

In the footsteps of Bodil Biørn in Armenia and Norway

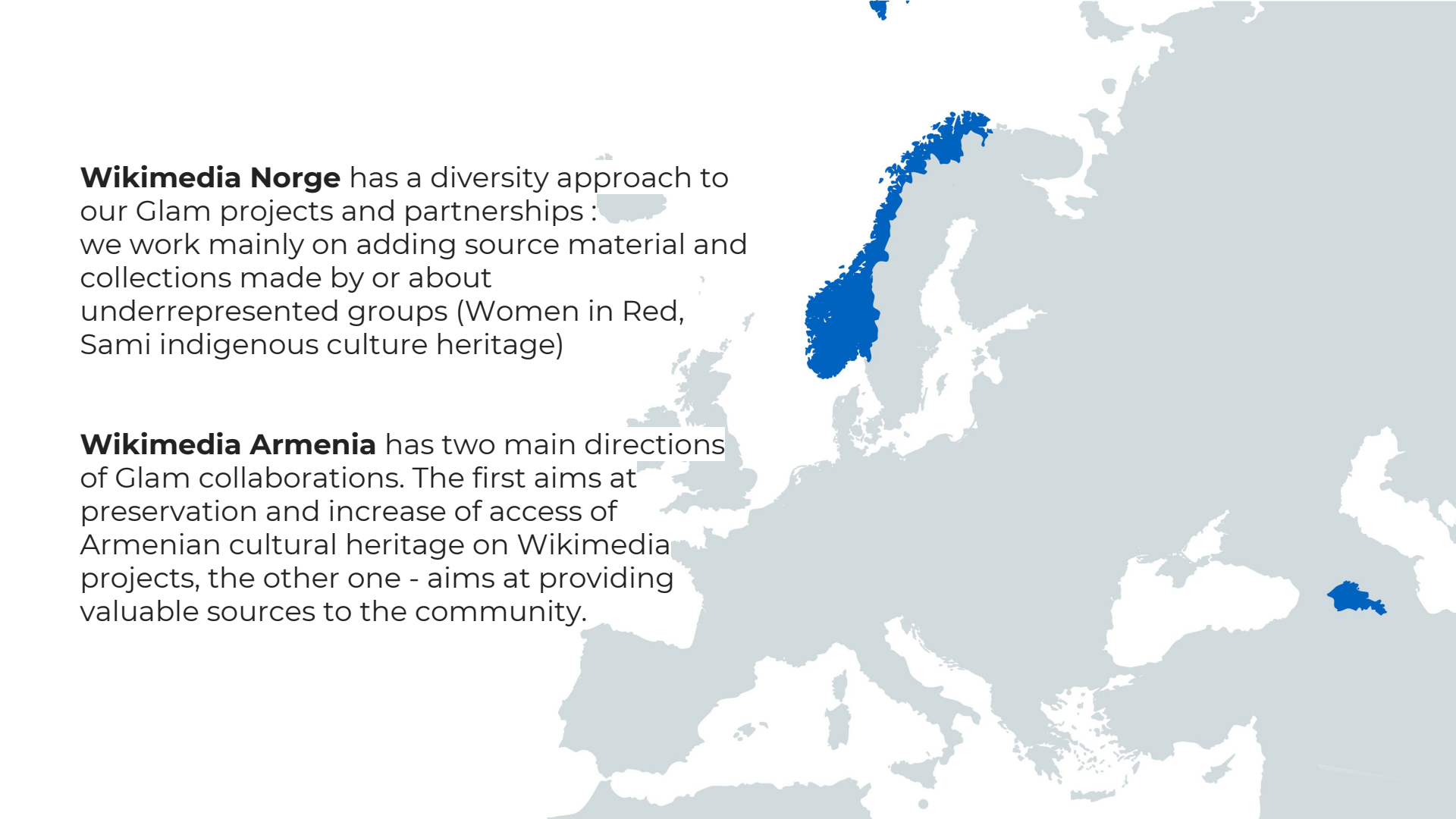
– image collection from The National Archives of Norway



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Wikimedia Norge has a diversity approach to our Glam projects and partnerships : we work mainly on adding source material and collections made by or about underrepresented groups (Women in Red, Sami indigenous culture heritage)

Wikimedia Armenia has two main directions of Glam collaborations. The first aims at preservation and increase of access of Armenian cultural heritage on Wikimedia projects, the other one - aims at providing valuable sources to the community.

