

Basic Detail Report



Dahabiyeh at Luxor

Date

late 19th century (printed 1992)

Primary Maker

Antonio Beato

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

This unsigned plate is attributed to Antonio Beato. The dahabiyeh, a “house barge,” was recommended to Baedeker’s Egypt guide as late as 1929 as the perfect accommodation for “travelers to whom independence of action and economy of time are more important than economy of money.” The vessels rode low in the water, with passenger rooms, a dining salon, a library, and even a piano, located aft. The raised deck was reserved for the use of passengers, and the lower deck was frequented by the crew of the craft. Dahabiyehs were slow-traveling vessels, and men and animals had often to tow them against the current of the Nile. As temperatures rose in the spring, the demand for the boats decreased, and most of the crews returned to summer farming until autumn again brought the return of tourists.

Dimensions

Sight: 9 1/2 x 12 in. (24.1 x 30.5 cm) Mat: 16 x 20 in. (40.6 x 50.8 cm)