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Missionaries, 1819-1945

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Contact information:

asc@aub.edu.lb

Webpage:

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Descriptive Summary

Call No.: AA:7.5

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Collection Dates: 1819-1945

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Scope and Content

This small collection includes some documents and correspondence of American missionaries in Syria/Lebanon, it also contains material related to the Book Review Club and some articles about these missionaries and their role in the region¹. The collection is relevant to researchers interested in the history of the American Missionaries in the Levant and their humanitarian aid during World War I.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 4 series.

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|--------------------|--|
| Series I: | Historical information |
| Series II | Red Cross and Near East Relief |
| Series III: | Book Review Club |
| Series IV: | Collected printed material on Missionaries |

Historical Sketch

In 1819, Levi Parsons and Pliny Fisk, American missionaries, left the United States for the Levant. They belonged to the Boston-based nondenominational American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM).²

By 1860, the missionaries were well established in Syria. Having arrived in 1834, William Thomson was the oldest. He served as a link between the older generation of missionaries and the new generation that began appearing in the 1840s and 1850s. George Hurter came in 1841, Simeon Calhoun in 1844, the Bentons in 1847, William Eddy in 1852, William Bird in 1853, and finally the Aikens, Bliss, and Jessups

¹ Dates mentioned here exceed the supported bulk dates.

² Makdisi, U. (1997). Reclaiming the Land of the Bible: Missionaries, Secularism, and Evangelical Modernity. *The American Historical Review*, 102(3), 680–713. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2171506>

in 1856. They formed the bulk of the American expatriate community in Beirut, brought together by their unfamiliarity with local customs and manners.³

Missionaries played a role in developing the educational system in the Levant by establishing schools and colleges and played an important role during the Great War by providing humanitarian aid to the local population and their medical teams assisted in treating casualties.

Subject Headings

Syrian Protestant College -- History.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions -- History.

Missions, American -- Lebanon -- History.

Missions, American -- Middle East -- History -- 19th century.

Near East Relief.

Container List

Series I: Historical Information about missionaries.

Box 1: General information, Correspondence, and Christian Workers Conferences.

File 1: Announcement by the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

File 2: A brief chronicle of the Syria Mission, 1819-1909.

File 3: Letters to Messers Pillsbury and Phelps A.B.C.F.M: Reverend William Goodell and Abigail Goodell (Matta), 1823; Reverend Isaac Bird (Matta, Beirut), 1823, 1830; Reverend Jonas King (Aegina, Greece), 1828; 1 missionary circular addressed to Mr. Phelps, (1831).

File 4: Letters from Smith, Porter, and Wilson.

- Letter from Eli Smith to his sister describing the plague disease, June 23, 1827.
- Letter from David Wilson to Thomas Hale on the history of the Syrian Mission Station in Tripoli, Syria, October 28, 1850.
- Short letter from J.L. Porter to Reverend Eli Smith about list of villages in Syria, Damascus, August 5, 1852.

File 5: Protestants in Syria.

- Prosecution of the Protestants at Cana.
- Vizierial letter to Kourshid Pasha in favor of Protestants of Syria, 1858-1859.

File 6: Correspondence between Butros Bustany and James Black (SPC), 1867-1868.

File 7: Address prepared for the centenary of the A.B.C.F.M by Dr. Daniel Bliss, 1910.

File 8: Missionary Schools: Gerrard's Institute, Sidon ١٩٥٦-١٨٨١، صيدا، مدرسة الفنون الاميركية -

File 9: Christian Workers Conferences:

- Brummana Conference of Christian Workers, 9-14 August 1898.

³ *ibid*

- Brummana Conference of Foreign Missionary Workers, 2-7 August 1904.
- Mission Preachers' Conference Program (Syrian Protestant College), 6-8 April 1904.
- The Missionary Educational Union in Syria and Palestine (conference), April 1914.
- The Spirit of the Pioneer: Sermon preached to the Anglo-American Congregation, 13 February 1821.
- Anglo-American Congregation, January 1919; Directory of Arab Asia, 1934.

