Albert Lybyer (b. 1876, Putnamville, Indiana; d. 1949) holds a place of importance in the history of the Middle East and the Balkans not only as a scholar but as an observer. After World War I, Lybyer, who was highly regarded for his history of the Ottoman empire, served as a member of the Inquiry into Peace Terms and the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, conducted by Colonel Edward House (August 1918-May 1919). He also acted as a technical advisor to the Interallied Commission on Mandates in Turkey, American Section, otherwise known as the King-Crane Commission (March-September 1919). At this time, he made a 42-day tour of inquiry in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. Lybyer had acquired a first-hand knowledge of Turkey as a mathematics instructor (1900-06) at Robert College (now University of Bosphorus), founded by Americans in 1863 in Istanbul. Lybyer's association with the Balkans continued for twenty years through his position as a trustee of the American College in Sofia, Bulgaria (closed 1943). A popular lecturer on historical topics on WILL, the University radio station, Lybyer was a professor (1913-44) and, afterwards, professor emeritus in the Department of History at the University of Illinois.

Lybyer studied at, and preserved his class notes from, Princeton (AB 1896), Princeton Theological Seminary (AM 1899) - including those taken as a student of Woodrow Wilson - and Harvard (Ph.D. 1909). Her personal papers, such as Inquiry reports, personal diaries and interview notes, were drawn upon by Harry N. Howard for his study of the King-Crane Commission. Lybyer's Papers are also noteworthy for his correspondence with Ms. Halide Edib [Adivar] (1884-1964), a major Turkish literary and political figure, and his large collection of glass plate slides and photos from travels in Europe, Anatolian Turkey and other parts of the Middle East in 1912 and 1936, hundreds of which were mounted and identified by Herman H. Kreider, a long-time official of Robert College. Lybyer's unpublished manuscripts include a "Bibliography of Description and Travel in the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1937" (with indexes), compiled with Mary L. Shay; a History of Turkey, 1908-22; as well as a journal of his travels in Europe and the Near East in 1936. In addition, Lybyer's papers reflect his personal interest in the Izaak Walton League, Florida real estate and the 1948 Progressive Party.

Writings:


Related Sources:

3-page Finding Aid.
15/13/22
Liberal Arts and Sciences
History
Albert H. Lybyer Papers, 1876-1949

A.B., Princeton University, 1896
D.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1900
Ph.D., Harvard University, 1909

Taught at Robert College, Constantinople; Harvard; Oberlin College and University of Illinois with various summer appointments, University of Illinois (1913-1944)

From August 1918 through March 1919, Lybyer was a member, successively, of Col. Edward House's Inquiry into Peace Terms (7-12/18), and of the American Commission to Negotiate peace in New York and Paris. From April to September 1919, he was with the King-Crane Commission on Mandates in Turkey, in each case as a Technical Adviser on Balkan Affairs.

Harry N. Howard has published an exhaustive study and evaluation: The King-Crane Commission (Beirut, 1963) which makes extensive use of those records which were shown him by Lybyer in 1940 (see Howard correspondence); Prof. Howard also read a paper on the subject at the December 1941 American Historical Association Meeting.

From 1923-30, Lybyer was an Associate Editor of Current History, writing a monthly news article on the Near East.

Correspondence, 1909-48 (8 boxes) relating to: teaching arrangements at Oberlin (1911-13), Ohio State (summer school 1911), Berkeley (summer school 1929), Northwestern (summer school, 1938), University of Illinois; his graduate students' theses and careers; state and local conservation; American History Association prize committees; publications in magazines, encyclopedias; addresses and radio talks; schools and relief in Near East and Turkey; visits and trip in the United States, Europe and the Near East; First Congregational Church; family history and genealogy; foreign students and proteges; real estate affairs in Iowa, Indiana, Florida and Illinois; memo to Paul Hill on Woodrow Wilson

Box 1: A - Busch

Aa-Am
Adams and Winsor Prizes
A.A.U.P (American Association of University Professors)
A.C.L.S. (American Council of Learned Societies)
American Historical Association, 1927-1991
American Historical Review, 1925 - 1939
American Oriental Society - Middle West Branch, Meeting Program, 1919
American Year Book
An-Ay
Apartments: Urbana
Ba-Bi
Babcock, K.C., 1922-1932
Beer Prize, 1929-1930
Belleff, Vladimir
Benson, Clifton D., “Florida Boom”, 1924-1927
Bl-Bo
Bogart, E.L., (2 Folders)
-1936
1940-1948
Br-B
Brent House, 1941-1944
Brodie, Donald, 1919-1945
Brooke, Morgan, 1919-1947
Brush, Elizabeth P.
Busch, Clarence, “Florida Boom”, 1925-1927

