



Archives and Special Collections Department,  
American University of Beirut  
Beirut, Lebanon  
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## **Damascus College Collection, 1944-1957**

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the University Libraries, AUB  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Call No.:** AA: 7.8.4

**Library catalog ID:** [b26012042](#)

**Record Creator:** Damascus College.

**Collection Title:** Damascus College Collection, 1944-1957.

**Collection Dates:** 1944-1957

**Physical Description:** 8 Boxes, approximately 2.6 linear feet.

**Language(s):** English

## Administrative Information

**Source:** The Collection was donated to Jafet Memorial Library by Mr. Howard Huntington Bliss grandson of Daniel Bliss, the founder of AUB, in 1966. He was Principal of the College, 1947-1957.

**Access Restrictions:** The collection can be consulted within the premises of the Archives and Special Collections Department, Jafet Memorial Library, American University of Beirut.

**Photocopying Restriction:** No photocopying restriction except for fragile material.

**Preferred Citation:** Damascus College Collection, 1944-1957, AA: 7.8.4, Box no.-, File no.-, American University of Beirut/Library Archives.

## Scope and Content

The collection of 2.6 linear feet details the history of Damascus College since its founding in 1945. It includes official documents like its charter, new campus layout, administrative and financial records, correspondence with New York Office and Near East College Association (N.E.C.A), students' discipline, grades, and activities, staff correspondence and recommendation letters as well as notes of the closing of the College, in June 1957. The collection is important for scholars and researchers who are interested in American Education in Syria.

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

**Series I:** Historical information (Box 1)

**Series II:** Administrative and Financial information (Box 2, 3, 4, 7, 8)

**Series III:** Students' Activities (Box 5, 6)

## Historical Sketch

In 1944, to serve the area at a time of need when the Arab States were facing widespread changes and responsibility, the University started a new school at Damascus, in response to the urgent request of Shukri Bey Kuwatli, President of the Syrian Republic.

AUB President, Bayard Dodge, sent a delegation formed of Archie Crawford, Principle of International College and Jibrail Jabbur, Associate Professor of Arabic, to cooperate with the Syrian administration for establishing an American preparatory school in Damascus.

On November 5, 1945, Damascus College was founded. The Syrian Government provided a temporary building and School furniture. The purpose of the College was to prepare students to be academically and socially fit to pursue their higher studies in foreign universities without a long period of adjustment.

The Principal of International College, Archie S. Crawford, was loaned by AUB for two years, to get the enterprise well started. Then Howard Huntington Bliss, the son of the former President of the American University of Beirut, was appointed to become the principal in 1947. During the first year, there were about 60 regular pupils in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and 1<sup>st</sup> year high school, and another 65 boys in special English classes. During the spring of 1948, the enrolment increased to a certain extent and in the year 1947-1948 there were 192 pupils and 15 teachers.

Shukri Bey Kuwatli, President of the Syrian Republic, promised that as soon as certain formalities could be completed, he would give a piece of land outside of the city as a campus for the college.<sup>1</sup>

## Subject Headings

Education -- Syria -- History.  
Universities and colleges -- Syria.  
Student activities -- Syria.

## Container List

### Series I: Historical information

#### Box 1: History

- **File 1:** Report on the American University of Beirut, International College and Damascus College, 1910-1948. History by President Bayard Dodge, 1948.
- **File 2:** Damascus College History by Bayard Dodge, 1948.
- **File 3:** Damascus College: History of the Students, 1944-1957.
- **File 4:** Item 1-3:
  - Item 1: Future Plans
  - Item 2: Supplementary recommendations drawn up by H.H. Bliss, September 16, 1952.
  - Item 3: A new Campus Layout for Damascus College by Aziz K. Nahhas, March 1948.
- **File 5:** Government Recognition, 1944-1952.
- **File 6:** Reference to Damascus College in Arabic Journal. .(٧٢) العدد الرسمية، الجمهورية السورية، العدد ٢٦ تشرين الثاني ١٩٥٣
- **File 7:** Miscellaneous: Letters and articles:
  - Damascus College, Charter secured, from Bulletin of the Near East Society, vol.6, No 6, June 1953.
  - Letter from Howard Huntington Bliss to the Assistant Librarian Jibrán Bikhazi regarding the records of Damascus Preparatory School (Damascus College), August 23, 1966.

