

Mary Custis Lee scrapbooks

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1878 March-June, 1882

Title Statement

Mary Custis Lee scrapbooksMary Custis Lee scrapbooks WLU.Coll.0576

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0576

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/1158

Unit Date

1878 March-June, 1882

Language

English .

Creator

Lee, Mary Custis

Extent

3.0 Linear Feet 3 flat boxes

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mary Custis Lee

Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

Mary Custis Lee (1835-1918) was the eldest daughter of Mary Anna Randolph Custis and Robert E. Lee. Her family and friends described her as outspoken, formidable, and independent. She loved adventure. She began traveling abroad in the 1870s. After 1905, she lived for several years in southern France, Italy, Egypt, and Germany. She returned to Washington, DC in 1914 before returning to Lexington, Va. During this time, she gave a number of her travel souvenirs to Washington and Lee University. In 1918, she traveled to Hot Springs, Va. to take residence at the Homestead Hotel. She died there in November of that year. By the time of her death, she'd visited more than 26 different countries.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of two souvenir photograph scrapbooks and two botanical specimen scrapbooks compiled by Mary Custis Lee in 1878 and 1882. The photograph scrapbooks contain souvenir images adhered to and described by Lee inside scrapbooks. The photographs are from her travels to Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Sicily, Israel, and Jordan in 1878. The images include people and places. The botanical specimen scrapbooks were compiled during Lee's visit to the British Isles in 1878 and 1882.

Keywords

Women--travel--Greece

Women--Travel--Turkey

Women--Travel--Egypt

Women--Travel--Israel

Women--Travel--Jordan

Women--Travel--Sicily

Botanical specimens -- Collection and preservation

Description of Subordinate Components

Travel photographs scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/22794

Unit Date 1878 March-April

Mixed Materials [35101013591933] 1 (box)

Scope and Contents

The album contains souvenir images purchased by Lee during her travels to Egypt, Israel, and Jordan between March-April 1878. The photographs were adhered to, dated, and described in the album by Lee. Images are of people and places within each county, including Cairo, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Damascus.

Travel photographs scrapbook

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/22793

Unit Date 1878 May-June

Mixed Materials [35101013592170] 2 (box)

Scope and Contents

This album contains images from Lee's travels to Turkey, Greece, and Sicily between May-June 1878. The images were adhered to, dated, and described in this album by Lee. The second page is inscribed "Mary Lee Custis - Her Book." The images include Turkish men and women, locations within Rhodes, Smyrna, Istanbul, the Bosphorus Strait, a Turkish cemetery, Hagia Sophia mosque, a whirling dervish, the Blue Mosque (mosque of Sultan Ahmed), the English cemetery in Scutari, ancient ruins in Athens and other Greek locations, and famous sites in Sicily, including cathedrals and the Capuchin catacombs/crypt.

Botanical specimens scrapbooks**Unit ID** /repositories/5/archival_objects/22795**Unit Date** 1878, 1882**Mixed Materials [35101013591701]** 3 (box)**Scope and Contents**

Two scrapbooks of botanical specimens compiled and kept by Mary Custis Lee in 1878 and 1882. The specimens in the 1878 scrapbook were collected during Lee's trip to England and Scotland. Lee listed the location each specimen was taken from and the date. The 1882 album also includes specimens collection from the British Isles. Most of these lack the location and date. Lee wrote a note on December 17, 1917 which attempts to transcribe her 1882 inscription and includes a postscript.