



## Points of View: Capturing the 19<sup>th</sup> century in photographs

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The conservation department is actively involved in the work leading up to the opening of exhibitions. Most recently it has undertaken the mounting of c. 130 photographs for the forthcoming exhibition 'Points of View'- the Library's first ever major photographic exhibition. This work involved close collaboration between conservators, exhibitions staff and curators. The photographs requiring mounts were in a wide variety of formats. Many items, having been removed from albums, were on support boards or pages. Others were loose sheets and some groups of images were mounted in multiple aperture window mounts.



*Above: Ian Swindle, Paper Conservator, mounting two photographs together*

There were also some very wide panoramic views, the largest of which required a 3m long window mount made up of two sections joined together.



*Above: Ian Swindle, Paper Conservator, mounting a panoramic view of Istanbul*

Most of the photographs were in good condition and required minimum intervention by the conservators. In some cases however, the support board was distorted, which made mounting very difficult.

After discussing what could be done, conservators came up with two different approaches: in cases where the warping

was minimal, the mounts were built-up to accommodate the additional volume taken up by the photographs; where the items were severely warped, conservators carefully humidified the photographs, subsequently pressing them for a couple of weeks under controlled conditions. This procedure of relaxing and flattening the



*Above: A built-up mount for a photograph on warped board*

items made mounting less problematic.