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| Name of Creator: | Archaeological Institute of America American School for Oriental Study in Palestine. |
| Title: | American School for Oriental Study in Palestine Materials (Held at the Archaeological Institute of America) |
| Dates: | 1902-1934 |
| Collection Number: | Coll009 |
| Extent: | 12 Folders, throughout 9 Boxes |
| Location: | Archaeological Institute of America Archives |
| Biographical / Historical Abstract: | The collection contains materials created by the American School for Oriental Study in Palestine, an affiliate of the Archaeological Institute of America. The School was jointly established by the Archaeological Institute of America, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the American Oriental Society. In 1921, the School was incorporated as the American Schools of Oriental Research, an independent organization. |
| Scope and Content Abstract: | This collection is comprised of selected folders from the AIA archives. The folders contain correspondence, reports and meeting minutes. |

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| Languages: | English |
| System of Arrangement: | The materials are arranged chronologically. The original AIA folder titles and numeration have been maintained. |
| Physical Access: | These records are held by the Archaeological Institute of America, 656 Beacon St, 4 th Floor, Boston, Mass. |
| Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: | Copyright restrictions may apply. |

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| | <p>Archaeological Institute of America, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the American Oriental Society. In 1921, the School was incorporated as the American Schools of Oriental Research, an independent organization.</p> <p>In 1900, the Archaeological Institute of America established a school of research in Jerusalem for scholars conducting special research in biblical literature, comparative religious history, Semitic languages, Roman colonization in the East, and natural history of the region. The School’s mission was “to be the headquarters of American scholars who are traveling in Palestine and to give them such aid as may be practicable.” The School’s other goals included fostering good relations between the United States and the Turkish government, which controlled the region at that time, and to cooperate with other research institutions in the region. The School was founded no political or religious attachments, and while many of the institutions contributing funds to the School were seminaries, the majority were secular universities.</p> <p>The School was based in Jerusalem’s Grand New Hotel from 1900-1905, and later from a rented house. Land was purchased just outside Jerusalem’s city walls in 1909, and by 1925, sufficient funds had been raised to construct a building to house the School’s offices and library.</p> | |
| <p>Chronology:</p> | <p>1900</p> | <p>The Archaeological Institute of America founds the American School of Oriental Research in Palestine. The School takes up offices at Jerusalem’s Grand New</p> |

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| | | Hotel. |
| | 1902 | Thayer Fellowship established in honor of Harvard professor J. Henry Thayer. |
| | 1906 | The School moves out of the Grand New Hotel into a rented house. |
| | 1909 | Land is purchased. Fundraising for a new building begins. |
| | 1910 | The name of the organization is changes to the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem. |
| | 1921 | The School becomes independently incorporated under the title American Schools of Oriental Research. |
| | 1925 | The new building is completed and occupied by ASOR. |
| Bibliography: | King, Philip J. <i>American Archaeology in the Mideast: A History of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> . Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1983. | |
| Scope and Content Note: | <p>This collection is comprised of selected folders from the AIA archives. The folders contain correspondence, reports and meeting minutes.</p> <p>Folder 9.5 (General records) contains a constitution for the American Schools for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine, and meeting minutes from 1900, wherein funds for a “School of Oriental Study in Palestine” are mentioned.</p> <p>Folder 10.6 (AIA Records, Council Minutes) documents the establishment of the Thayer Scholarship, and the official inclusion of the School in Palestine in AIA regulations in 1902.</p> | |

Folder 17.1 (Kelsey correspondence re: School in Palestine) contains photographs of the empty lot on which the Jerusalem School would eventually be built, blueprints and architectural drawings of the proposed structure, and an ASOR mission statement.

Folder 17.2 (President Kelsey correspondence re: purchase of property by AIA Schools in Rome and Jerusalem) discusses the purchase of land in Jerusalem, the activities of the Managing Committee of the School in Palestine, and the possibility of a land tax exemption. 1909.

Folder 18.12 (President Kelsey correspondence w/ Charles Torrey re: foundation of School in the Near East) documents the discussion of land taxes, changing the name of the organization to "American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem," and potential donors.

