

**Papers of  
George  
Auden**

**Reference:  
DA65**

## Papers of George Auden

DA65

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1916

Records of George Auden's visits to Coptic monasteries in the Wadi Natrun, Sinai, Egypt, in 1916, including two diaries and 67 lantern slides.

George Auden visited four Coptic monasteries in the Wadi Natrun, Sinai, Egypt, in May and July 1916, while he was stationed in Egypt during the First World War. His visits were organized by Mr Hooker, Manager of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, who asked his colleague Mr Paterson, the resident engineer at the salt works, to look after him. He obtained a letter of introduction from the Patriarch of Cairo (who had been at one time the Abbot of one of the monasteries) to the four Abbots of the monasteries he wanted to visit. He visited Dair Anba Bishoi and Dair Suriani on 10 May 1916, Dair Baramus on 11 May 1916, and Dair Makarius on 19 July 1916.

Information taken from the panels from an exhibition about the collection at the University of Birmingham prepared by Meline Nielsen in 2001. The records of this exhibition, which include panels, captions, correspondence, and photographs, are in the deposit file for the collection.

The original records have been arranged in chronological order. Photographs taken from some of the lantern slides, which were produced for an exhibition in 2001, have been listed with the collection. Other records from this exhibition, including research notes, photographs, panels of text, and captions have been filed in the deposit file.

2 manuscript boxes, box of 67 lantern slides.

Open

## Papers of George Auden

Access to all registered readers

Lantern slides

Prints were taken from some of the lantern slides for an exhibition at the University of Birmingham in 2001. These are listed as DA65/2.

Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Director of Special Collections (email: [special-collections@bham.ac.uk](mailto:special-collections@bham.ac.uk)). Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Languages: English and Arabic

Deposited, probably by George Auden, in the Rendel Harris Library, later the Selly Oak Colleges Library. The envelope in which the records were deposited is labelled in George Auden's hand 'To be collected from Rendel Harris Library by Mrs [Janet] Leonard'. Janet Leonard worked for the Selly Oak Colleges Library from 1950-1973 and George Auden died in 1957, so it is likely that the collection was deposited between 1950 and 1957.

The collection was transferred to the Orchard Learning Resources Centre which was opened in 1997 following the merger of the Selly Oak Colleges Library and the Westhill College Library. In 2000, the custodianship of all archive collections held at the Orchard Learning Resources Centre was transferred to the University of Birmingham

For a brief introduction to the collection, see Meline Nielsen 'Auden Trails: from Birmingham to Wadi Natrun', *SCONUL Newsletter* 24 (Winter 2001): 41.

## Papers of George Auden

DA65/1	Diaries and photographs Original order 6 items, 67 lantern slides Open	1916
DA65/1/1	Letter from William Paterson to Mr Hooker  30th April 1916. Letter from William Paterson [Resident Engineer, The Egyptian Salt and Soda Company Ltd] to Mr Hooker [Manager, The Egyptian Salt and Soda Company] saying that 'I will be delighted to have Capt Auden here at any time which will be most convenient for him'.  1 letter Open	1916
DA65/1/2	Diary  8-11 May 1916. George Auden's describes his visits to Dair Suriani, Dair Amba Bishoi, and Dair Baramous.  1 notebook Open	1916
DA65/1/3	Diary  17-20 July 1916. George Auden describes his visit to Dair Makarius.  1 notebook Open	1916
DA65/1/4	The New Testament  Published in London by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Labelled by George Auden 'Dair Anba Bishoi Wadi-el-Natrun May 10 1916'. George Auden notes in his diary (DA65/1/2, p 13) that 'The Abbot gave me an English NT in wh.	1915

## Papers of George Auden

- he wrote in Arabic and Coptic'.  
1 volume  
Open
- DA65/1/5 Notes entitled 'The Four Coptic Monasteries in the Wadi-Natrun 1916' twentieth century  
Note, author unknown, annotated by George Auden, giving more information about his travel in the Wadi-Natrun.  
1 item  
Open
- DA65/1/6 Envelope twentieth century  
The collection was deposited in this envelope. It is labelled by George Auden 'To be called for by Mrs Leonard. Rendel-Harris Library'.  
1 envelope  
Open
- DA65/1/7 Lantern slides showing monasteries and scenery in the Wadi Natrun, Egypt 1916  
Taken by George Auden. The box is labelled 'Coptic Monasteries in the Wadi Natrun, Libyan desert, July 1916 & 17'.  
3 boxes; 66 lantern slides  
Open
- DA65/2 Images from lantern slides 1916  
The images were made in 2001 for an exhibition about the collection. Titles are taken from George Auden's captions on the lantern slides.  
Photos of each monastery have been grouped together. The rest of the records of the exhibition are in the deposit file for the collection.

## Papers of George Auden

- 24 items
- Open
- DA65/2/1 'Brother George after groceries for Dair Suriani' 1916
- 2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item
- Open
- photograph
- DA65/2/2 'Dair Suriani Entrance' 1916
- 2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item
- Open
- DA65/2/3 'Brother Matthew of Dair Suriani' 1916
- 2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item
- Open
- DA65/2/4 'Suriani looking south. Aubar Bishoi in distance' 1916
- 2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item
- Open
- DA65/2/5 'Dair Suriani Corn Mill' 1916
- 2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item
- Open
- DA65/2/6 'Abbot of Dair Suriani seen behind' 1916
- 2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.

## Papers of George Auden

- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/7 'Anbar-Bishoi Blind Monks. Abbots standing writing Braille' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/8 'Anbar Bishoi - guest houses' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/9 'Ahd al-Messiah, Librarian-Scholar of Dair Baramus' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/10 'Dair Baramus - Entrance. Tower of refuge' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/11 'Dair Baramus looking south' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/12 'Dair Baramus. Entrance to ancient church' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.

## Papers of George Auden

- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/13 'Dair Makarius - general view from Top of Keep' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide. The full caption reads 'Dair Makarius - general view from Top of Keep showing cells, walls, and ruined monasteries beyond'
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/14 'Ruined Monastery near Dair Makarius' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/15 'Dair Makarius - well 500 yards from monastery' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/16 'Dair Makarius - numerous ruins of buildings from NW' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/17 'Dair Makarius - well in foreground' 1916  
2001 print from 1916 lantern slide.
- 1 item  
Open
- DA65/2/18 'Dair Makarius - church of al-Shiukh, Detached Bell Tower' 1916



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	2001 print from 1916 lantern slide. 1 item Open	
DA65/2/19	'Door Keeper Dair Makarius w key. Church of St. M. behind'	1916
	2001 print from 1916 lantern slide. 1 item Open	
DA65/2/20	'Wadi Natrun - Sheik Salama Tomb'	1916
	2001 print from 1916 lantern slide. 1 item Open	
DA65/2/21	'Wadi Natrun - Salt desert'	1916
	2001 print from 1916 lantern slide. 1 item Open	
DA65/2/22	'Camels barracked for night in desert'	1916
	2001 print from 1916 lantern slide. 1 item Open	
DA65/2/23	'Brother Peter, the Russian Monk'	1916
	2001 print from 1916 lantern slide. 1 item Open	

## Papers of George Auden

DA65/2/24

'Letter from Patriarch of Cairo'

1916

Letter of introduction written by the Patriarch of Cairo for George Auden. Image probably taken from a lantern slide.

1 item

Open

Arabic