



The Howard Crosby Butler Archive

By Ryan Abramowitz & Zach Kozak

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dina Boero



Introduction: The H.C. Butler Archive

- Collection of materials relevant to the expeditions taken by Butler and others to Syria and the surrounding area in the late 19th and early 20th century.
 - Group surveyed hundreds of sites in the area and later published their findings
 - There remain today many unpublished materials; including images, field books, sketches and more housed at Princeton University
- Butler's photographs and other written works are essential to current scholarship because they preserve these sites in forms no longer available to historians due to the destruction of these sites as a result of the Syria Civil War
 - Many of the sites in which Butler surveyed remain without in depth scholarship today and his unpublished work may allow historians a clearer picture of this area
 - The ultimate goal for work with the archive is to create a story map that will show the route the expeditions took and for each site they visited to have information for the viewer to see, including coordinates, images and general information on the architecture there



Image of one of Butler's maps (to compliment geographic focus)

The publications that came out of the expeditions contain the names of the sites and descriptions of them, but little else that would allow one to know where the site is today. Our job was to try and verify these sites' existence and find out where they are, preferably with exact coordinates. Ultimately, we want to have enough information that we can make the sites easily searchable on the final digitized product. We would also record all other names the sites went by, often there would be many that were different than Butlers. To do this, we used academic sites such as Pleiades, The Barrington Atlas, and the Tabula Imperii Byzantani to verify the sites. We would also use simpler techniques, such as using maps like google and cross reference named sites on google with Butler's hand drawn maps in the archive (pictured to the right). We were able to verify over 200 sites during the MUSE project.



Accomplishments

- Verified approximately 200 sites that Butler visited
- Met with specialists (Tom Elliot, ISAW) to craft a plan to identify all sites
- Have identified preliminary vision for the organization of the final project
- Transcribed 3 field books and several dozen itinerary cards
- Transcription work included all materials found on Qal‘at Sim‘an
- Specific Skills Gained:
 - working with electronic geographic sources and databases
 - Precision
 - How to work with archival and archaeological material



Server Overview Layout Metadata Tools

Logout abramor1@tcnj.edu

Document... Find

Document Manager User Manager

Versions Jobs

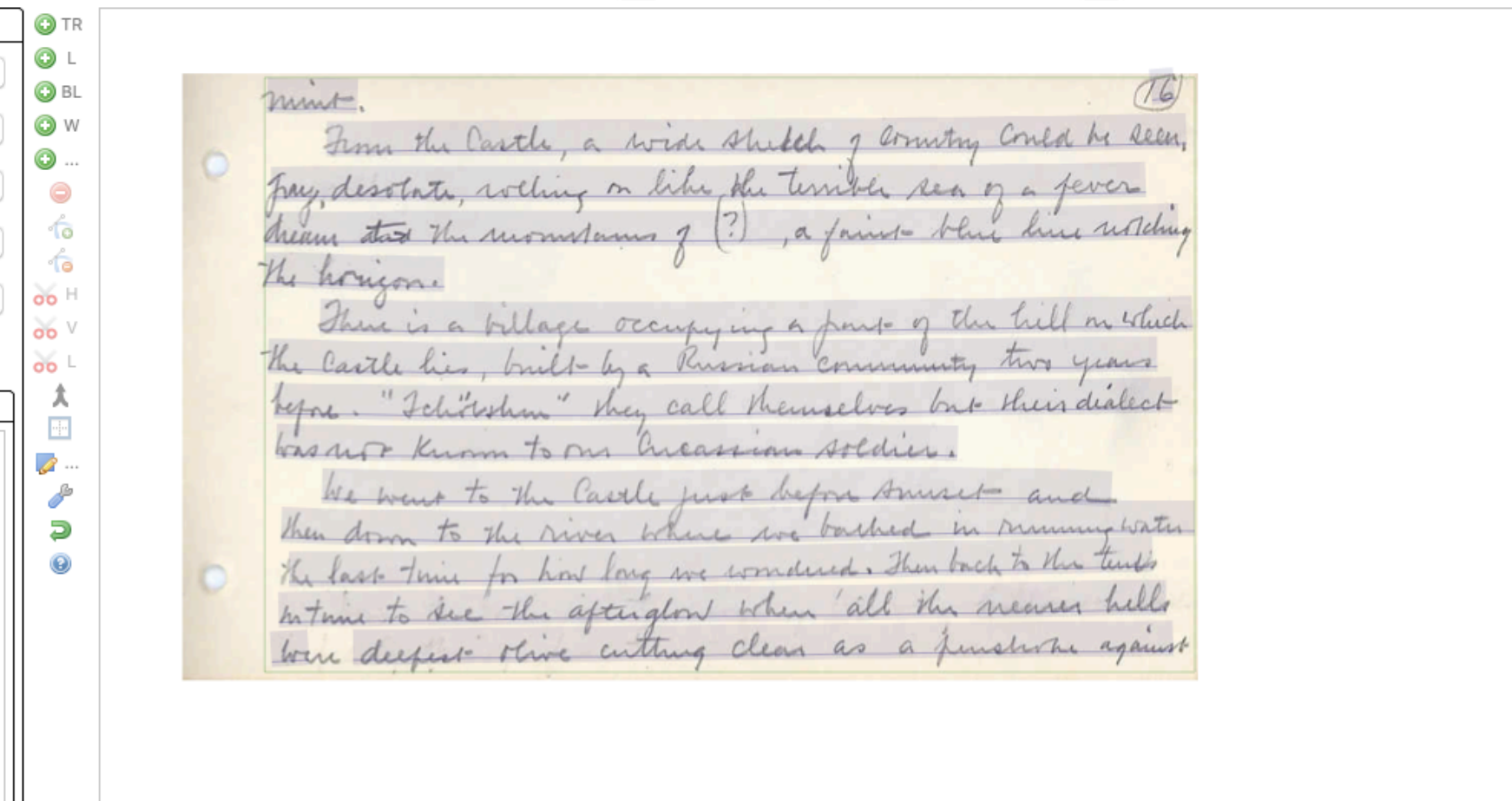
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Collections: Itinerary and Narrative cards (71333, Ov) Col-ID