Folder 19.24 (President Kelsey correspondence Re: School on Oriental Research) contains letters regarding the purchase of real estate in Jerusalem, and the dedication and founding of the library at the Jerusalem School.

Folder 19.25 (Memo/records, American School in Jerusalem) contains an annual report of the goals and activities of the Jerusalem School. The report outlines the School's budget and lists committee officers. The file also contains press regarding the deaths of Ida and Isador Straus, and a pamphlet on the "Character and Aims" of the School.

Folder 20.22 (General correspondence

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| | <p>re: School of Oriental Research) contains a letter about tensions between Jerusalem's Jews and Muslims,</p> <p>Folder 21.20 (President Egbert Administrative correspondence, including correspondence w/ American School of Oriental Art in Jerusalem) contains letters discussing the possible incorporation of ASOR as an independent organization, funding for fellowships, and partnering with research schools from other countries.</p> <p>Folder 24.16 (Records/correspondence re: American School of Oriental Research) contains correspondence regarding the Jerusalem School's construction, minutes and reports from Board of Trustee and Executive Committee meetings.</p> <p>Folder 25.9 (President Magoffin correspondence w/ James Montgomery re: Jerusalem Fellowship) contains correspondence regarding funding for building and furnishing the Jerusalem School.</p> <p>Folder 27.7 (President Magoffin correspondence w/Ford re: American School of Oriental Research) contains reports to the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee.</p> |
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| Collection Inventory | | | |
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| <i>Box</i> | <i>Folder Number</i> | <i>Folder Title</i> | <i>Dates</i> |
| 9 | 5 | General records re: various schools/AIA history | 1897-1911 |
| 10 | 6 | AIA Records: Council Meeting minutes | 1902 |
| 17 | 1 | President Kelsey corres/records/blueprints re: School in Palestine, plans of building | 1909 |

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| | | and purchase of property | |
| 17 | 2 | President Kelsey corres re: purchase of property by AIA Schools in Rome and Jerusalem | 1909 |
| 18 | 12 | President Kelsey corres w/ Charles Torrey re: foundation of School in the Near East | 1910-1912 |
| 19 | 24 | President Kelsey corres. Re: School on Oriental Research | 1912 |
| 19 | 25 | Memo/records, American School in Jerusalem | 1912 |
| 20 | 22 | General correspondence re: School of Oriental Research | 1918-1921 |
| 21 | 20 | President Egbert Administrative correspondence, including correspondence w/ American School of Oriental Art in Jerusalem | 1919-1921 |
| 24 | 16 | Records / correspondence re: American School of Oriental Research | 1924-1927 |
| 25 | 9 | President Magoffin correspondence w/ James Montgomery re: Jerusalem Fellowship | 1925 |
| 27 | 7 | President Magoffin correspondence w/ Ford re: American School of Oriental Research | 1928-1934 |

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| Subject Headings: | |
| 600 - Subject Added Entry - Personal Name | Kelsey, Francis W. (Francis Willey), 1858-1927 |
| 600 - Subject Added Entry - Personal Name | Torrey, C. C. (Charles Cutler), 1827-1913 |
| 600 - Subject Added Entry - Personal Name | Egbert, J. C. (James Chidester), 1859-1948 |
| 600 - Subject Added Entry - Personal Name | Magoffin, Ralph Van Deman, 1874-1942 |
| 610 - Subject Added Entry - Corporate Name | Archaeological Institute of America |
| 610 - Subject Added Entry - Corporate Name | Albright Institute of Archaeological Research |
| 610 - Subject Added Entry - Corporate Name | American Schools of Oriental Research. American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem |
| 650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical | Research into ancient times |

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| Term | |
| 650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical Term | Jerusalem--1900-1930. |
| 650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical Term | Jerusalem biblical studies |
| 650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical Term | Society of Biblical Literature |
| 650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical Term | Biblical research |
| 650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical Term | Archaeology and biblical studies |
| 650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical Term | Archaeology and history – Middle East. |

This finding aid was written by Cynthia Rufo in April of 2010.