File 10: Articles by Howard Bliss on missionaries:

- Sunshine in Turkey, January 1909.
- The Balkan War and Christian Work among Moslems, October 1913.
- The Modern Missionary, 1920.

File 11: Biographies and information about missionary workers:

- Reverend William Eddy K.; Dr. Mary Pearson Eddy; Ruth Margaret Eddy, David Byers.
- Copy of a letter by Ruth Margaret Eddy from Harpoot, Turkey, to her mother, Elizabeth Mills Nelson Eddy about Greek and Armenian refugees, October 23rd, 1922.

File 12: Booklets

- Rebecca Williams Hebard of Lebanon, Connecticut, Missionary in Beirut, Syria, and the Druzes of Mount Lebanon 1835-1840, by Samuel H. Williams, 1950.
- The political temperature in the Near East today and U.S. strategy in the cold war by William A. Eddy, April 1, 1953.

File 13: Reports and Statements

- Report of the committee on temperance of the Presbytery of New York.
- A statement showing statistics of male and female American missionaries, free pupils, and orphans in the school under their direction, March 1-14, 1905.
- Form of a letter, 1908

Series II: Red Cross and Near East Relief

Box 2: American Red Cross mission supplies and aid during World War I

File 1: American Red Cross Mission: Expedition, letters, reports, and telegrams during World War I

File 2: The Near East Relief in Syria and Palestine, 1920.

File 3: Tentative Docket of Executive, 1921.

File 4: The Work of the Spears Mobile Clinics in Syrian and Lebanon, 1941-45.

File 5: Syrian Mission Records, 1967.

Series III: Book Review Club

Box 3: The Book Review Club: Minutes and Constitution:

File 1: Book Review Club Anniversary and Beirut Reading Rooms, etc.

- The 25th Anniversary of the Book Review Club, March 4, 1916.
- Correspondence between Laird, Seeley with The Book Review Club concerning help needed for Beirut Reading Rooms, 1928.

- Mailing list for Book Review Club 1928; 1960/61-1969/1970.

Notebooks: Minutes of Meetings and Constitution of the Book Review Club, 7 items:1891-1960

- Book Review Club list of books reviewed, names of reviewers, and dates, 1915-1920
- Book Review Club Mailing list, 1960s.
- Minutes of the Book Review Club. Beirut Syria, 1891-1928 (First to 499th meetings); March 1928-1964
- Constitution of the Review Club (As revised and amended May 1926).
- The Book Review Club: List of books reviewed with name of reviewers and dates of review, 1903-1915
- The Book Review Club: List of books reviewed with name of reviewers and dates of presentation, 1891-1903.

Series IV: Collected printed material on Missionaries.

Box 4: Articles

File 1: Articles on the History of the missionaries.

File 2: Articles about Near East Relief in 1920s.

File 3: Articles about Robert College, Istanbul, Turkey.

File 4: مقال عن المباني التعليمية منبر للاشعاع والنور في الزميل ١٩٩٣ ت٢

File 5: Articles:

- On doing Much with little Noise: Early Encounters of Protestant Missionaries in Lebanon by Samir Khalaf.
- Reclaiming the Land of the Bible: Missionaries Secularism, and Evangelical Modernity by Ussama Makdissi.
- Missions and Architecture: Colonial and Post- Colonial views- the case of Palestine.
- Article on the Impact of the American Missionary on Syria during the Nineteenth Century, by Dr. Mounir Farah., 1994.

File 6: Copies of Photos From the book "Fifty-three years in Syria" by Henry Harris Jessup.

File 7: Women as missionaries, article by Carol Swain Weir, 1953-1985.

