



Cities, Citadels, and Sights of the Near East: Francis Bedford's Nineteenth-Century Photographs of Egypt, the Levant, and Constantinople

Sophie Gordon, Badr El Hage

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In 1862, the Prince of Wales, eldest son of Britain's Queen Victoria, embarked on a grand tour of the Middle East, for his education and enlightenment. Accompanying the royal party was Francis Bedford, an accomplished practitioner of the still young art of photography, charged with taking views of the cities and historic places visited on the tour for the royal album. The result is an extraordinary collection of some of the best early photographs of Cairo and the temples of Upper Egypt, Jerusalem and the Holy Land, Lebanon and Damascus, Izmir and Constantinople. From timeless views of the Pyramids, the Dome of the Rock, Baalbek, and Hagia Sophia to scenes from another age of the streets of Cairo or tall ships on the Bosphorus, 120 of Bedford's most outstanding photographs are showcased here in this fascinating visual tour of ancient lands in royal company.

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