



**Collection Title:** Bert de Vries collection

**Dates:** 1988-1991 (inclusive)

**Extent:** 831 photographs

**Creators:** De Vries, Bert, 1939-

**Language (s):** Materials are in English

**Repository:** American Center of Research

**Biographical Note:** Bert de Vries, an archaeologist and architect, was ACOR's Director from 1988-1991 and now acts as Director Emeritus. The Bert de Vries photo collection consists of 831 color images from 1988 to 1991. Bert's long-term project in Jordan has been at Umm el-Jimal in North Jordan, a site he first visited in 1968, when he was an architect on the Hisban project. He excavated Umm el-Jimal in the 1970s and 1980s and still works today as the Umm el-Jimal Project director.

Umm el-Jimal is the well-preserved ruin of a Late Antique (Byzantine, Umayyad, and early Abbasid) basalt town in the Hauran of northern Jordan. The project began as an archaeological research program in 1972, founded by Bert, to continue work first begun by the Princeton University Expedition to South Syria in 1905 and 1909. In 2012 it was an ongoing collaborative enterprise between the project and its international partners including the residents and Municipality of Umm el-Jimal, the Jordanian Department of Antiquities, Jordan's Ministries of Education and Tourism, the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), and Open Hand Studios of Chicago, Ill.

Bert has spent much of his career teaching archaeology at Calvin College in Michigan. He taught there until 2013, when he retired from full time-teaching, but he still continues to teach in their archaeology minor program. Bert is a passionate peace activist and teaches alternatives to war in the Middle East. In April 2009 he helped organize Healing Children of Conflict of West Michigan, dedicated to the medical treatment of children injured by the wars in Iraq and Gaza. Bert writes contemporary articles about refugees, and also organizes sessions of scholarly presentations at the national meetings of ASOR. In 2004 Bert and his wife Sally de Vries established their own fellowship at ACOR to support students participating in archaeological excavations in Jordan.

**Scope and Content:** The Bert de Vries collection is composed of 831 35mm slides depicting various archaeological sites and cultural heritage sites in Jordan. Additionally, photos of events and people at the American Center for Oriental Research (now the American Center of Research)



make up a substantial part of the collection. Archaeological sites include Ayla in Aqaba, Petra, Umm Qais, Umm er-Rasas, Pella, Jerash, and Umm el-Jimal, amongst others.

**Arrangement:** The digitized slides have been rehoused and described following the organization provided by Bert de Vries.

**Access Restrictions:** Digitized materials are available in the Digital Archive (acor.digitalrelab.com); please contact the ACOR Archives for access to physical items.

**Publication Rights:** Photos in this collection are free to use for academic, research, and scholarly projects. Please contact ACOR for non-watermarked images. Commercial use is granted on a case-by-case basis.

**Copyright Statement:** All copyrights are held by the American Center of Research (ACOR).

**Acquisition Information:** Donation from Bert de Vries.

**Processing Information:** Processed with funding provided by Title VI Fiscal Year 2016 American Overseas Research Centers grant from the U.S. Department of Education. A significant portion of the collection has been digitized and is accessible online.

**Associated Materials:** The ACOR Library collection includes works about, written by, and featuring the work of Bert de Vries. [View search results here.](#)

**Processing Information:** Initially processed in September 2012 by Diane Ryan, with subsequent Finding aid Finding aid written by Diane Ryan and Rebecca Hankins, in October 2012. In 2019 the ACOR Library and Archives team Ashley Lumb, Samya Khalaf Kafafi, Carmen “Humi” Ayoubi fully processed his archive of photos and re-digitized the slides and uploaded them onto ACOR Photo Archive’s online platform in 2019.

**Subjects:**

Middle East  
Material culture--Middle East--History  
Flowers  
Cultural Heritage  
Architecture--Middle East  
Photography  
Landscapes  
Archaeology  
Archaeological sites



**Subjects (Persons):**

Taylor, Jane, 1940-

**Organizations:**

American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR)  
UNESCO

**Geographic:**

Middle East  
Jordan--History

**Document Types**

35mm slides

**Organization and Arrangement of Collection**

The collection is arranged in eleven series by geographic region.

**Series 1: Jordan (1988-1991)**

Series one includes photographs of cultural heritage and archaeological sites and events in Jordan, as well as nature and landscape photography. Locations include the following: Abila, Ain Ghazal, Amman, Amman Citadel (Jabal Al Qalaa), Aqaba, Ba'ij, Bab edh-Dhra, Basta, Beit Ras, Da'ajaniya, Dana Forest, Dead Sea, El-Lejjun, Feifa, Feinan, Fidan, Gela'ad, Ghor Safi, Humeima, , Irbid, Jerash, Khirbet ez-Zeraqon, Khirbet Salameh, Lahun, Ma'an, Madaba, Mount Nebo, Numeira, Pella, Petra, Qasr Bshir, Qasr Burqu', Rajif, Ras en-Naqb, Sadaqa, Shaubak, Tall edh-Dahab el-Gharby, Tell Amata, Tell Iktanu, Tell el Umeiri, Tell es-Saidiyeh, Tell Fukhar, Tell Hesban, Tell Nimrin, Udhru, Umm ar-Rasas, Umm el-Jimal, Umm Qais, Wadi Dana, Wadi el-Yabis, Wadi Khanazir, Wadi Mujib, Wadi Rum, Wadi Shu'aib, Wadi Ziqlab, Yarmouk Valley, Yasileh.