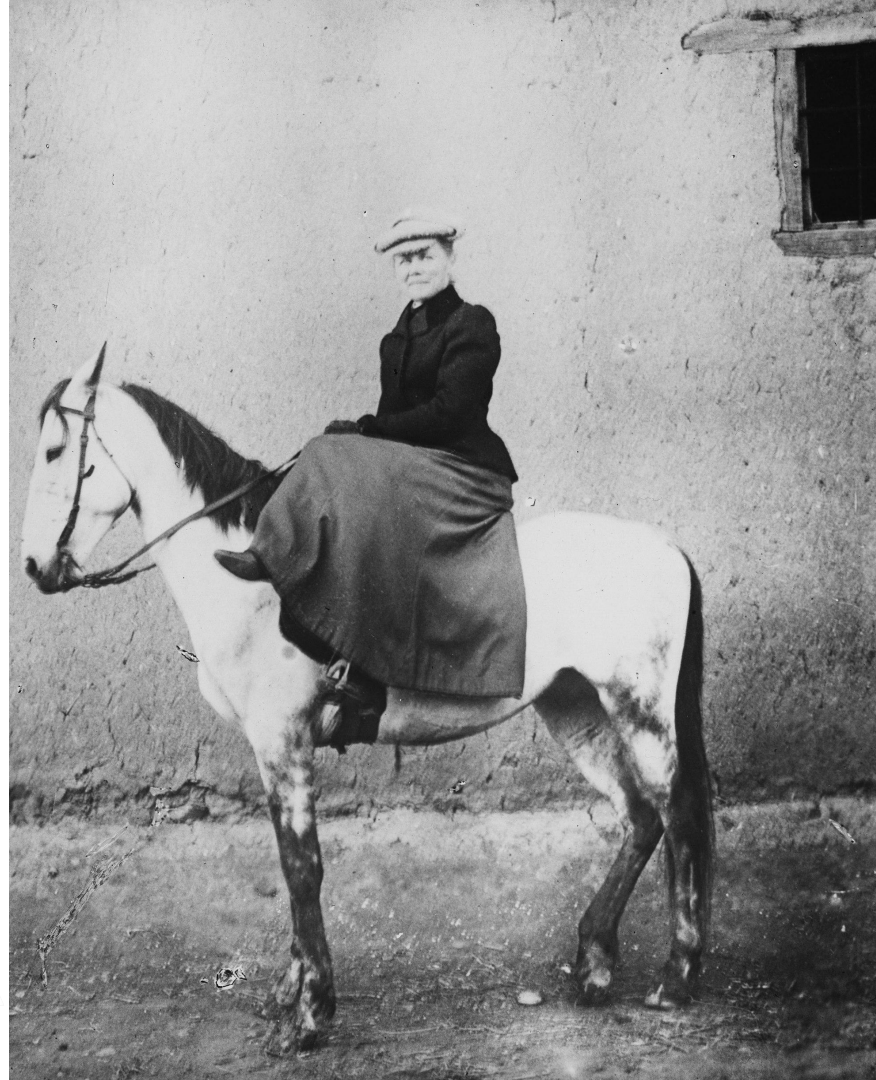
Who was Bodil Biørn?

