

Series 2, Diaries, 1874-1924

Extent: 5 diaries, 25 associated enclosures

The series consists of handwritten travel diaries created and compiled by Isabella Stewart Gardner, an address book from an 1895 visit to Rome, and a daybook of notes and lists related to the museum, 1903-1924, written by both Isabella Stewart Gardner and first Museum director Morris Carter. The diaries describe travel, transportation, and daily activities of the places visited; the people, cultures, and monuments encountered from Gardner's 1874-1875 trip through the Middle East to Paris, France; and her 1883-1884 trip through East and Southeast Asia to Venice, Italy. A volume from Egypt, December 1874-April 1875, is a hybrid travel album/diary which contains handwritten descriptions, photographs, and watercolors by Isabella Stewart Gardner as well as pencil drawings and a photograph by her husband, John L. Gardner.

The institutional daybook, titled *Diary of Activities at Fenway Court "Tagebuch" 1903-1924*, contains notes and lists by Isabella Stewart Gardner including an untitled list of guests, wine, and silver possibly related to the museum's opening gala held January 1, 1903, as well as notes on guests and donations to a charity event for survivors of the Messina, Italy earthquake in 1908, and a lecture by Mary Berenson on Italian art at the museum in 1909. The diary also contains Morris Carter's chronicle of the last years of Isabella Stewart Gardner's life (1920-1924), including museum activities, notes about Gardner sitting for John Singer Sargent's portrait *Mrs. Gardner in White*, 1922 (P11e13), music, theater, and dance performances held for her in the Tapestry Room, social calls, and art purchases as well as information about running the household. The diary also includes a detailed account of Gardner's final illness and death.

Associated enclosures originally found loosely inserted within the diaries include newspaper clippings, photographic prints, calling cards, and textual ephemera. Removals are listed beneath each volume sequentially in the order that they were found, if known.

All materials in this series are fully transcribed and digitized. Diaries were shelved in the Vatchino gallery until the late 1960's. Arranged chronologically.

Box 11

Gardner, Isabella Stewart, Travel Diary: Egypt, the Holy Land, and Europe, 1875, Handwritten ink and graphite on paper in a leather binding, with 14 pressed flowers and leaves and an albumen print [ARC.009112](#)

Gardner, Isabella Stewart, Travel Diary: Asia, Egypt, and Italy, 1883 - 1884, Handwritten ink and graphite on paper in a leather binding with gilded edges [ARC.009111](#)

Gardner, Isabella Stewart, Address Book and Appointment Calendar, 1895, Handwritten and printed ink on paper in a leather binding with gilded borders [ARC.009113](#)

Box 12

Gardner, Isabella Stewart, Travel Album: Egypt and Sudan, 1874-1875, Bound album including collected photographs, found papers, original watercolors, and pen and ink writings [v.1.a.4.2](#)

Box 42	Francis Frith, Old House and Masharabeh, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 16)	ARC.011138
Box 42	Isabella Stewart Gardner, Notes on Hieroglyphs, 1874-1875, Ink on paper (page 47)	ARC.010150
Box 42	Isabella Stewart Gardner, Notes on Hieroglyphs, 1874-1875, Ink on paper (page 47)	ARC.010151
Box 42	Unknown, Three Women By a Tree, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 49)	ARC.011143
Box 42	Unknown, The Dahabiya "Ibis" on the Shore, Egypt, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 53)	ARC.011152
Box 42	Unknown, Tiles, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 54)	ARC.011142
Box 42	Unknown, Citadel Street, Cairo, late 19th century, Albumen print (page 55)	ARC.011144
Box 42	Unknown, Interior of a Private Home, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 56)	ARC.011145

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Box 42	Unknown, Interior of a Private Home, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 56)	ARC.011146
Box 42	Unknown, Desert Landscape with Oasis, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 58)	ARC.011155
Box 42	Unknown, The Mohamed Ali Palace in Shubra, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 59)	ARC.011154
Box 42	Unknown, Ports Along the Suez Canal, Egypt, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 60)	ARC.011153
Box 42	Unknown, Arabic Script, 1874-1875, Ink on paper (page 61)	ARC.011226
Box 42	Unknown, Tomb of the Sons of Ramesses II, late 19th century, Albumen print (page 62)	ARC.011140
Box 42	Isabella Stewart Gardner, Sketch of Egyptian Deities, 1874-1875, Ink and pencil on paper (page 63)	ARC.011076
Box 42	Antonio Beato, Tomb of the Sons of Ramesses II, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 63)	ARC.011141
Box 42	Francis Frith, Golden Gate, Jerusalem, 1874-1875, Albumen print (page 64)	ARC.011139
Box 42	Isabella Stewart Gardner, Blotting Paper, 1874-1875, Ink on paper	ARC.011113
Box 42	Unknown, Photograph Fragments, 1874-1875	ARC.011137
Box 42	Pascal Sébah, Sphinx Armachis, 1874-1875, Albumen print	ARC.011147
Box 42	Unknown, Relief at Karnak, 1874-1875, Albumen print	ARC.011148
Box 42	Pascal Sébah, Abu Simbel, 1874-1875, Albumen print	ARC.011149
Box 42	Pascal Sébah, Ramesseum, Temple of Ramesses II, 1874-1875, Albumen print	ARC.011150
Box 42	Unknown, Granite Sanctuary at Karnak, 1874-1875, Albumen print	ARC.011151

Box 67

Gardner, Isabella Stewart, Diary of Activities at Fenway Court, 1903-1924, Ink and pencil on paper in gold embossed leather binding		ARC.009107
Box 83	E. Waldo Reed, Letter to Isabella Stewart Gardner from Boston, 28 August 1923, Typewritten and printed ink on paper	ARC.005125