

Yale University Library
Yale Divinity Library

Guide to the Henry Harris Jessup Papers

RG 117



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1997

409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-5301

divinity.library@yale.edu

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

CALL NUMBER: RG 117

CREATOR: Jessup, Henry Harris, 1832-1910

TITLE: Henry Harris Jessup Papers

DATES: 1851-1912

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 linear feet (10 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, journals, diaries, writings, photographs, and collected material document the missionary work of Henry Harris Jessup and his wife Theodosia Davenport Jessup in Syria. Henry Harris Jessup (1832-1910) was a missionary in Syria from 1856 to 1910, serving under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and Presbyterian Mission Board. He was one of the founders of the Syrian Protestant College, later known as the American University of Beirut.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.117>

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.117>.

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

Henry Harris Jessup Papers (RG 117), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1832 Apr 19	○ Born in Montrose, Pennsylvania
1851	○ B.A., Yale
1855	○ B.D., Union Theological Seminary
1855	○ Ordained as Presbyterian minister
1856-1860	○ Served in Tripoli, Syria as a missionary under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; developed expertise in Arabic language
1857	○ Married Caroline Bush while on visit to America; --Children: Anna, William, and Henry
1858	○ Returned to Tripoli
1860	○ Moved to Beirut
1862	○ Brother, Samuel, went to Syria as missionary for the American Board
1860	○ Wife, Caroline, died
1866	○ One of the founders of the Syrian Protestant College, now the American University of Beirut
1868	○ Married Harriet Elizabeth Dodge who died in 1882--Children: Stuart, Mary, Amy, Ethel, Frederick
1870	○ Syrian mission work transferred from the American Board to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; Jessup was acting pastor of the Syrian Church of Beirut and secretary of the Asfuriyeh Hospital for the Insane from its foundation.
1873	○ Published <i>The Women of the Arabs</i>
1874	○ Published <i>Syrian Home Life</i>
1879	○ Published <i>The Mohammedan Missionary Problem</i>
1884	○ Married Theodosia Davenport Lockwood
1891	○ Published <i>The Greek Church and Protestant Missions</i>
1898	○ Published <i>The Setting of the Crescent and the Rising Cross</i>
1910	○ Published <i>Fifty-Three Years in Syria</i>
1910 Apr 28	○ Died in Beirut

Scope and Contents

These papers are a valuable source of information about American missions in the Near East during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The bound copy books of Jessup's outgoing correspondence in Series I date from 1860 to 1899. Some of the letters in the bound volumes are illegible due to deterioration of the ink; preservation microfilm copies of the bound volumes have been made.

The first two journals in Series II date primarily from before Jessup's missionary service, though the volume covering the period 1855 Jan-Dec includes copies of printed letters by Jessup dating from January 1856 to July 1858. Of considerable interest are two journals documenting Jessup's first voyage from New York to Syria. This series also includes a journal by Jessup's son William, dating from October 1886 to March 1888.

The Pocket Diaries of Series III are of briefer, non-narrative format. Nineteen diaries of Jessup's wife Theodosia document her life as a missionary wife in Syria from 1885 to 1905. Five diaries of Henry Harris Jessup date from 1860- 1862, 1868, and 1882, while one volume, dated 1912, is of Jessup's son William.

The Writings of Series IV relate to personal reminiscences of Jessup, his autobiography *Fifty-Three Years in Syria*, and the history of the Syria Mission 1860 to 1880. The Photographs of Series V are largely those used in Jessup's autobiography. The Printed Material of Series VI consists of a scrapbook of newspaper clippings dating from 1868 to 1880.

