

# Guide to the George Hibbert Driver Papers

RG 344



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2024

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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  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 344

**CREATOR:** Driver, George Hibbert (1879-1966)

**TITLE:** George Hibbert Driver Papers

**DATES:** 1896 - 1923 (bulk 1905 - 1907)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains materials relating to George Hibbert Driver's years in Palestine and Germany in 1905-1907, studying Christian theology abroad on a Hooker Fellowship after graduating from Yale Divinity School. The collection includes extensive photographs from Palestine created, organized, dated, and described by Driver, which can be read together with correspondence Driver sent to his parents in the United States. Driver's essays, letters, photographs, and captions provide insight into an American, Christian view of Palestine, ever filtered through his religious and Orientalizing expectation.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.344>

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## 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.344>.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Carmen D. Valentino Rare Books and Manuscripts on the Kenneth Scott Latourette Fund, 2024.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

George Hibbert Driver Papers (RG 344), Special Collections, Yale Divinity Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

George Hibbert Driver was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1879, and graduated from Amherst College in 1900 and 1904, and Yale Divinity School in 1905. In 1905, Driver traveled to Palestine on a Hooker Fellowship, where he studied at the American School of Oriental Study and Research. Founded in 1900 by Charles Cutler Torrey, the American School of Oriental Study and Research in Palestine was, in Driver's words, "a laboratory course in sacred geography." Located in Jerusalem, the school excavated sites across Palestine and Lebanon deemed to have biblical significance, beginning with the tombs of Sidon in 1900.

In 1905 and 1906, Driver traveled throughout Palestine, creating photographs and writing down his impressions, spiritual experiences, and comments on Ottoman rule. In April of 1906, Driver left Palestine to study at the theological faculties in Marburg and Berlin.

Upon returning to the United States in 1907, Driver began his work as a Congregational minister, serving in churches across the Northeast. He continued writing—publishing short stories, poetry, and monographs on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. George Hibbert Driver died in Marblehead, Massachusetts, in 1966.

Further information on the American School of Oriental Study and Research in Palestine, can be found in the papers of Charles Cutler Torrey, Andover and Yale professor, RG 271 at Yale Divinity Library Special Collections.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection concisely covers George Hibbert Driver's 1905-1906 trip to the American School of Oriental Study and Research in Palestine in correspondence, journalistic and diaristic essays, and photographs. Further correspondence covers Driver's time studying at the theological faculties in Marburg and Berlin. The collection provides insights into American, Christian concepts of "sacred geography" read onto late-Ottoman Palestine.

Series I, Correspondence, contains letters written by Driver addressed to his parents in the United States. The letters describe in depth his travels and studies. Further correspondence, sent to Driver, describes theological study in Germany, mentioning professors like Julius Wellhausen, and, in the correspondence from Edward H. Smith, American Christian missions in Fuzhou, China.

Series II, Writings, contains both published articles and drafts composed by Driver. In the writings, Driver provides an introduction to the American School ("Our Jerusalem Colony," "The American School for Oriental Study and Research at Home in Jerusalem"), describes his travel impressions, and comments on the politics of late-Ottoman rule ("Palestine and the Yemen Uprising"). Notably, an essay written later in 1918, "The Light on Jerusalem's Cross," addresses the British occupation of Palestine following WWI.

Series III, Collected materials, contains ephemera gathered from Driver's travels in Europe and the Middle East, writings by others and booklets, and compiled biographical info from genealogical websites.

Series IV, Photographs, is divided into two subseries. The first retains Driver's organization—the photographs are paired with negatives numerically labeled beginning with P, which according to Driver stands for "Palestine Trip." On each negative envelope, Driver describes the image, location, and impressions documented in the picture. Later numbers in the series are often dated, allowing the

researcher to collate and contextualize the photographs with correspondence in Series I. The second subseries consists primarily of reprints, some of which have descriptions written on the back.

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## **Arrangement**

### Arrangement

- I Correspondence, 1902 - 1907
- II Writings, 1896 - 1918
- III Collected materials, 1905 - 1923
- IV Photographs, 1905 - 1907