Box 2: C - Dutcher
Ca-Chi
Caney Creek
Carmichael, Dean R.D., 1934-1942
Castle, C.E, 1925-1935
Chase, Harry W., 1930-32
China Aid
Chr-Com
Clark, A.J., 1926-1940
Clements, Olsen, (3 Folders)
1926-1927
1928-1929
1930-1935
Con-Cu
Coolidge, Archibald C., 1910-1930
Coral Gables, 1925-1930
Crofts, F.S. & Co., 1927-1940
Current History
Curtis, F.G.
Da-Dol
Dancheff, Christo
David, W.G.
Dodge, Cleveland
Dom-Du
Dutcher, Geo M.

**Box 3:** E - Hyzer

E
Edib, Halide
*Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*
Estes, Carrie Lee., 1914-1917
F
Fikret, H.H.
Foreign Students
Forest Preserve Committee
Ga-Go
Gra-Gy
Greene, Evarts, 1913-1933
Green Mt. Falls, Col.
Ha-Har
Harris Memorial Foundation
Has-Hi
Hoa-Hor
Hodson, Martha
Hoover, Herbert, 1932
Hos-Hz
Howard, Harry N.
Hutchins, Pres. W. J.
HYZER & Padgett

**Box 4:** I - L

I
Income Tax, 1922-1928
Indiana - in relation to land
Izaak, Walton L. (2 Folders)
J (2 Folders)
  1916-1925
  1925-1945
Joshi, S.L.
Ka-Kind
Karpootlian, 1909-1921
Key Largo Properties, 1925-1927
King-Kuo
Kinley, -1937
Kyrias School, 1913-1914
L
LaFuze, L., 1933-1945
Larson, Lawrence, (3 Folders)
    1919-1936
    Dinner (2 Folders)
Library International Relations
Lincoln Apartments: Florida & Urbana
Lowell, F.C. - Judge & Mrs.

Box 5: M - Northwestern University

Ma-Me
Macedonia Political Organization, U.S.A
MaLone, Carroll, 1927-1938
Mange, Alice, 1927-1948
Marden, E.D.
Mather, W.A., 1927-1948
Mc
Mi-Mor
Miami Bank & Trust Company, 1920-1926
Miami University
Miller, Barnette
Miller, H.R.
Moore, Laurence
Mos-My
Mutual Life, N.Y., 1909-1924
N
Near East College Association, 1925-1940
Near East Colleges & Relief, 1920-1937
New Orient Society, 1931-38
Nickoley, Edward & Mrs.
North Pollywog Club. Inc.
Northwestern University, 1937-1939

Box 6: O - Rozenbaum

O, 1909-1944
Oberlin College, 1911-1927
Pa-Pe
Palestine
Palm, F.C.
Panaretoff, Stephen, 1909-1931
Papazanian, Haget, 1911-1916
Pease, Theodore C., 1925-1941
Peritch, Ismailko, 1913-1921
Ph-Py
Phi Beta Kappa, 1924-1934
Pilgrim Foundation (Congressional Church)
P.A.C. (Political Action Committee)
Ponafidine, Mme P., 1923-1933
Presbyterian Ministers Fund, 1910-1942
Price, Price & Neeley, 1912-1926
Pritchard, Earl H., 1929-1941
Q
Ra-Ri
Radio Lecture Fan Mail, 1940-1945
Raynolds, Joshua
Religious Conf. (Univ.), 1939
Ro-Ry, 1913-1944
Robert College
Robinson, Maurice
Rodkey, F.S.
Rozenbaum, Z.W., 1934-1938

Box 7: S - T

Sa-Se
Sabri, Ibrahim
Sage, Leland
Sarkiss, Harry
Savides, A.P.
Schwartz, S
Sh-Sm
Sn-Sz
Social Science Research Council Abstracts
Sofia American Schools, 1926-1940
Speaking Engagements, 1944-45
Stripling, George W.F.
Strong, S.M.
Sulieman: Reviews, Notes, Correspondence
T
Tsai, W.F.
Tsui, C.H.
Twenty Fifth Anniversary

**Box 8: U - Zeki + Record/Journals**

**U**
University Club (2 Folders)
  1922-1929
  1945-1948
Universities Com. - Post - War Int. Problems

**V**
Wa-We
Washburn, Dr. & Mrs. G.H.
Wh-Wy
W.I.L.L. (See also: Radio Lecture Fan Mail, 1940-1945, Box 6)
Wright, Mrs. Florence or G.T.
X.Y.Z.
Y.M.C.A., 1920-1943
Young, Ellen
Zeki, A. & H.