Arrangement

- I. Correspondence, 1860-1899
- II. Journals, 1853-1888
- III. Pocket Diaries, 1860-1912
- IV. Writings, 1851-1906
- V. Photographs, ca.1870s-1910
- VI. Printed Material, 1868-1880

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1860-1899

Bound volumes

b. 1, f. 1	Copy book of H. H. Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1860 Jul 14-1861 May 17
b. 2, f. 2	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1862 Apr - 1863 Feb
b. 2, f. 3	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1865 Nov - 1866 May
b. 2, f. 4	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1866 May - 1867 Jan
b. 3, f. 5	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1867 Jul - 1869 Jun
b. 3, f. 6	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1868 Feb - Aug
b. 3, f. 7	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1869 Jun - 1870 Jul
b. 3, f. 8	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1870 Jul - 1871 Jul
b. 3, f. 9	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1872-1873 May
b. 4, f. 10	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1873 May 24 - 1874 Oct 31
b. 4, f. 11	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1890 Jan - 1891 Mar
b. 4, f. 12	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1891 Dec 21 - 1893 Jun 6
b. 4, f. 13	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1893 - 1896
b. 4, f. 14	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1897 Jun 21 - 1898 Jul 7
b. 5, f. 15	Copy book of Jessup's outgoing correspondence	1898 Jul 9 - 1899 Sep 21

Unbound manuscript correspondence

b. 11, f. 57	H. H. Jessup to family and friendst	1856
b. 11, f. 58	H. H. Jessup to family and friends, including "journal letters"	1857
b. 11, f. 59	H. H. Jessup to family and friends, including on voyage from America to Syria	1858
b. 11, f. 60	H. H. Jessup to family and friends, James R. Spalding to Jessup	1859, 1860, 1863
b. 11, f. 61	H. H. Jessup to family and friends	1865, 1867, 1868

Unbound manuscript correspondence (continued)

b. 11, f. 62	H. H. Jessup to daughter Anna; son Frederick to H. H. Jessup; Frederick to Anna; Mary Eddy to Anna; Samuel Jessup to Anna	1882, 1910, 1911, n.d.
b. 11, f. 63	Notes and fragments	n.d.
Printed letters		
b. 11, f. 64	Letters from H. H. Jessup printed in unidentified newspaper	1856
b. 11, f. 65	Letters from H.H. Jessup printed in newspapers, including the Independent Republican, Montrose	1857-1859, 1874

Series II: Journals, 1853-1888

b. 5, f. 16	HHJ: one volume	1853 Jul 31-Oct 21
b. 5, f. 17	HHJ: one volume handwritten letters, 1855 Jan 1 - Dec 22; plus copies of printed letters from 1856 Jan 20 to 1859 Jan 4	1855 - 1859
b. 5, f. 18	HHJ: Journal of first voyage to Syria - "Personal Journey from Sept. 21, 1855 to Arrival in Syria on Feb. 7, 1856	1855 Sep - 1856 Feb
b. 5, f. 19	HHJ: "Journal of a voyage from Boston to Smyrna, Dec. 12, 1855 to Jan. 22-27, 1856, written on board The Sultana in storm and calm"	1855 Dec 12 - 1856 Jan 27
b. 6, f. 20	William Jessup (son of HHJ): one volume (written from Princeton, N.J.)	1886 Oct-1888 Mar

Series III: Pocket Diaries, 1860-1912

b. 6, f. 21	HHJ: Pocket diaries and enclosures	1860, 1861, 1862
b. 6, f. 22	HHJ: Pocket diaries	1868, 1882
b. 7, f. 23-27	Theodosia Davenport Jessup: Pocket diaries - nineteen volumes (missing 1894 and 1904)	1885-1905
b. 7, f. 28	William Jessup: Pocket diary	1912

Series IV: Writings, 1851-1906

Manuscript drafts

b. 8, f. 29	Volume "R" - Personal Reminiscences (pp. 1-50, Union Theological Seminary, 1852-1855; pp. 51-68, Trip to Syria, 1855 Sep 21-1856 Feb 7)	1853-1856
b. 8, f. 30	Volume "B" - Personal Reminiscences	1851 Sep -1855 Sep
b. 8, f. 31	Volume "C" - Personal Reminiscences and Syria Mission History	1855 Oct - Dec
b. 8, f. 32	Volume "E" - History of the Syria Mission	1860
b. 8, f. 33	Volume "K" - Reminiscences	1862-1866
b. 8, f. 34	Miscellanies	1873-1874 Jan
b. 8A, f. 35	Syria History	1874 Jan - 1887 May
b. 8A, f. 36	Volume "M"	1887 - 1893
b. 8A, f. 37	Volume "N"	1894 Jan - 1899 Dec
Related to HHJ autobiography: Fifty-three Years in Syria		
b. 9, f. 38	Introduction and Conclusion	
b. 9, f. 39	Sequelae of the Massacres	1860 Sep
b. 9, f. 40-41	Untitled notes, writings	1874 - 1893
b. 9, f. 42	The American Palestine Exploration Expedition	1873
b. 9, f. 43	Presentations, Furloughs; "Arthington, Antonius Yanni - A Sketch"	1870 Mar
b. 9, f. 44-46	Untitled notes, writings	1894 - 1906
b. 9, f. 47-49	fragments	n.d.

