

Clarence S. Fisher Dra-Abu-el-Naga Expedition records

1012

Finding aid prepared by Jody Rodgers.

Last updated on March 01, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

8/10/2016

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Penn Museum Archives
Creator	Fisher, Clarence Stanley, 1876-1941
Title	Clarence S. Fisher Dra-Abu-el-Naga Expedition records
Call number	1012
Date [inclusive]	1921-1923
Extent	4 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	The Clarence S. Fisher Dra-Abu-el-Naga expedition records consist of one archival box, five card file boxes, two bound photo registers, plans and drawings. Fisher's records from this site are almost all tomb related. In addition to extensive field notes, related lists, some financial records, photographs and drawings and a limited publication folder complete the series organization.

Biography/History

Clarence S. Fisher was born in Philadelphia in 1876 and attended the University of Pennsylvania, attaining a degree in architecture in 1897 but devoted his entire life to archaeology. His first archaeology field experience was as the architect for the initial Babylonian expedition to Nippur from 1898 to 1900. This was followed by a research fellowship in Babylonian archaeology at the University Museum. Fisher also worked as an assistant to Harvard Archaeologist, George Andrew Reisner in Egypt and Samaria.

From Reisner, Fisher learned archaeological techniques and methods of meticulous record keeping that he would use in his later work. From his architectural background Fisher brought a special orientation to architectural recording and history. Fisher believed that "a corpus of all existing Egyptian archaeological material" should be prepared, being made useful for ready reference by means of card index systems. Publication of his findings was clearly not his major intent.

Fisher was appointed a curator of the Egyptian section of the University of Pennsylvania Museum by George B. Gordon in 1914. He spent the next nine years in the field collecting data in Denderah, Giza, Memphis, and Dra Abu el-Naga. Fisher's expedition to the cemetery at Denderah re-worked a site that had been explored by Charles H. Rosher and W.M. Flinders Petrie, producing more precise data and a wealth of objects from the burial sites. Fisher's time at Dra-Abu-Naga, located on the west bank of the Nile River at Thebes spanned 1921 to 1923. Here he excavated the inscribed and decorated tombs of some of Egypt's highest officials of the period ca. 1320-1085 B.C..

Fisher received an Honorary ScD. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1924, in recognition of his discoveries. Unfortunately, Fisher preferred discovery to publication and his only contribution to the literature was a report on a minor cemetery at Giza in 1924 noted to be thorough but not a major contribution to the archaeological corpus.

Fisher's love of field work made his presence at the Museum infrequent and an argument with George Byron Gordon regarding Fisher's choice of an assistant resulted in his resignation from the Museum in 1925. Fisher then traveled to Jerusalem where he served as Professor of Archaeology at the American School.

Fisher worked tirelessly, often at two sites at the same time, affecting his health. During the excavation at Denderah, Fisher also toiled at the Giza and Memphis sites. After his resignation from the museum Fisher served as scientific advisor for the first year of the Elihu Grant Beth Shemesh expedition sponsored by Haverford College in 1928.

Fisher was known for his war efforts, working in Egypt on behalf of Near East Relief during World War I and as a representative of the Lutheran Church of America and the YMCA during World War II. In 1939, Fisher was the moving spirit in founding the Dar el-Awlad Home for Children. He was also a member of the Directorate of the German(Schneller)Orphanage during WWII.

Clarence S. Fisher died in Jerusalem in 1941, while serving as the Administrative Director of the American School of Oriental Research. He is buried at the Protestant Cemetery on Mt. Zion. Much of Fisher's data was recovered later but has never been published.

Scope and Contents

Clarence S. Fisher was born in Philadelphia in 1876 and attended the University of Pennsylvania, attaining a degree in architecture in 1897 but he devoted his entire life to archaeology. His first archaeology field experience was as the architect for the initial Babylonian expedition to Nippur from 1898 to 1900. This was followed by a research fellowship in Babylonian archaeology at the University Museum. Fisher also worked as an assistant to Harvard Archaeologist, George Andrew Reisner in Egypt and Samaria. From Reisner, Fisher learned archaeological techniques and the methods of meticulous record keeping that he would use in his later work. From his architectural background Fisher brought a special orientation to architectural recording and history.

