

Title: The Creswell online network: documenting Islamic architecture through early photography

Author: Spyros Koulouris

Affiliation: Villa I Tatti, The Harvard Univ. Center for Italian Renaissance Studies

Contact information: +393404657377, skoulouris@itatti.harvard.edu

The poster will present the *Creswell online network*, a project organized by five institutions.

Keppel Archibald Creswell (1879-1974) was a pioneer in Islamic architectural history who considered photography an essential part of his fieldwork and published five volumes of *Early Muslim Architecture* and *the Muslim Architecture of Egypt*. These works remain essential in the history of Islamic architecture. During his life he travelled extensively in the Middle East to measure and photograph monuments. He created a unique photo archive documenting monuments and archaeological sites that are now in ruins or have disappeared because of wars or natural disasters. Others have been significantly altered through restoration or adaptation, or have been subject to thefts. These materials are today an invaluable source of knowledge to trace thefts and alterations.

The photo archive (40,000 photos) is now divided in five repositories; librarians, IT specialists, and architecture historians from the American University in Cairo, the Ashmolean Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and two Harvard University institutions the Fine Arts Library and Villa I Tatti will collaborate in order to reunite in a single online platform all documentation. The aim is to provide scholars and conservators linked metadata of exceptional value.