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**Collection Contents**
**Series I: Correspondence, 1902–1907**

b. 1, f. 1	Letters addressed to GHD Includes correspondence from Edward H. Smith in Fuzhou China, Raymond G. Clapp in Goettingen regarding study in Germany, and Hans H. L.(?) regarding going to Palestine.	1902 October– 1905 September
b. 1, f. 2	GHD to family from ship and Rome	1905 September–1905 October
b. 1, f. 3	GHD to family from Sidon, Haifa, and Jerusalem	1905 November
b. 1, f. 4	GHD to family from Jerusalem	1905 December
b. 1, f. 5	GHD to family from Jerusalem and Jericho	1906 January
b. 1, f. 6	GHD to family from Jerusalem	1906 February
b. 1, f. 7	GHD to family from Jerusalem	1906 March
b. 1, f. 8	GHD to family from Cairo and Alexandria	1906 April
b. 1, f. 9	GHD to family from Milan and Marburg	1906 May
b. 1, f. 10	GHD to family from Marburg	1906 June
b. 1, f. 11	GHD to family from Marburg	1906 July
b. 1, f. 12	GHD to family from Marburg	1906 August
b. 1, f. 13	GHD to family from Marburg, Schwarzwald, Zurich, Geneva, Munich, and Eisenach	1906 September
b. 1, f. 14	GHD to family from Dresden and Berlin	1906 October
b. 1, f. 15	GHD to family from Berlin	1906 November
b. 1, f. 16	GHD to family from Berlin	1906 December
b. 1, f. 17	GHD to family from Berlin	1907 January
b. 1, f. 18	GHD to family from Berlin, Amsterdam, and Brussels	1907 February
b. 1, f. 19	GHD to family from Paris, Normandy, and London	1907 March
b. 1, f. 20	GHD to family from Cambridge, Glasgow, and Edinburgh	1907 April
b. 1, f. 21	From a friend in Marburg, from GHD in Wakefield, Massachusetts	1907 June–1907 September

**Series II: Writings, 1896–1918**

## Published writings

b. 1, f. 22	"Our Jerusalem Colony," <i>Yale Divinity Quarterly</i>	1906 January
b. 1, f. 23	"Some Reminiscences of Egypt," "Letter from Berlin," <i>Wakefield Citizen</i> Includes comments on German colonialism in Namibia (German South West Africa).	1907

## Drafts and essays

b. 1, f. 24	"The Scribes"	1896
b. 1, f. 25	"The Bridegroom of Gibeon," "The Greek Annual Wash in the Jordan"	c. 1906
b. 1, f. 26	"The American School for Oriental Study and Research At Home in Jerusalem"	c. 1906
b. 1, f. 27	"Little Bloomer Boys of Lebanon," "A Puzzle Picture from Jerusalem," "Child-life in Palestine" Written as children's stories.	c. 1906
b. 2, f. 1	"A Sabbath at the Cedars of Lebanon"	c. 1906
b. 2, f. 2	"Palestine and the Yemen Uprising," "The Turkish Revolution and the Christian Outlook in the Near East"	1906, n.d.
b. 2, f. 3	"Farms in Palestine and Egypt," "Palestine and Egypt," "Palestine the Home of Our Lord"	1908, n.d.
b. 2, f. 4	"How I Meditated on the Mount Called Olivet: Little Glimpses of Palestine by a Yale Fellow at Jerusalem" Typscript essay including photographs pasted in.	1913
b. 2, f. 5	"The Light on Jerusalem's Cross" Text celebrating the British occupation of Palestine.	1918

**Series III: Collected materials, 1905–1923**

b. 2, f. 6	Ephemera from travels Includes postcards sent from Beirut and Istanbul ("Constantinople").	1905–1907
b. 2, f. 7	Gathered writings Contains an announcement of Edgar J. Banks lecture series, 1909, booklet "The American School of Oriental Research," 1923, and a handwritten undated essay on women in China perhaps by Shi Kung Tsao.	1909–1923, n.d.
b. 2, f. 8	Biographical info on GHD	



**Series IV: Photographs, 1905–1907**

Organized and described by GHD

Photograph prints and negatives numerically organized by GHD and labeled "P = Palestine Trip." Each negative envelope contains a written description of the image.