The Clarence S. Fisher Dra-Abu-el-Naga expedition records consist of one archival box, five card file boxes, two bound photo registers plans and drawings. Fisher's records from this site are almost all tomb

related. In addition to extensive field notes, related lists, some financial records, photographs, plans and drawings and a limited publication folder complete the series organization. This organization was imposed at processing.

The field notes are meticulously organized under Fisher's system. He provides keys to the system filed with the data or in the lists folder. These include color coding within the card notes. Only minor regrouping was required when notes were clearly not conforming to his order or misfiled. One group of miscellaneous notes are contained in a folder and not with the card files. As these did not appear to fit the existing system, they were left as found.

Some of the material is fragile and on the verge of disintegration. whenever possible these items were encased in mylar and/or placed in envelopes for protection.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

8/10/2016

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Controlled Access Headings

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Egypt

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Baker, Mary Louise, b. 1872-d. 1962
- Fisher, Clarence Stanley, 1876-1941
- Yousef, A.

SUBJECT(S)

- Archaeology--Architecture, ancient--Pyramids
- Archaeology--Burials

Collection Inventory

FINANCIAL.

FIELD NOTES.

	Box
Diary 1922 (Nov.-Dec.).	1
Levels books.	1
Lists-Tomb, cones and clearance.	1
Tomb 2.	1
Tombs 14-16.	1
Tombs 35, 77.	1
Tombs 157-158.	1
Tombs 282-284.	1
Tombs 285, 288.	1
Tombs 302-307.	1
Tombs-CN II group.	1

Tombs-Upper cemetery group.	1
Miscellaneous tombs-notes.	1
Inscriptions.	1
Field note cards.	2
	Box
Field drawings (17 small, white envelopes).	2
Inscriptions.	2
Tomb cards (with color coding).	2, 3, 4
Object cards (2 envelopes).	5
Architectural terms (1 envelope).	5
Plates for DAN volume (2 envelopes).	5
Find cards by type.	5
Inscription cards.	5
Personal name cards.	5

OBJECT LISTS.

	Box
Object lists #50-89.	1

List of Acquisitions.	1
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Distribution list-Cairo Museum.	1
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PUBLICATION.

Box

Museum Journal Mss.	1
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PHOTOGRAPHS.

Box

Register of Photographs-Series "A" and "C".	1
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PLANS AND DRAWINGS.

Box

List of Cemetery drawings.	1
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Miscellaneous drawings.	1
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Box

Thebes-"Back right Brickwall 184" and "Pits South of Brick Tombs". Pencil on Linen. By	M-15-1
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"H. A."

Thebes "Tomb 283, Court". Pencil on Linen. Scale 1/5. By C. S. F [Clarence S. Fisher]. M-15-1

"DAN 83" Watercolor of wall paintings-. M-15-2

"DAN 81". Tomb 287. 2 Watercolors. West Door, South Side. By "D. G." East Wall. Owner's wife. By "D. G.". M-15-2

"DAN 283, Sheet 79". 2 Watercolors. Scale 1:1 "Tomb 2, detail of wall found in forecourt.". M-15-2

"DAN 283, Sheet 78". Tomb 2. 8 Watercolors. Scale 1:1. M-15-2

"Tomb 159, Sheet 74" and "DAN Tomb 159 South Wall East Half". Watercolor Dated: "3-3-1923". by A. Yousef. Scale 1:1. M-15-2

"DAN Tomb 159, Ceiling Sheet 2". I.D. #73 Watercolor Dated:"8-3-1923" By A.Yousef Scale 1:1. M-15-2

"DAN 159, Ceiling No. 1". I.D. #72 Watercolor Dated: "6-3-23". M-15-2

"DAN 82". Scale 1:1. By A. Yousef. M-15-2

"Tomb 159 (A)". By M. L. Baker. Watercolor On Back: "Copied by M.L. Baker. Apr. 1924 from a drawing by A. Yousef 1923 For Journal _____". M-15-2

"Wall Painting in Tomb Near Thebes XVIII Dynasty". Watercolor by M. L. Baker. Dated: "Apr. 1924". M-15-2

"South Wall, East Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #58 Watercolor A. Yousef. M-15-3

"South Wall, West Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #59.\ Watercolor A. Yousef. M-15-3

"West Wall, North Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #63 Watercolor A. Yousef. M-15-3

"West Wall, South Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #61 Watercolor A. Yousef. M-15-3