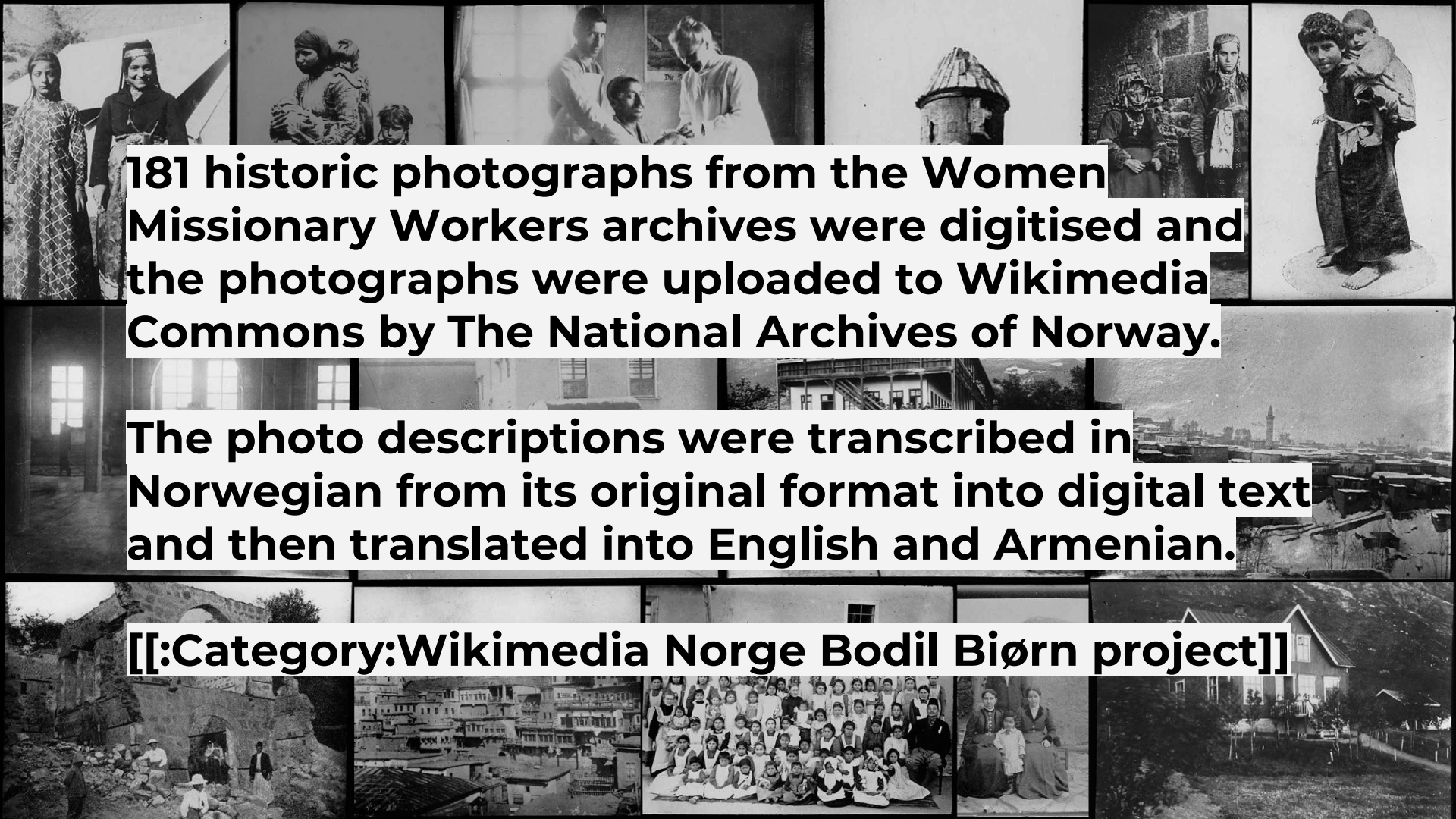
Bodil Biørn (1871–1960) was a nurse and midwife who lived and worked in Armenia from 1905 till 1935 and witnessed the mass killings of Armenians in The Ottoman Empire during World War I.

Biørn worked for a missionary organisation called Women Missionary Workers. The organization was led by women only.

Women Missionary Workers provided Biørn with a camera to take with her on her journey.

When the organisation was dissolved in 1982, its records were transferred to The National Archives of Norway for preservation.





181 historic photographs from the Women Missionary Workers archives were digitised and the photographs were uploaded to Wikimedia Commons by The National Archives of Norway.

The photo descriptions were transcribed in Norwegian from its original format into digital text and then translated into English and Armenian.

[[[:Category:Wikimedia Norge Bodil Biørn project]]

Why are cross-chapter collaborations successful?

- Resources of two geographical locations and two affiliates.
- Affiliates can support each other to increase the quality of a collaboration, shared experience.
- Easier to involve other institutions, regional impact.
- Networking and better inter-chapter relationship.



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How to successfully organize a cross-chapter GLAM collaboration?

- Make your communities talk to each other.
- Find out what kind of valuable sources are in other countries and contact the affiliate.
- Always be in contact with the partner affiliate and support it.
- Contact GLAM institutions together with the partner affiliate.
- Use resources of affiliates and communities.



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What have we learned?

- Start small
- Define impact
- Social media / communication planning
- Be the connector (Glam institutions and volunteer communities)
- National funding



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The next steps: follow up projects

Wikimedia Norge

- Presentation at the 15th Image and Research International Conference in November 2018, with the National Archives of Norway
- Transcribing Bodil Biørn letters in collaboration with The National Archives of Norway in 2019
- The National Archives of Norway will establish a volunteer policy

Wikimedia Armenia

- Photo book with photos and project details will be printed in December 2018.
- Exhibition at the Armenian Genocide Institute museum will be organized in 2019.



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Thank you!

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