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<sup>1</sup>Dodge, B. (1948). Bayard Dodge Report: The American University of Beirut, International College and Damascus College:1910-1948

Thank you Letter from the Assistant Librarian Jibrán Bikhazi to Howard Huntington Bliss regarding the depositing in the Jafet Library, the records of Damascus preparatory School, August 24, 1966.

Article: AUB library gets more documents from Bliss Family from Faculty Bulletin, vol. 10, no.8, December 17, 1966.

## **Series II: Administrative and Financial information**

### **Box 2: Administration General Reports and winding up details 1946-1957**

**File 1:** Damascus College: Directors reports. 1946-1947

**File 2:** Reports: 1948/49-1955

**File 3:** Final Days of Damascus College. Notes of the closing of Damascus College, June 1957. Academic Records. Notes and Letters, 1957-1966.

**File 4:** Administration: Correspondence between N.E.C.A and Damascus College. 1954-1966.

### **Box 3: Administration: Correspondence**

**File 1:** Administration- Correspondence between Damascus College and N.E.C.A 1945-1957

**File 2:** Damascus College: Correspondence from New York Office, January 1952- June 1954.

**File 3:** Damascus College: Correspondence to and From New York Office, June 1954-September 1955.

**File 4:** Correspondence to and From New York Office September 1955-June 1957.

### **Box 4: Administration: Staff**

**Section 1:** Damascus College: Staff Section 1945-1957 (2 files)

**File 1:** Teachers- Contracts, 1945-1957

**File 2:** Terminal pay 1947-1957

**Section 2:** Financial Section 1946-1947 (4 files)

**File 1:** Trial Balances, 1946-1956.

**File 2:** Board of Trustees - the Damascus Preparatory School audit report, June 30, 1954.

**File 3:** Financial Statement from New York 1954-1956:

Income and expenses

Trial Balances

Contributions

Journal Entries

Check vouchers

**File 4:** Statements from the Bank, 1951-1957

### **Box 7: Administration: Cash books**

Item 1: Cash book, October 1945-September 1949

Item 2: Cash Book, October 1949-September 1956.

Item 3: cash Book, October 1956-June 1957.

## **Box 8: Administration: Ledgers**

Item 1: Ledger, November 1945-September 1949.

Item 2: Ledger, October 1949-June 1957

Item 3: Journal (kind of book about expenses), 1945-1957.

## **Series III: Students' Activities**

### **Box 5: Students' Activities, student, and staff correspondence**

**Section 1:** Damascus College: Students' Activities; Work (examinations); Games 1946-1957

**File 1:** School Marks 1946-1950

**File 2:** State examination results 1950-1957

**File 3:** Athletics 1950-1956.

**Section 2:** Damascus College: Student and Staff letters and Recommendations 1947-1959  
(3 files)

**File 4:** Transcripts certificates of recommendations 1947-1955

**File 5:** Transcripts certificates 1955-1959

**File 6:** Transcripts and Correspondence; Letters of recommendations 1957-1959.

### **Box 6: Students' Activities- Class-Room (attendance; discipline) 1945-1957.**

- **File 1:** Damascus College Discipline: Discipline records of former students 1955-1956.
- **File 2:** Damascus College Discipline: Discipline records, 1955-1956; 1956-1957.
- **File 3:** Discipline: Minutes of teachers meeting, 1953-1954.
- **File 4:** Class Attendance receipts, 1945-1957.

## **Related Material at AUB**

### **Archival Material**

- International College (I C): [AA:7.8.5](#)
- Bayard Dodge Collection 1895-1972. [AA:2.3.4](#)
- Archie S. Crawford Collection: Acting President 1961. [AA:2.3.8](#)
- Near East College Association Collection (N.E.C.A) AA:7.6
- Near East Colleges Publications AA:7.6.3
  - Near East College Association News-Letter (September 1946 – October 1947)
  - Near East Colleges Quarterly (October 1946 to June 1947)
  - Near East Colleges News Letter, 1958

### **Thesis**

- Nahhas, A. K., & American University of Beirut. School of Arts and Sciences. Department of Engineering. (1948). *A new campus layout for Damascus college*. [EPsn:69:c.1](#)

- جبور، جبرائيل سليمان. (1991). *من ايام العمر*. بيروت: جمعية اصدياء الكاتب والكاتب. [J 892.7092:J11mA:c.1](#)

### **AUB Publications**

- Annual report to the Board of Trustees of the American University of Beirut. Beirut: American University of Beirut, 1920-1972. [1945-1946](#), [1946-1947](#), [1949-1950](#).