Records/Journals Include (roughly 16 bound/tied items at back on box):
  Robert College Gradebooks and Mathematics Lecture, 1900-09
  Chronology of Mohammed II
  World War I Bibliography, ca. 1916
  Syrian and Armenian Relief Conference Notes, 1917
  Personal Notes and Memoranda, 1918-25
  Journal of Trip to Europe and Near East, 1936

**Box 9: Lecture Notes, Assignments and Exams. 1909-1944**

Oberlin Study on Student Life, 1911-1912
French Rev., 1911-1912
Asiatic History, 1911-1912
Medieval, S. School, O.S.U., 1911
Med. History, Misc.1910-1919
Roman Hist., S. School, O.S.U., 1911
Medieval Hist., 1909-1910
Mod. European Hist., 1909-1910 (3 Folders)
  Oct. - Dec. 1909
  Jan. - Mar. 1910
Apr. - June 1910
Mod. European Hist., Misc., 1910-1914
Renaissance & Reformation (2 Folders)
  1910-1911
  1912
Western Asia, 1912-1913
German History, 1910-1911
Modern H., S. School, 1912
Levant, 1909-1910 (2 Folders)
  Sept. 1909 - Feb. 1910
  Mar. - June 2010
Misc. Lectures, Exams, etc.
Exam Questions (2 Folders)
  1913/14 - 1929/30
  1930/31 - 1943/1944
Tutorials & Honors Students, 1931 - 1939
A.S.T. & V.12 Programs [Armed Forces]

Box 10: Manuscripts, Speeches and Studies, 1914-1947

Published articles, 1910-21, 1936, 1942 (manuscripts)
Ottoman Turks and Trade Routes, 1915
Current History, 1924-33
Bibliotheca Sacra (Eighty-Sixth Year) Pamphlets (2 books)
  January, 1916
  October, 1916
Macedonia and the Balkan Policy at the Paris Peace Conference, 1944-45
Articles, 1914-1936 + No Date
Encyclopedia of Social Sciences, 1931-1933
History of Civilization, 1939-40
Constantinople: Capital of the Ottoman Empire
World Book Encyclopedia Articles, 1940-41
Questions of the Near East Syllabus, 1921
Bibliographies
Book Reviews, 1914-30 (manuscripts)
Fragments, Unidentified
Speeches (7 Folders)
  1895-1896
  1907, 1910-1914
  1916-1917
  1922-1923
  1931, 1934
1936-1938
1939-1940, 1944, 1947
Speeches, Talks, Addresses, Undated
Math Studies (4 Folders)
1945 (2 Folders)
1935-1945
General

Box 11:

Notes on Turkish history, 1907-22
MSS. History of Turkey, 1908-23
MSS. Bibliography of Description and Travel in the Ottoman Empire, 1300-1937, with M.S. Shay;
index and bibliography
Publishers’ Copies
1300-1700
1700-1849
1850-75
1875-1900
1900-25
Notes for the Bibliography

Box 12:

Alphabetical and chronological entry slips for the History, Description and Travel Bibliographies
of the Ottoman Empire, ca. 1937
First Layer: Alphabetical index to Vol. II of A Bibliography of the History of the Ottoman Empire
Second Layer: Chronological index to Vol. I of A Bibliography of Description & Travel. . .
Third Layer: Alphabetical index to Vol. I, as above

