with 2023.R.29-18 and 2023.R.29-19 as a lithograph in his <i>Voyage dans le Haouran</i> .	Box 2
2023.R.29-20: Calotype negative	Box 2
2023.R.29-21: Salt print	Box 1

Rey's second (1859-1860) and third (1864-1865) expeditions, between 1859 and 1865

Scope and Contents:

This group comprises 18 calotype negatives and three albumen prints from Rey's two later expeditions (1859-1860 and 1864-1865) with the majority originating from his last journey. The locations depicted are Sayhun or Saladin's Castle (Kalaat Sayhun), the Greek temple complex at Baetocaece (Hosn Suleiman), and the Citadel of Tortosa

(#ar##s), all located in modern-day Syria, as well as Montfort Castle (Kalaat Kreine), near Haifa, in modern-day Israel.

2023.R.29-22: [Sahyun Castle: View of the Southeast Corner]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Also known as the Castle of Saladin (Qal #at #al## al-D#n), located in the Crusader state of the Principality of Antioch near present-day Al-Haffah, Syria.

Citadel of Tortosa (#ar##s, Syria)

Scope and Contents:

Part of the ancient county of Tripoli, the citadel is located in the center of what is now #ar##s, Syria.

2023.R.29-23: [Tortosa: Wall of the Citadel]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Written on border of negative: Tortose. Reproduced as an etching in Rey, *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés en Syrie et dans l'île de Chypre* (1871), figure 22.

2023.R.29-24: [Tortosa: Wall of the Citadel with Houses at Its Base]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Written on border of negative: Tortose. Reproduced as an etching in Rey, *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés en Syrie et dans l'île de Chypre* (1871), figure 23.

2023.R.29-25: [Tortosa: Walls of the Great Hall of the Citadel]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Written on border of negative: Tortose. Reproduced as an etching in Rey, *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés en Syrie et dans l'île de Chypre* (1871), figure 25.

Baetocaece (Hosn Suleiman, Syria)

Scope and Contents:

The sanctuary, built in the second century CE, was dedicated to Zeus in Baetocaece, the genius loci of the area. The site was previously a place where religious rites to the Phoenician god Ba'al were performed.

2023.R.29-26: [Baetocaece: View of the Temple of Zeus Enclosure Facing Southwest]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Numbered in border of negative, recto: 4. Numbered in border of negative, verso: 2.

2023.R.29-27: [Baetocaece: View from inside the Temple of Zeus Enclosure Showing the North Entrance]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Written on border of negative: Hosn-Suleiman.

2023.R.29-28: [Baetocaece: View from inside the Temple of Zeus Enclosure with the North Wall and North Enclosure in Background]	Box 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. Numbered in border of negative: 2.	
[Baetocaece: View from inside the Temple of Zeus Enclosure Showing the East Entrance]	
2023.R.29-29: Calotype negative	Box 3
2023.R.29-30: Albumen print	Box 1
2023.R.29-31: Albumen print enhanced with graphite	Box 1
[Baetocaece: View from outside the Temple of Zeus Enclosure Showing the East Entrance]	
2023.R.29-32: Calotype negative	Box 3
2023.R.29-33: Albumen print	Box 1
2023.R.29-34: [Baetocaece: View from inside the Temple of Zeus Enclosure Showing the East Entrance]	Box 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative	
2023.R.29-35: [Baetocaece: View from outside the Temple of Zeus Enclosure Showing the West Entrance]	Box 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. Numbered in border of negative: 2.	
2023.R.29-36: [Baetocaece: View from outside the North Enclosure of the Zeus Temple Showing the South Entrance]	Box 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative.	
2023.R.29-37: [Baetocaece: View from outside the North Enclosure of the Temple of Zeus Showing its South Entrance and the Temple]	Box 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative.	
2023.R.29-38: [Baetocaece: View from outside the Temple of Zeus Showing the East Wall]	Box 3
<i>Scope and Contents:</i> Calotype negative. Numbered in border of negative: 4.	
2023.R.29-39: [Baetocaece: View from outside the Temple of Zeus Enclosure Showing the North Wall and North Enclosure]	Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative.

2023.R.29-40: [Ruins of a Wall at Baetocaeece]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Numbered in the border of the negative: 2.

2023.R.29-41: [Baetocaeece: View of the Temple of Zeus from outside the Temple Enclosure]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Numbered in border of negative: 3.

2023.R.29-42: [Monfort Castle: View of the Guesthouse]

Box 3

Scope and Contents:

Calotype negative. Written on border of negative: Kreine. Numbered on verso of negative: 4 (also numbered 7?).

Montfort is a Crusader castle located in northern Israel about 22 miles northeast Haifa, Israel and 10 miles south of the border with Lebanon. It was initially built as an isolated administrative and archival center for the order.

Book dummy for *Étude sur les monuments de l'architecture militaire des croisés*, 1869-1870

Box 4

Scope and Contents:

Partial dummy for Rey's study of crusader fortifications in the Levant, the final publication of which included 24 lithographic plates and 60 engraved figures after Rey's photographs, mostly taken during his third expedition.

The dummy is assembled from various proofs comprising the first 208 pages of text (from a total of 288 published pages), several plates, and early states of the figures. Numerous pages bear an Atelier Oriental wet stamp in the upper right corner with proof number and proof dates. Proof numbers and dates are not sequential. Dates for Épreuve 1 are 26 novembre 1869; 3 décembre 1869; 3 mars 1870; 5 mars 1870. Dates for Épreuve 2 are 10 janvier 1870; 18 février 1870; 19 février 1870; 21 février 1870; 25 février 1870; 2 mars 1870; 9 mars 1870; and 15 mars 1870. Dates for Épreuve 3 are 12 février 1870; 19 février 1870; 25 février 1870; and 5 mars 1870.

The working title, corrected on page 1 to reflect the published title, reads: *Étude Archéologique / sur / les forteresses Chrétiennes / de la Syrie et l'île de Chypre / au temps des croisades*. Pages 1-25 are corrected in pen and pencil in two or more hands belonging to Rey and presumably to his editor. Illustrations are pasted into the text throughout. The plates are numbered in pencil; some have printed titles and credits while others are earlier states before letters.

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