Documents HTR Model Data

1-1 / 1

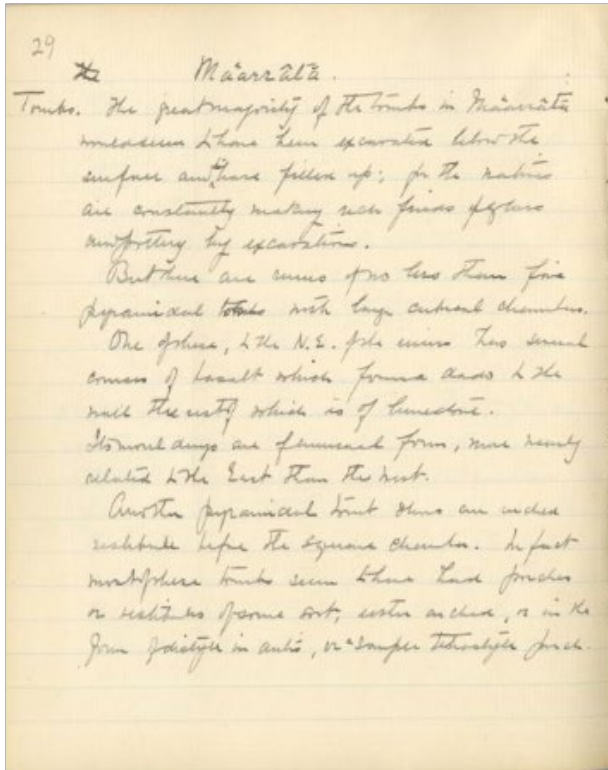
ID	Title	Pages	Uploader
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- 1-1 16 ↩
- 1-2 mint ↩
- 1-3 From the castle, a wide stretch of country could be seen, ↩
- 1-4 gray, desolate, rolling on like the terrible sea of a fever ↩
- 1-5 dream. [] the mountains of (?), a faint blue line watching ↩
- 1-6 the horizon. ¶
- 1-7 ↪ There is a village occupying part of the hill on which ↩
- 1-8 the Castle lies, built by a Russian community two years ↩



Image of 1 selected document (and transcription)



BSY_FB_04-29 a:

Ma'arratā

Tombs. The great majority of the tombs in Ma'arratā would seem to have been excavated below the surface and to have filled up; for the natives are constantly making such finds of glass and pottery by excavations.

But these are ruins of no less than fine pyramidal [tombs?] with large [cubical?] chambers.

One of these, to the N.E. of the ruins has several courses of basalt which formed dado to the wall the rest of which is of limestone.

Its mouldings are [] form, more nearly related to the East than the West.

Another pyramidal tomb shows an arched vestibule before the square chamber. In fact most of these tombs seem to have had porches or vestibules of some sort, enter arched or in the form of distyle in antis or a simpler tetrastyle porch.



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