b. 2, f. 9	Labeled P1-P37 Negatives from Italy, Gibraltar, and Greece.	1905
b. 2, f. 10	Labeled P38-P52 Photographs from Constantinople, Beirut, and Rayfoun, Lebanon.	1905
b. 2, f. 11	Labeled P53-P62 Photographs from Lebanon.	1905
b. 2, f. 12	Labeled P63-P74 Photographs from GHD's trip to the Cedars of Lebanon and Beirut. For related materials, see also box 2, folder 1, "A Sabbath at the Cedars of Lebanon."	1905
b. 2, f. 13	Labeled P75-P82 Photographs from Sidon, Lebanon.	1905
b. 2, f. 14	Labeled P83-P92 Photographs from archaeological sites in Syria, Tyre, Acre, the Sea of Galilee, and Jezreel.	1905
b. 2, f. 15	Labeled P93-P104 Photographs from Palestine, including Mount Hermonit ("Little Hermon"), Nazareth, Mount Carmel, Tell el-Mutesellim ("Megiddo").	1905
b. 2, f. 16	Labeled P105-P123 Photographs from Samaria, Schechem, the Latin Monastery in Jifna, Beitin ("Bethel"), An-Nabi Samwil ("Neby Samwil"), and photographs of a funeral procession in Arraba and school children.	1905
b. 2, f. 17	Labeled P124-P133 Photographs from Jerusalem, including the Mount of Olives, Absalom's Tomb, Job's well, Isaiah's tree, and boys playing kickball.	1905
b. 3, f. 1	Labeled P134-P147 Photographs from Bethlehem, Nablus, and Jerusalem, including portraits.	1905
b. 3, f. 2	Labeled P148-P160 Photographs from the Friends Mission School, Khirbet Seilun ("Shiloh"), Bethoron, and Ramallah.	1905
b. 3, f. 3	Labeled P161-182 Photographs from Bethlehem, including Christmas processions.	1905
b. 3, f. 4	Labeled P183-P194 Photographs from Wadi Qelt ("Wady Kelt"), Jericho, and the Dead Sea.	1905–1906

## Organized and described by GHD (continued)

b. 3, f. 5	Labeled P195-P205 Photographs of baptisms in the Jordan River.	1905-1906
b. 3, f. 6	Labeled P206-P219 Photographs from "Frank Mountain," the bedouin community at Wadi Khureitun, and Tekoa.	1906 February 6-1906 February 24
b. 3, f. 7	Labeled P220-P234 Photographs from Jerusalem, 'Anata, Ein Farah, and Mar Saba Monastery.	1906 February 26-1906 March 3
b. 3, f. 8	Labeled P235-P249 Photographs from Jerusalem and Bethlehem, including portraits.	1906 March 9-1906 March 13
b. 3, f. 9	Labeled P250-P273 Photographs from Hebron, Artuf, Qalqilya ("Kalkilieh"), and Caesarea.	1906 March 15-1906 March 26
b. 3, f. 10	Labeled P274-P292 Photographs from Nazareth, Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, and Khirbet al-Minyeh ("Khan Minyeh").	1906 March 26-1906 March 29
b. 3, f. 11	Labeled P293-P307 Photographs, including from the Sea of Galilee and the Synagogue ruins in Kafr Bir'im.	1906 March 30-1906 April 2
b. 3, f. 12	Labeled P308-P330 Photographs from Gadara.	1906 April 3-1906 April 10
b. 4, f. 1	Labeled P331-P339 Photographs from Mount Gerezim and Shechem, portrait of Khalil.	1906 April 11-1906 April 12
b. 4, f. 2	Labeled P340-P347 Photographs from Jerusalem, including portraits of pilgrims, and Jaffa.	1906 April 14-1906 April 16
b. 4, f. 3	Labeled P348-P354 Photographs from Cairo.	1906 April 17-1906 April 19
b. 4, f. 4	Labeled P355-P356, miscellaneous negatives, and notes Negatives from Venice.	1906, n.d.
Miscellaneous and reprints Most of the following photographs are duplicate prints from the "P" series.		
b. 4, f. 5	Unidentified print series	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 6	From Sidon, the Dead Sea, Cedars of Lebanon, and unidentified Some photographs include captions written by GHD.	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 7	From Jerusalem, Sidon, and unidentified	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 8	From Palestine and Lebanon Photographs with captions written by GHD.	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 9	Portraits and group photographs from Palestine	1905-1906

## Miscellaneous and reprints (continued)

b. 4, f. 10	From Palestine and unidentified Contains small and cut image fragments.	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 11	From Palestine and unidentified	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 12	From Palestine and unidentified	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 13	From Palestine and unidentified	1905-1906
b. 4, f. 14	Photographs and negatives from onboard the S.S. Arabic	1907 April-1907 May
b. 4, f. 15	From Palestine and Wakefield, Massachusetts Photographs from correspondence with Aunt Sue in box 1, folder 12.	1906-1907

## **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**

Archaeological expeditions  
Archaeological sites  
Biblical scholars  
Christianity and other religions -- Islam  
Islam -- Relations -- Christianity  
Orientalism  
Travelers' writings, American

### **Geographic Names**

Berlin (Germany) -- Description and travel  
Palestine  
Palestine -- Antiquities  
Palestine -- Description and travel  
Turkey--History--Ottoman Empire, 1288-1918

### **Preferred Titles**

*Bible. New Testament -- Study and teaching*

### **Names**

Driver, George Hibbert (1879-1966)