"South Wall, East Half". DAN 286. I.D. #55 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"South Wall, East Half". DAN 285. Watercolor a. Yousef Scale 1:1. Dated:" 24-2-23". I.D. #50.	M-15-3
"North Wall, West Side". Tomb 286 Watercolor A. Yousef Dated: "15-12-1922". I.D. #53.	M-15-3
[Ceiling patterns]. Tomb 286. I.D. #56 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"East Wall, North Half". Tomb 286. Watercolor A. Yousef Scale 1:2. Dated: "4-12-1922". I.D.# 54.	M-15-3
"West Wall, South Half". Tomb 286 Watercolor A. Yousef Scale 1:2. I.D. #52.	M-15-3
"South Wall, East Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #57 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"South Wall, West Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #60 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"North Wall, West Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #64 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"North Wall, East Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #66 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"North Wall, East Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #67 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"North Wall, West Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #65 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"West Wall, Middle". Tomb 289. I.D. #62. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"East Wall, North Half". Tomb 289. I.D. #68 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"South Wall, East Half". Tomb 35. Dated: "12-3-1923". I.D. #70 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-3
"South Wall, East Half" and "Mesagret, Head Woman of the Harem of the god Amun". Watercolor A. Youaef.	M-15-3
Tomb 35. On Reverse: "Restoration, Original by A. Yousef 1923. This copy by M. L. Baker. April-1924 for The Museum Journal".	M-15-3

Details of ceiling. DAN 306 Date: "22-2-23". 3 watercolors. I.D. #24. "North -West Half"; "North -West Half"; "North -East Half".	M-15-4
Restoration of wall painting. Tomb 305. On Reverse: Copied by M. L. Baker Apr. 1925 from drawing by A. Yousef - 1923.	M-15-4
"North Wall, West Half". Tomb 306. Dated: "8-2-23". I.D. #27 watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-4
DAN 306. 2 watercolors. Full size. Dated: "22-2-23"; North-East Half "Details of ceiling"; East-South Half "Ceiling 1st room".	M-15-4
DAN 306. Watercolors. Details of ceiling, room 1. Full Size. S.-East Half and South -West Half.	M-15-4
"South Wall, West Half". DAN 305. Watercolor A. Yousef Dated: "14-2-23". I.D.# 11.	M-15-4
"South Wall, West Half". DAN 305 Watercolor A. Yousef Dated: "1-2-23". I.D. #12.	M-15-4
"North Wall, West Half". DAN 305. Dated: "20-2-23". I.D. #10 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-4
"North Wall, East Half". DAN 306. Dated: "20-1-23". I.D. #12 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-4
"East Wall, South Half". DAN 306. I.D. #19 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-4
"East Wall, South Half". DAN 306. I.D. #19 Watercolor A., Yousef.	M-15-4
"West Wall, South Half". Tomb 306. Dated: "9-2-23". I.D. #25 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-4
"West Wall, North Half". Tomb 306. Dated: "9-2-23". I.D. #2 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-4
Tomb 306. Key plan of ceiling. Watercolor A. Yousef Scale 1:5.	M-15-4
"North Wall, West Half". Tomb 305. Dated: "18-2-23". I.D. #9 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-4
"North Wall, East Half". Tomb 284. ID# 43 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"North Wall, East Half/ North Wall West Half" and "Mandara No 392" ID# 36. Full size.	M-15-5

Dated: "4-1-1923".

"East Wall, South Half Rm 2". Dated: "2-2-23". ID# 30 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
Tomb 283. "Court" and "Column". Scale 1:5. ID# 40 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"East Wall, West Half". Tomb 284. Dated: "28-2-23". ID# 45. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"North Wall, East Half". Tomb 284. Dated: "9-3-23". ID# 44 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
Tomb 284. ID#4 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
Tomb 284. ID# 48. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
Tomb 284. ID# 46 Watercolorv A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"South Wall, West Half". Tomb 307. Dated: "14-1-23". ID# 32 Watercolor. A Yousef.	M-15-5
"South Wall, East Half Rm 2". Tomb 306. Dated: "31-1-1923". ID# 31 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"East Wall, North Half Rm 2". Tomb 306. ID# 29 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"West Wall, South Half". Tomb 307. Dated: "19-1-23". ID# 33Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"West Wall, North Half". Tomb 302. ID# 35 Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-5
"South Wall, West Half". Tomb 284. Watercolor A. YousefScale 1:2. Dated: "27-12-1922. ID# 41.	M-15-5
"Sheet 86 (78)". Unspecified wall painting, Watercolor Scale 1:10 A. Yousef.	M-15-6
Tomb 286. Scale 1:2. ID# 58 A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"West wall near north corner" and "Sheet 84". Tomb 19. Scale 1:1. ID# 84 A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet 4". Floor/site plan. Tomb 158. ID# 91 A. Yousef.	M-15-6