Related Material

Archival Material

- Near East College Association Collection, 1920-1947. [AA: 7.6.3](#)
- American Press Collection, 1866-1964. [AA: 7.1](#)
- Henrietta Butler Smith Collection, 1827-1995. [AA:6.2.19.3](#)
- Daniel Bliss Collection, 1852-1956. [AA:2.3.1](#)
- Howard Bliss Collection, 1902-1920. [AA:2.3.2](#)
- Bayard Dodge Collection, 1895-1972. [AA:2.3.4](#)
- George Edward Post Collection, 1833-2011. [AA:6.2.16](#)
- Edwin Lewis Affair, 1882. [AA: 6.1](#)
- Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meetings of the Syrian Protestant College, 1863-1920. [AA:2.1.0](#)
- Minutes of Faculty Meetings of the Syrian Protestant College, 1867-1920. [AA: 3.4.2](#)

Books

- Gümüş, H. I. (2017). *American missionaries in the ottoman empire: a conceptual metaphor analysis of missionary narrative 1820-1898*. Bielefeld: Transcript.
[J 370.9561:G569a](#)
- *Rules for the orthography of arabic and Turkish words in roman letters. adopted by the Syrian mission of the a.b.c.f.m. April 1838*. (1860). [CA 492.71:A512r:c.1](#)
- Benjamin M. G. W. (1860). *The missionary sisters: a memorial of Mrs. Seraphina Haynes Everett and Mrs. Harriet Martha Hamlin late missionaries of the a.b.c.f.m. at Constantinople*. American tract Society. [CA 922.4:E93b:c.1](#)
- Anderson, R. (1872). *History of the missions of the American board of commissioners for foreign missions to the oriental churches*. Boston: Congregational Pub. Society.
[CA 266:A54h:v.1:c.1-v.2](#)
- Laurie T. & Jessup H. H. (1901). *A brief chronicle of the Syria mission: 1819-1870 under the a.b.c.f.m. 1870-1901 under the American presbyterian church*. American Mission Press. [CA 266.5:B853b](#)
- Dennis, J. S. (1897-1906). *Christian missions and social progress*. Fleming H. Revell.
[CA 266:D41ch:v.1:c.1-v.3](#)
- Dennis J. S. (1893). *Foreign missions after a century*. Fleming H. Revell. [CA 266:D41f](#)
- Lawrence, E. A. (1895). *Modern missions in the East: their methods, successes, and limitations*. New York: Harper, 1895. [CA 266:L41m](#)
- Hayward, C. F. (between 1906 and 1916). *Women missionaries*. Collins' Clear-Type Press.
[J 266.009:H427w](#)
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (1911). *Facts and figures of the work of the Syria mission of the presbyterian church in the U.S.A. with brief notice of other work in Beirut*. publisher not identified. [CA 266.023:P928f](#)
- Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Board of Foreign Missions. (1922). *Facts and figures of rehabilitation after the war*. Beirut: American Mission Press. [CA 266.023:P928fc](#)
- Scherer, George H. (193-?). *Mediterranean missions 1808-1870*. Beyrouth: Bible Lands Union for Christian Education. [CA 266.023:S326m](#)
- Johnson R. P. (1958). *Middle east pilgrimage*. Friendship Press. [CA 266:J68m](#)
- Khalaf S. (2012). *Protestant missionaries in the levant: ungodly puritans 1820-60*. Routledge. [CA 266.59:K451p:c.1](#); [J 266.59:K451p:c.1](#).
- De Hamel C. (1994). *A history of illuminated manuscripts* (Second edition revised enlarged and with new illustrations). Phaidon Press. [CA 745.67:D322h](#)
- Salibi K. S. & Khūrī Yūsuf Q. (1995). *The missionary herald: reports from ottoman Syria 1819-1870*. Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies. [CA 266.023:M678m:v.1:c.1-v.5](#),
[J 266.023:M678m:v.1:c.1-v.5](#)
- Middle East Studies Association of North America Doğan Mehmet Ali & Sharkey H. J. (2011). *American missionaries and the middle east: foundational encounters*. University of Utah Press. [J 266.023:M627a:2005:c.1](#)
- Jessup, H. H. (2007). *The women of the Arabs: with a chapter for children*. Charleston, S.C.: BiblioBazaar. [J 305.488:J584w](#)
- Pikkert P. (2008). *Protestant missionaries to the middle east: ambassadors of Christ or culture?* WEC Canada. [CA 266.409:P636p:c.1](#)
- Makdisi U. S. (2008). *Artillery of heaven: American missionaries and the failed conversion of the middle east*. Cornell University Press. [CA 266.023:M235a:c.1](#),
[J 266.023:M235a:c.1](#)