Box 13: Reference Files and Photographs

News Bulletins: Jewish Agency, Sep.-Oct., 1924
AHL Notes on Books, Speeches, 1927-41
Smryna, 1922 / Armenian Deportation, 1916
Sansovino, Tursun Bey, Mahmood Badeem Bey
The Reign of Osman, Brattuttis Saidino
Hojja Stories, from Turkish
Decree of Selim I, Laws of Sultan Suleiman
Mohammed the Conqueror as Poet
Prayer Boards - reproduction
Tunis Bey
Mustafa Kemal  
Voyage...to the Indies, 1537  
Notes on Mohammed  
Turkish Translation Service (American Board), 1927-31  
Turkish Translation Service, 1933-37  
Turkish Translation Service (American Board), 1938-43  
From Turkish Press, 1926  
Turkey, Miscellaneousl  
Bulgaria  
Near East Society Bulletins, 1939-42  
Photographs: glass plates, possibly for two lectures, "Constantinople" and "Life of the Turks," negatives of family portraits; 250 photos taken in 1936 in Europe and the Near East. The latter enlarged by H.H. Kreider and mounted and identified (negatives also); snapshots of family and friends; AHL and American Macedonian delegation at the United Nations (1946).  
Near East, Kreider, 1936  
Mounted Photos, Near East, Kreider, 1936  
Mounted Photos, Anatolia, Kreider, 1936  
Anatolia, Kreider, 1936  
Glass Plates  
Key to Kreider Prints  
Lybyer, Albert H, Mr and Mrs.  
Family and Friends  
Photos, Negatives  
Bulgaria  
California, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, 1929  
England  
Greece  
Hungary  
Italy, Venice  
Palestine  
Syria  
Robert College, Istanbul  
Turkey, Adrianople  
Turkey  
Yugoslavia  
Macedonia Delegation to UN, 1946  
Greenough, Whitlock Genealogy Photo  
U.S. Oberlin, Ohio  
Photos with Identification Stamp “22” on Reverse  
Photos with Identification Stamps “3,” “6,” or “54” on Reverse  
Photos with Identification Stamp “42” on Reverse  
Unidentified Prints and Negatives
Box 14: Florida Land Affairs, 1912-1930, and University Committees, 1920-1940

Educational Program Committee (sub-committee of Committee of Nine), 1931-32 (12 folders);
  - Military Sc, Journalism
  - Departmental Questionnaires
  - Suggestions Received (folder 1 of 2)
  - Suggestions Received (folder 2 of 2)
  - Admission of Students
  - Notes
  - Physical Education
  - Problems Suggested
  - Diagrams and Statistics
  - Improvement of Teaching Sophomore Certificates
  - Correspondence and Reports
  - “Minutes,” Reports

College Policy Committee, 1934-35 (2 folders)
  - Inactive Material
  - Active Material

Department Affairs. 1930-41 (2 folders)
  - Correspondence, Reports, and Statistics, 1930-1940
  - State Conference of Hist. Teachers, Headship, 1938-41

Graduate School Committee (Committee of Nine), 1931-32

Committee on Religious Foundation Courses, 1920

Committee on Library, 1920 / Statutes, 1931 / Choosing a President, 1933

Florida Land Affairs (further material throughout General Correspondence File), including deeds, titles, correspondence, balance sheets, partnership agreements, syndicate balance reports, land plats, operations accounts, individual investment accounts and bills. (5 folders)
  - Florida Land Affairs
  - City National Bank and Trust, Miami (formerly Miami B and T Co.), 1926-30
  - Wagner, Ward, Miami, Fruit Sales

Box 15:

AHL to Clara A. Lybyer, August 1918 - September 1919 (5 folders)

Diary, 1918

Correspondence; memoranda; notes on conversations with experts, travellers, and politicians; statistics; reports and maps; photographs; minutes; work papers; souvenirs
  - December 1917 - October 1918
  - November 1918
  - December 1918
January 1919
February 1-19, 1919
February 20-28, 1919
March 1-6, 1919
March 7-31, 1919
April 1919
May 1919

Library of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, October 1918 - April 1919
Statistics, Paris, Greece
Inquiry, Diplomatic History of Balkans, 1878-1908
Inquiry, Copies of Outlines, Diplomatic Histories of Bulgaria and Macedonia
Article Reprints
“Balkan Reference, Treaties, Protocol, and Article Abstracts”
“Bulgaria”
Macedonia; “Bulgaria Dardanelles”
“Paris” Balkan Policy of the Peace Conference, December 1918 - April 1919
“Smyrna Before Greek Occupation”
Work Papers, A.H.L.

Box 16: King-Crane Commission (May-August 1919)

Document File #1 - numbered documents ordered and numbered by AHL for H.N. Howard in 1941
(2 folders)
Document File #1, Items 1-61 (170 pages)
Document File #1, Items 62-85 (220 pages)

Documents File #2 - As above, but documents unnumbered; Photos from King-Crane Commission
(138 pages)

King-Crane Commission
Petitions and addresses to King-Crane Commission - in Arabic and Hebrew (131 pages)
Hungary-Romania - “Maid of Honor” (1 page)
Palestine (51 photos)
Lebanon, Jordan (14 photos)
Syria (45 photos)
Turkey (6 photos)
Photos, May-August 1919 (49 photos)

King-Crane Commission - Chronological Files
June 1919 (27 pages)
July 1919 (185 pages)
August 1-7, 1919 (275 pages)