"Sheet 80". Floor/site plan. Tomb 283. Scale 1:50. ID# 80. A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet no. 87". Floor/site plan. Tomb 282. Scale 1:50. A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet No. 2". Floor/site plan. Tomb 283. Scale 1:50. ID# 88 A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet No 3". Tombs: 35, 160, 284, 285, 288, 289, 304. ID# 89. Floor/site plan. A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet 4". Site plan. Tombs: 158, 159, 286-289, 300, 301,303-305. ID# 90 A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Dra Abu el Negga (sic) -Tombs" Floor/site plans. A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet 5". Tombs 156-157. Floor/site plans. ID# 92. A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet 6".Tomb 157, etc. Floor/site plans. ID# 93. A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet 94" and "Upper cemetery=upper terrace". Scale 1:200. "DAN-Keysheet A. Yousef.	M-15-6
"Sheet 8" and "Colu[mn] E1" Plan. Scale 1:5. Pencil on Paper.	M-15-7
"DAN Lower Cemetery, Sheet 1". Site Plan. Scale 1:50. Ink on Paper.	M-15-7
"DAN Lower Cemetery, Sheet 2". Site Plan. Scale 1:50. Ink on Paper.	M-15-7
"DAN Lower Cemetery, Sheet 3". Site Plan. Scale 1:50. Ink on Paper.	M-15-7
"Sheet 34". Mandara --Plan. Scale 1:50. ID# 34. Ink on Paper.	M-15-7
DAN Site Plan. Unspecified. No Scale. Showing Tombs #: 80, 81, 82, 84, 89.	M-15-7
"Temple of Amenhotep". By A. Yousef. Dated 2/23. Ink on Paper. ID# 6.	M-15-7
"Temple of Amenhotep". By A. Yousef. Dated 28/2/1923. ID# 7. Ink on Paper.	M-15-7
Watercolor--Unspecified.	M-15-8
"DAN Pyra[mid] 5". Plan. Scale 1:50. Pencil on Linen.	M-15-8

Tomb "156". Plan. Pencil on Linen. No scale.	M-15-8
DAN "Brickwork". Line Drawing. Pencil on Linen. Tombs: 288, 282.	M-15-8
Tomb 286, 11. "Doorway, East Half Jamb". ID# 51. Watercolor. By A. Yousef. Scale 1:3.	M-15-8
Two Plan- DAN 282 "Court, West Wall Leveling System". Ink on Paper. No Scale and Tomb 283. "Court, Column Bases". Pencil on Paper.	M-15-8
"Southern Temple of Rameses II". Printed Reproduction. Encapsulated.	M-15-8
"Sheet C-3" and "The Theban Necropolis, 1926". Printed Reproduction on Cloth-Back Paper. Scale 1:1,000.	M-15-8
"Sheet E-2". [Information As Above].	M-15-8
"Sheet F-1". [Information As Above].	M-15-8
"Sheet F-2". [Info. As Above].	M-15-8
"Sheet E-1". [Info. As Above].	M-15-8
"Sheet D-6". [Info. As Above]. Ink on Linen.	M-15-8
"South Wall, East Half". Tomb 306 Room 1. I.D. #20. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9
"West Wall, North Half". Tomb 306 Room 1. I.D. #15. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9
"West Wall, North Half". Tomb 306 Room 1. Dated 28-1-23 I.D. #14. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9
"East Wall, North Half". Tomb 302 Sheet 2. I.D. #38. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9
"East Wall, North Half". Tomb 302 Sheet 1. I.D. #37. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9
"North Wall, West Half". Tomb 284 I.D. #42. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9

"North Wall, East Half". Tomb 285 I.D. #49. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9
"South Wall, West Half". Tomb 306 Room 1. Dated 29-1-23. I.D. #13. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9
"North Wall, West Half". Tomb 306 Room 1. Dated 17-1-1923 I.D. #16. Watercolor A. Yousef.	M-15-9