

EDITH MARS R10930

Christie's South Kensington Album

Acc. No. 1988-045

Album 2: Scrapbook

b/c 2001446084

This album was purchased at the Christie's South Kensington sale, 30 April 1987, lot 242-2. As evident by the inscription on the front page of the album, it belonged to Edith Mars, of 15 Onslow Square, South Kensington in London, England. The album is dated 18th August 1880. Besides this scant information, there is very little else to note about Edith Mars.

The album consists of 29 gelatine prints. Generally one photograph is attached to a sheet. The majority of the photographs include individual titles and series numbers in the negatives. Such items were executed by George Washington Wilson, a pioneering Scottish photographer.

Wilson began his professional life as an artist, having studied art in both Edinburgh and Paris, but became fascinated by the new Calotypes. By 1849 he had returned to Aberdeen and began to build a photographic camera for the purpose of taking photographic portraits. Within just seven years of constructing his own equipment his mastery of the wet Collodion technique was such that he was easily the best photographer in the whole of Scotland.

Not satisfied in taking studio portraits (even though Queen Victoria had been one of his photographic subjects in 1855), Wilson constructed a portable darkroom and toured extensively, always taking more photographs to add to his collection for later publication as post cards. His travels took him as far as South Africa and Australia. A vast quantity of Wilson's original plates exists to this day.

The album contains photographs of various views of Scotland including Jedburgh and Melrose Abbeys and Abbotsford House (home of Sir Walter Scott) and the Eildon Hills by GW Wilson. There are also images depicting a view of a house in Hobart Town, Tasmania in Australia and Trinity College, Cambridge.

Additionally the album contains a significant number of shots of Newfoundland including St. John's, Quidi-Vidi, Topsail and Cape Spear.

Although, there are 2 photographs with captions "Bermuda", the images cannot possible be of Bermuda but rather depict forests in Canada. Perhaps Edith Mars was mistaken or the caption may have another meaning that was only evident to the compiler of the album.

The album contains:

Page	Caption	Photographer	Series #
p.1	Woman in traditional Chinese dress (b/w photo, hand-coloured) + 4 photos of traditional Chinese prints		
p.2	Jedburgh Abbey, Roxburghshire, Scotland	GW Wilson	440

p.3	View of Jedburgh Abbey from S.E.	GW Wilson	435
p.4	Jedburgh Abbey, Allarly Well Field	GW Wilson	1948
p.5	Jedburgh Abbey, Arches in Nave, from North	GW Wilson	1949
p.6	Melrose Abbey, North Transept and Chancel	GW Wilson	413
p.7	Melrose Abbey, Remains of Cloisters	GW Wilson	411
p.8	Melrose Abbey, from S.E.	GW Wilson	407
p.9	Melrose Abbey, the Chancel	GW Wilson	409
p.10	Melrose Abbey, from S.W.	GW Wilson	69
p.11	Hobart Town, Tasmania, Australia (a stately mansion atop a hill),		
p.12	Abbotsford House (home of Sir Walter Scott) and the Eildon Hills, Scotland	GW Wilson	1120
p.13	Trinity College, Cambridge		
p.14	St. John's, Newfoundland		
p.15	Quidi-Vidi, Newfoundland		
p.16	Topsail, Newfoundland		
p.17	Cape Spear, Newfoundland		
p.18	"Bermuda"		
p.19	"Canada" (a cottage in winter)		
p.20	"Canada" (a winter scene)		
p.21	"Bermuda"		
p.22	3 photographs of unidentified locations		
p.23	Melrose Abbey, from the East	GW Wilson	408