Box 17: King-Crane Commission, Chronological File
August 8-31, 1919 (107 pages)
September 1919 (10 pages)
October 1919 (1 pages)
November 1919 (1 pages)
December 1919 (4 pages)
Memo and Address Books (220 pages)
Transcripts of Diary (2 Folders)
  January - March, 1919 (88 pages)
  March 31 - September 15, 1919 (167 pages)

Diary - January 1 - September 6, 1919 (pages)
Correspondence and materials relating to King-Crane Commission
  1920 (6 pages)
  1922 (12 pages)
  1923 (49 pages)
  1924 (7 pages)
  1928 (1 page)
  1933 (2 pages)
Harry N. Howard's The King Crane Commission, typescript of 1940 drafts (3 folders)
  Chapter V - “The Problem of the Turkish Homelands” (111 pages)
  Chapter VI - “Evolving an American Policy” (104 pages)
  Chapter VII - “American-Turkish Relations” (78 pages)

Box 18: Harvard Notes, 1906-1909
  Semitic History 1, 7, 15 and 11

Box 19: Harvard Notes

List of References
  1908
  1910
  1914
  1916

Theses
Lecture Notes
Outside reading notes
Course notes for History of Religions (Moore)
  History of Babylonia (Lyon)
  Revival of Greek (Emerton)
  Medieval Church History (Emerton)
  Roman History (Haskins)
  Sources of Medieval History (Haskins)
Roman Law (Haskins)
Greek History (Ferguson)
Government 10 (Lowell)
History 1 Reference Lists, 1908-16

Box 20: Princeton Notes

Class Notes on Hebrew (Davis)
  Systematic Theology (Warfield)
  Advanced General Psychology (Baldwin)
  Latin (West)
  Life of Christ (Purvis)
  Finance, English Literature, Political Economy (2 books)
  History of Philosophy (5 books)
  Old Testament History
  Bible Study
  Biblical Theology
  Systematic Theology
  Politics
  History 59
  Geometry
  Life of Paul
  Science and Religion
  Astronomy
  English
  Psychology
  Politics of the U.S.
  Logic
  Metaphysics and Woodrow Wilson's International Law
  Public Law
  Constitutional Law
  Jurisprudence

Examinations and diplomas

Personal correspondence
  Lybyer to wife, 1900-01 from Europe, Istanbul and summer 1929 from California
  Mrs. Lybyer to A.H.L., 1923-49

Personal Records
  Reports on teaching, publications, travel
  Contracts
  Entertainments
  Farewell speech notes, 1913-41
  List of Lybyer's books, 1948
Box 21: Family Papers, 1851-1945

Correspondence of families of Andrews, Layman, Paul Lybyer, Dan Lybyer, Odell, Ella Young, Baker, Whitlock and Greenough; the Ogden Greenough correspondence (1859-1862) has been transcribed and edited
Old Letters Sorted & Marked by A.H.L. (~25)
Daniel Lybyer's family bible - Includes: photographs, noted pages, locks of hair
Transcriptions of literary descriptions of the Prairies (Printed Descriptions)
Letters To & From:
  Howe, Laymon, Thompson, Williams
  Baker Family
  Whitlock Family, 1855-1864
  Andrews Family, 1923-1945
  Greenough, Ogden (3 Folders)
    Transcripts (2 of 3 Folders)
      1859 - Feb. 1862
      Mar. 1862 - June 1864
  Documents (Transcripts, Copies)
  Odell, Lucy, Helen, & Jeanette (cousin)
  Odell, Chas., Lucy, 1923-1925
  Lybyer, Dan
  Lybyer, Paul, Harriet
  Lybyer, Paul, Harriet, Jenine
  Lymau; Greenbough J.C., 1851-1868
Laymon Family (Property & Correspondence)
Layman Estates
Layman, G.W., Estate
Ellen S. Young, Estate (2 Folders)

Box 22: Glass Slides of Europe and Ottoman Empire, 1912

Collection of 3" x 2 1/2" color glass slides made during a trip through France, Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire in 1912
  Slides show scenes in Paris, Munich, Stuttgart, Innsbruck, Salzburg and Vienna. There are a large number of slides taken on a trip through Armania (Works of Art) and the Caucasus to Mount Ararat. There are also picture of Lake Vais, Anatolia, al-Bittes, Erzroom, France & Germany Misc., and a number of Middle Eastern scenes.
  Lake Vais
  Mount Ararat - black and white negatives
  Armania - Works of Art
  Russia - Anatolia, al-Bittes, Erzroom
  Austria - Hungary
France, Germany - Miscellaneous