- Benton L. G. & Benton W. A. (194AD). *The diaries reminiscences and letters of Loanza Goulding Benton (Mrs. William Austin Benton) and William Austin Benton D.D. missionaries to Syria 1847-1869.* [CA 266.009:B478d:c.1](#)
- Deam W. H. (191AD). *Our missionaries in bible lands: profusely illustrated.* Ensign Pub. House. [J 289.33:D279o](#)
- عطوي، حبيب جبران. (١٩٧٢). *المبشرون الإنجلييون الأوائل في سورية ولبنان، ١٨١٩-١٨٩٠.* بيروت: منشورات النفير. [J 266.356:A887mA:c.1](#)
- مدرسة الفنون الاميركية (صيدا، لبنان). (١٩٥٦). *تاريخ مدرسة الفنون الاميركية صيدا لبنان، ١٨٨١-١٩٥٦.* مدرسة الفنون الاميركية. [CA 370.95692:T186tA:c.1](#)
- ابي رزق، يوسف. (1981). *تاريخ مدرسة الفنون الانجيلية الوطنية صيدا - لبنان، ١٨٨١-١٩٨١.* [CA 370.95692:T186taA:c.1](#)
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Dissertation

- Batruni, C. W. (2019). *Producing pioneers: the American Junior College for Women and the Beirut College for Women, 1924-1973.* [D:116](#)

Thesis

- Tarnowski, W. S. (1997). *Sociological profile and cultural impact of American and British women missionaries in Lebanon (1823-1914).* [T:3828](#)
- Robert, T.G. (2000). *A Muslim response to Protestant missionaries [microform]: the case of Al Manar.* [T:4041](#)
- Sharp, M.A. (2013). *Transformation at the Syrian Protestant College: the role of liberal Protestant theology and epistemology in the shifting vision of a missionary college.* [T:5878](#)
- Hamade, M. H. (2016). *Bathish or Bat-heesh: learning to be modern at the Syrian Protestant College.* [Pj:1890](#)
- Doyle, M. W. (2018). *Incorporating the Ottoman empire into American studies: a comparative historiography of medicine, missionaries, and sexuality.* [Pj:1956](#)

Photos

- Three American Sisters Photo Album, ca. 1900s. [Ph:ASP:1900s](#)
- Rose Ewald Photograph Collection, 1929-1931. [Ph:RE:1929-1931](#)
- Syrian Missionaries, 1907. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1907\(03\):01:35](#)
- Missionaries, 1891. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1891\(01\):01:32](#)
- Syrian Protestant College Red Cross Expedition to station at Auji al- Haffar, 1914. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1914/01/22:1-3:37](#)
- Conference of Christian workers, Brummana, 1901. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1901\(02\):01:32](#)
- Syrian Protestant Mission, 1893. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1893-1895:01:32](#)
- Portrait of Eli Smith, 1800s. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1800s\(04\):01:26](#)
- Portraits of George E. Post. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1868-1909:1-4:26](#), [Ph:SPC-AUB:1861-1865:1-4:26](#)
- Portrait of George E. Post, 1861. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1861\(01\):01:26](#)
- Cornelius Van Dyck Photo Collection, 1866-1882. [Ph:SPC-AUB:1866-1882:1-6:26](#)

Posters

- Godly and Ungodly Puritans AUB as a cultural transplant. [Ps:AUB:2010/12/08\(01\):17](#)