Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary 3
Information on Use 3
Access 3
Citation 3
Historical Note 3
Scope Note 3
Related Resources 4
Subject Headings 4
INVENTORY 4
Series I: Locations in the Middle East 4
Series II: Biblical Themes 6
Series III: General Themes 6
Series IV: Books 7
Descriptive Summary

Identifier: ICU.SPCL.UNDERWOOD

Title: Underwood & Underwood. Collection

Date: 1899-1908

Size: 3.25 linear feet (5 boxes)

Repository: Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
1100 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract: Underwood & Underwood, located in Ottawa, Kansas, produced stereoscopes and stereoscopic images, starting in the early 1880’s, and later pioneered the field of news photography. The almost 600 cards in this collection depict mainly scenes from the Middle East. Many of the images are landscapes of biblical or other historical sites. Several of the photographs depict actors reenacting passages from the Bible.

Information on Use

Access: The collection is open for research.

Citation: When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Underwood & Underwood. Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note: Underwood & Underwood, located in Ottawa, Kansas, produced stereoscopes and stereoscopic images, starting in the early 1880’s, and later pioneered the field of news photography.

The Underwood brothers, Elmer (1859-1947) and Bert (1862-1943) began the company by selling stereoscopes door to door. By 1901, they were selling 300,000 stereoscopes a year and producing more than 25,000 cards a day. The company established branches in Baltimore, London, and Canada, and relocated their headquarters to New York City in 1891. They sold a large portion of their catalog to the Keystone View Company in 1920 and unincorporated in the early 1940’s.

Scope Note
The almost 600 cards in this collection depict mainly scenes from the Middle East. Many of the images are landscapes of biblical or other historical sites. Several of the photographs depict actors reenacting passages from the Bible. Bert Underwood personally shot many of the images of Turkey and Greece during the Graeco-Turkish war.

The cards are arranged by subject. Series I, Locations in the Middle East, contains images of landscapes and local people, most of which are mentioned specifically in the bible. Series II, Biblical Themes, provides images of local people and actors dressed in contemporary and historical costumes in order to reenact Biblical stories. Series III, General Themes, contains images of Greece, Rome, and the Syrian Silk Industry. Series IV, Books, consists of two books published by Underwood & Underwood that provide information for many of the cards they produced on Palestine and what they termed, “Bible Lands.” Some of the cards detailed in these publications are in this collection.

**Related Resources**

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html

**Subject Headings**

- Underwood & Underwood
- Stereoscopic views
- Photography

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Locations in the Middle East**

- Box 1
  - Folder 1
    - Jerusalem and Vicinity, 30 cards, 1900
  - Box 1
  - Folder 2
    - Jerusalem Temple and Site, 16 cards, 1900
  - Box 1
  - Folder 3
    - Jerusalem (General), 13 cards, 1900
  - Box 1
  - Folder 4
    - Jerusalem, Church of Holy Sepulcher, 23 cards, 1900
  - Box 1
  - Folder 5
    - Judean Wilderness, 8 cards, 1900
  - Box 1
  - Folder 6
Jericho, 5 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 7
  The Jordan River, 10 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 8
  East Jordan, 10 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 9
  Petra, 16 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 10
  Bethlehem, 5 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 11
  Jaffa, 16 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 12
  Bethel and Vicinity, 2 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 13
  Philistine Plain, 8 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 14
  Dothan and Vicinity, 5 cards, 1900
Box 1
Folder 15
  Sea of Galilee and Neighborhood, 8 cards, 1900
Box 2
Folder 1
  Ebal, Gerizim, and Vicinity, 41 cards, 1900
Box 2
Folder 2
  Plain of Sharon, 8 cards, 1900
Box 2
Folder 3
  Northern Palestine, Syria, and Asia Minor as associated with Paul, 21 cards, 1900
Box 2
Folder 4
  Baalbek, 8 cards, 1900-1903
Box 2
Folder 5
  Plain of Esdraelon, 3 cards, 1900
Box 2
Folder 6
  Tyre, Sidon, and Vicinity, 7 cards, 1900
Box 2
Folder 7
  Beyrout, 4 cards, 1900

Box 2
Folder 8
  The Lebanon, 11 cards, 1900

Box 2
Folder 9
  Mt. Carmel and Vicinity, 4 cards, 1900

Box 2
Folder 10
  Nazareth and Vicinity, 10 cards, 1900

Box 2
Folder 11
  Mt. Tabor and Vicinity, 8 cards, 1900

Box 2
Folder 12
  Jezreel and Vicinity, 6 cards, 1900

Box 2
Folder 13
  Egypt, 17 cards, 1900

Box 3
Folder 1
  Damascus, 19 cards, 1900

Box 3
Folder 2
  Mt. Sinai and Vicinity, 11 cards, 1900

Box 3
Folder 3
  Asia Minor, 30 cards, 1900

Box 3
Folder 4
  The Middle East, 70 cards, 1900

Series II: Biblical Themes

Box 3
Folder 5
  Travel Studies on the Apostolic Heroes, 32 cards, 1900

Box 3
Folder 6
  The Travel Lessons in the Life of Jesus, by William Byron Forbush, 36 cards, 1899-1908

Box 4
Folder 1
  Bible Lands, 50 cards, 1900

Series III: General Themes
Box 4
Folder 2
   Syrian Silk Industry, 17 cards, 1900
Box 4
Folder 3
   Rome, 7 cards, 1900
Box 4
Folder 4
   Greece, 6 cards, 1900

Series IV: Books

Box 4
Folder 5
   Palestine through the Stereoscope, by Hurlbut, Kent, and Underwood & Underwood, 1914
Box 4
Folder 6
   Descriptions of One Hundred and Forty Places in Bible Lands to be seen through the Stereoscope or by means of Stereopticon Slides, by Charles Foster Kent, Underwood & Underwood, 1900
Box 5
Folder 1
   Kent’s Biblical geography and History, Stereography Maps, #2, #, 3, #4, #5