

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Merrill Isely Papers

RG 158



Compiled by Shelly Rambo and Martha Lund Smalley

2000

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New Haven, CT 06511
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
divinity.library@yale.edu
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 158

CREATOR: Isely, Merrill N.

TITLE: Merrill Isely Papers

DATES: 1919-1961

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.5 linear feet (10 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence to family members and others, dating from 1919 to 1961, provides detailed documentation of Isely's life and work in Turkey. Merrill Isely and his wife Mildred were missionaries serving under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Gaziantep, Turkey for four decades beginning in 1920.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.158>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.158>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Merrill Isely Papers (RG 158), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1894 Aug 4	○ Born in Fairview, Kansas
1916	○ B.A., Fairmount College
1916-1917	○ Attended Oberlin College
1920	○ B.D., Yale Divinity School
1920 Jun 14	○ Ordained as Congregational minister in Wichita, Kansas
1920-1960	○ Missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Gaziantep (Aintab), Turkey; served as business manager of the Azariah Smith Memorial Hospital. His wife, Mildred, served there as dietician. Isely was also involved in a reforestation project, persuading the Turkish government to start a tree-growing project in Gaziantep, as well as in bee-keeping and other agricultural projects.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists primarily of letters written by Merrill Isely to family members and friends in the United States. Regular, detailed letters describe Isely's life and work in Turkey. Writings and reports provide extensive information about the American Board hospital in Gaziantep (Aintab), Turkey. These papers complement the papers of Albert Dewey found in YDSL Record Group No. 161. Dewey was a colleague of the Iselys at the Gaziantep station.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1919-1961, n.d.
- II. Writings and Reports, 1919-1961, n.d.
- III. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1920-1932, n.d.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1919-1961, n.d.

Family Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1-13	Merrill Isely to family in the U.S.	1919-1923
b. 2, f. 14-22	Merrill Isely to family in the U.S.	1924-1926 Jul
b. 3, f. 23-31	Merrill Isely to family in the U.S.	1926 Aug-1930 Oct
b. 4, f. 32-39	Merrill Isely to family in the U.S.	1930 Nov-1933 Mar
b. 5, f. 40-49	Merrill Isely to family in the U.S.	1933 Apr-1938
b. 6, f. 50-58	Merrill Isely to family in the U.S.	1939 -1942 Feb
b. 7, f. 59-70	Merrill Isely to family in the U.S.	1942 Mar-1961

General Correspondence

b. 8, f. 71	A
b. 8, f. 72	B
b. 8, f. 73	Belcher, H.
b. 8, f. 74	Birge, J.
b. 8, f. 75	C
b. 8, f. 76	Case, H.
b. 8, f. 77	Clark, A.
b. 8, f. 78	D
b. 8, f. 79	Darling, H.
b. 8, f. 80	Dewey, A.
b. 8, f. 81	E
b. 8, f. 82	Eddy, B.
b. 8, f. 83	Emerson, M.
b. 8, f. 84	F
b. 8, f. 85	Finlayson, J.
b. 8, f. 86	Fowle, L.
b. 8, f. 87	G
b. 8, f. 88	Gonzalez, J.

General Correspondence (continued)

b. 8, f. 89	Goodsell, F.
b. 8, f. 90	Guludge, E.
b. 8, f. 91	H
b. 8, f. 92	Hamilton, C.
b. 8, f. 93	I
b. 8, f. 94	J
b. 8, f. 95	K
b. 8, f. 96	L
b. 8, f. 97	M
b. 8, f. 98	Meeken, H.
b. 8, f. 99	Merrill, J.
b. 9, f. 100	N
b. 9, f. 101	O
b. 9, f. 102	Ober, F.
b. 9, f. 103	P
b. 9, f. 104	R
b. 9, f. 105	Randall, H.
b. 9, f. 106	Riggs, E.
b. 9, f. 107	S
b. 9, f. 108	Small, A.
b. 9, f. 109	Smith, R.
b. 9, f. 110	T
b. 9, f. 111	U
b. 9, f. 112	Uline, M.
b. 9, f. 113	V
b. 9, f. 114	W
b. 9, f. 115	Walkingwreners
b. 9, f. 116	Wells, C.
b. 9, f. 117	Wheatshockers

Support Letters

Support Letters (continued)

b. 9, f. 118-120

Letters

1920-1961

Series II: Writings and Reports Material, 1919-1961, n.d.

b. 10, f. 122	Sermons, devotional writings by Merrill Isely	1939-1944, n.d.
b. 10, f. 123	Reports and brochures re. American Board hospital in Gaziantep (Aintab) and the Turkey Mission	1919-1961
b. 10, f. 124-128	"Gaziantep Power House Notes" - mimeographed circulars	1931-1940
b. 10, f. 129	Statistical reports re. Gaziantep station	
b. 10, f. 130	Material re. rural missions, agricultural projects	
b. 10, f. 131	Material re. Turkey and Aleppo College in Syria	
b. 10, f. 132	Material re. Turkey	
b. 10, f. 133	Maps	
b. 10, f. 134	Miscellaneous reports, notes	

Series III: Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1920-1932, n.d.

b. 10, f. 135	Diary of Merrill Isely	1920-1922
b. 10, f. 136	Biographical material, incl. re. trial of Merrill Isely on charge of illegally conducting religious worship	1932, n.d.
b. 10, f. 137	Programs from mission and family events	
b. 10, f. 138-139	Newspaper clippings re. Iselys	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Missionaries
Missions -- Turkey

Names

Isely, Merrill N.

Corporate Body

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions