April 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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Abstract

This collection consists of articles, brochures, maps, pamphlets, pictures, and publications associated with the Reformed Church in America’s (RCA) mission in Arabia, begun in 1889 through the works of James Cantine and Samuel M. Zwemer. A 50th anniversary was celebrated in 1939. There are materials about specific missions in the nations of Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman, whereas the majority of the collection deals with Saudi Arabia in particular. There is also information on the missionaries of the Arabia mission, including the books *History of the Arabian Mission* (n.d.) and *Who’s Who in the Arabian Mission* (1938) by Dorothy Van Ess; DVD *al-Amrikani* (The American Mission) about the work of the American Mission hospitals in Kuwait from 1911 to May 1967; and *Kuwait Before Oil: Memoirs of Dr. C. Stanley Mylrea, Pioneer Medical Missionary of the Arabian Mission, Reformed Church in America* (written between 1945-1951).

Accession No: W88-0316.1
Provenance: Reformed Church in America
Donor: Western Theological Seminary
Photographs: 60 images (Boxes 1 and 2)
Processed by: Michael Douma, May 2001

History

The RCA mission to Arabia began in 1889 through the works of James Cantine and Samuel M. Zwemer. They wished to preach the Gospel to those who had only known Islam. A 50th anniversary was celebrated in 1939. Missionaries continued to evangelize but they added a social dimension to their work as they practiced medicine and educated the natives.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of articles, brochures, maps, pamphlets, pictures, and publications associated with the RCA’s mission in Arabia. There are materials about specific missions in the nations of Bahrain, Kuwait, and Oman, whereas the majority of the collection deals with Saudi Arabia in particular. There is also information on the missionaries of the Arabia mission, including the books *History of the Arabian Mission* (n.d.) and *Who’s Who in the Arabian Mission* (1938) by Dorothy Van Ess; and *Kuwait Before Oil: Memoirs of Dr. C. Stanley Mylrea, Pioneer Medical Missionary of the Arabian Mission, Reformed Church in America* (written between 1945-1951).

Container List

Box 1

50th Anniversary, 1939
American Mission Hospital: 100 Years of Caring, 1903-2003, movie (CD), 2003
Articles, 1947-1982
Bags for Baghdad Program, 1951
Bahrain, 1938-1982
Booklets, n.d.
Brief Historical Surveys, 1962
Brochures, 1937-1963
Film, al-Amrikani (The American Mission) about the work of the American Mission hospitals in Kuwait from 1911 to May 1967, 2015 (DVD)
Kuwait, 1938-1980
Oman, 1903-1975 (4 images)
Pamphlets, 1928-1960

Box 2

Photograph Album Book, Middle East Memories, by Una Ratmeyer, 1989
Photographs, 1901-1929, n.d. (44 images)
Publications
Board of Foreign Missions, ca. 1949-ca. 1956
Department of Missionary Education, ca. 1928-ca. 1955
Kuwait Before Oil: Memoirs of Dr. C. Stanley Mylrea, Pioneer Medical Missionary of the Arabian Mission, Reformed Church in America (written between 1945-1951)
New Arabic Hymnal translations, n.d.
Sketch of the Arabian Mission, 1901, 1907
Who’s Who in the Arabian Mission by Mrs. John (Dorothy) Van Ess, 1938
Women’s Board of Foreign Missions, ca. 1937-1943
Women’s Missionary Work, RCA, 1950-1959
Slides, n.d. (12 images)
The Missionaries, 1940-1962

Oversized (See Oversized Cabinet)

Maps, n.d. (2 items)