Series V: Photographs, circa 1870s-circa 1910

Many of the photographs of Syria have been scanned and are available on FindIt: <http://findit.library.yale.edu/>

b. 10, f. 50	Individuals - missionaries Cornelius Van Allen Van Dyck, Syria Daniel Bliss, Syria Henry Harris Jessup with two fellow missionaries, Syria Missionaries of the American Board Mission, Syria Rufus Anderson, Syria	circa 1870s-circa 1910
b. 10, f. 51	Individuals - Middle Eastern	circa 1870s-circa 1910
b. 10, f. 52	Churches in Syria and Lebanon Baalbek Chapel, Syria Boys standing before a mud-brick church, Syria Flat-roofed buildings clustering on a hillside, Syria House of Dr. Mary P. Eddy, Syria Lane running alongside a church, Syria Mud brick church standing amid barren hillsides, Syria Mud-brick church standing among other low buildings, Syria Mud-brick church standing within a low stone wall, Syria Peak-roofed church amid other buildings, Syria Peak-roofed stone Sunday School building standing amid trees, Syria People standing around a mud-brick church, Syria People standing near a mud-brick church, Syria People standing on the second floor of a mud-brick church, Syria	circa 1870s-circa 1910
b. 10, f. 53	Mission schools and orphanages in Syria and Lebanon Beirut Girls School, Syria Beulah House orphanage, Syria Deir el Komar Girls School, Syria Gerard Institute, Syria Large mud-brick school standing behind decorative hedge, Syria People gathered before a mud-brick school building, Syria People standing atop the roof of the Gerard Institute, Syria People standing inside the mud-walled courtyard of a chapel and school, Syria School children playing at the seashore, Syria Several children standing in the shade of a mud-brick church, Syria Tripoli Girls' School, Syria	circa 1870s-circa 1910
b. 10, f. 54	Scenery and buildings in Syria and Lebanon Ancient gate on a busy street, Beirut, Syria Bridge spanning the Orontes and a large water wheel, Syria Bridge spanning the Orontes, Syria Elevated view of a city waterfront, Syria Front view of a large stone building with barred windows, Syria Gateway in a decorated wall, Syria Man standing on a stone bridge crossing a small river, Syria Sailing ship drawn up at a waterfront, Syria Stone pillars by a wall, Beirut, Syria Train passing into a tunnel along a rocky hillside, Syria Watchman standing atop a stone structure, Syria	circa 1870s-circa 1910

b. 10, f. 55	Scenes of everyday life in Syria and Lebanon Courtyard of peasant home, Syria People weaving baskets, Syria People winnowing grain in an open field, Syria People working at a printing press, Syria Woman and child washing sheep at a fountain, Syria Woman spreading grapes to dry, Syria Women and children preparing food outside a stone building, Syria	circa 1870s-circa 1910
b. 10, f. 56	Unidentified photographs	circa 1870s-circa 1910
b. 10, f. 57	Prints of photographs on large pieces of paper	circa 1870s-circa 1910
b. 10, f. 58-60	Inventory lists of photographs and other papers	undated

Series VI: Printed Material, 1868-1880

b. 10, f. 61

Scrapbook of newspaper clippings

1868 - 1880

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

Missions -- Syria

Names

Jessup, Henry Harris, 1832-1910

Corporate Bodies

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions

American University of Beirut

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A -- Missions --
Syria