

Mark J. Dresden papers

Ms. Coll. 1200

Finding aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige.

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University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2016 April 28

Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	5
Controlled Access Headings.....	6
Collection Inventory.....	7
Series I. Correspondence.....	7
Series II. Events and lectures.....	7
Series III. Personal financial documents.....	8
Series IV. Funding and grants.....	9
Series V. Personal Documents.....	9
Series VI. Projects.....	10
Series VII. Research and writing.....	10

Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Dresden, Mark J.
Title	Mark J. Dresden papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1200
Date [inclusive]	1930-1994
Extent	2.4 linear feet (3 boxes and 2 oversize folders)
Language	English
Language Note	This collection is primarily in English but also has several items in Dutch, French, German, Persian and Japanese.
Abstract	<p>Mark Jan Dresden (1911-1986) was a Dutch-American Iranist who studied Indology. He taught Persian and Old and Middle Iranian Languages at the University of Pennsylvania from 1949 until his retirement in 1977. Dresden's work on Khotanese, Persian and Iranian languages and texts is widely published. This collection, dating from 1930 to 1994 contains correspondence, ephemera, event files, lectures, financial documents, funding and grants files, project files, research and writing, and personal documents.</p>

Cite as:

Mark J. Dresden papers, 1930-1994, Ms. Coll. 1200, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Mark Jan Dresden, a Dutch-American Iranist, was born in Amsterdam on April 26, 1911. He studied classics and Indology at the University of Amsterdam, where he earned his master's degree in 1937, and Vedic ritual texts at the University of Utrecht, completing his dissertation, *M#navag#hyas#tra*, in 1941. He then studied at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris as an exchange fellow supported by the French government from 1937 to 1939. He taught Greek and Latin at a secondary school in Amsterdam from 1945 to 1949. During this period, his own interests shifted from Indology to Iranian studies. From 1947 to 1949, Dresden worked as a Dutch government-supported scholar in Cambridge, where he met W. Norman Brown who was considering introducing Iranian studies to the University of Pennsylvania curriculum. Brown invited Dresden to teach Persian as well as Old and Middle Iranian Languages at the University of Pennsylvania and Dresden served in that capacity from 1949 until his retirement in 1977. Dresden's work on Khotanese, Persian and Iranian languages and texts is widely published.

Sources: "Dresden, Mark Jan." Encyclopaedia Iranica (accessed 2016 April 27).

Scope and Contents

This collection is divided into seven series: I. Correspondence, II. Events and lectures, III. Personal financial documents, IV. Funding and grants, V. Personal documents, VI. Projects, and VII. Research and writing. The correspondence is dated from 1930 to 1994 and includes professional and personal correspondence. The bulk of the letters are professional in nature, however, there are several postcards concerning holidays and travel, wedding and engagement announcements, personal letters between Dresden and his friends and son. The professional letters generally concern meetings, reviews and publications, research, and letters from students to Dresden inquiring about a variety of topics. Some of the more frequent correspondents include Dr. P.K. Anklesaria, H.W. Bailey, J.H. Bannier, W. Norman Brown, Joseph B. Casagrande, D. Cohen, George W. Corner, A.H. Doerr, A. Dresden, Jacob Dresden, Dr. R.E. Emmerick, Bernhard Geiger, Badu Gharib, Ilya Gershevitch, Vartan Gregorian, William N. Hanaway, Jr., Gaylord P. Harnwell, Richard S. Harrell, W.B. Henning, John C. Hetherston, M.F. Kanga, Koji Kamioka, Hiroshi Kumamoto, S. Moos, Yutaka Ojihara, Dr. Helmut Petzolt, Dr. Mogens Pihl, G. Redard, Dr. P.A. Roelofsen, Shojaeddin Shafa, Dr. U.P. Shah, Denis Sinor, E.A. Speiser, B.L. Turner, David A. Utz, Ehsan Yarshater, and T. Cuyler Young, Jr. There is a folder containing letters addressed mostly to Dresden's wife following his death.

Series II. Events and lectures includes documents from the Conference at Villa Serbelloni in 1964, the World Conference of Iranologists in 1966, the Columbia University Summer Program of 1970, and other general events invitations. Many of the documents in this series are programs and fliers but there is also correspondence directly concerning the events and notes on lectures Dresden gave at these events. The financial documents contained in the third series date from 1960 to 1990 and are exclusively personal documents for Mark and Jacqueline Dresden. Researchers will find correspondence, receipts, and arrangements for international travel; banking records including statements and cancelled checks; insurance records; receipts for household and personal expenses; and receipts and payments for books.

Series IV. Funding and grants include the documents from Dresden's 1970 Fulbright research scholarship grant to Iran for which he proposed research in Iranian studies at the University of Tehran, as well as his work on the review committee for the National Endowment for the Humanities project proposals for translations in 1978 and 1979.

Series V. Personal documents includes Dresden's resume and biographical information, as well as ephemera such as several diplomas and certificates, an address book, a photograph of Hiroshi Kumamoto's wife and child, several miscellaneous documents, and a photo album from the Imperial Embassy of Iran in Washington D.C.

Series VI. Projects includes the creation of the "Atlas Linguistique et Ethnographique de l'Iran;" the Development project for Pahlavi University; the creation of a biographical dictionary of linguists and a biographical dictionary of orientalists; the catalogue of Dresden's private library; and his work on "Persian miniatures."

Series VII. Research and writing includes book reviews written by Dresden, Hiroshi Kumamoto education records, Dresden and his colleagues' published works, research documents, and newspaper clippings. Book reviews by Dresden include typescript copies of reviews of scholarly works. It appears that most of these reviews were published in journals. Over the years, Dresden appears to have developed a long-standing and close personal relationship with his student Hiroshi Kumamoto and his family. Following his graduation from the University of Tokyo in 1976, Kumamoto studied at the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Oriental Studies, earning his Ph.D. in 1982. He went on to teach at the International Buddhist University and the University of Tokyo. His education records include exams, papers, and correspondence regarding his dissertation proposal. Writings by Dresden and others includes writings by Dresden, Hiroshi Kumamoto, and Ernst Waldschmidt. Researchers will find Dresden's dissertation, "Note on 'B' Manuscript of the Denkart," "Indo-Iranian Notes," "On a 'Working' Dictionary of the Khotanese Language," "Survey of the History of Iranian Studies," "Pahlavi Manuscripts," and "Iranica," all of which were published in international scholarly journals. The newspaper clippings in this series include an article about Dresden, several articles containing local Media, Pennsylvania news, obituaries for Elizabeth Furber and Arnold Dresden, and a few articles about Classical studies.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2016 April 28

Finding aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

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Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- University of Pennsylvania. Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Financial records
- Memorabilia
- Photograph albums
- Research notes
- Writings (documents)

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Iran--Study and teaching

SUBJECT(S)

- Education
- Education, Higher
- Iranologists

Collection Inventory

SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1930-1994.

	Box	Folder
1930-1950.	1	3
1950-1955.	1	4
1955-1960.	1	5
1961-1964.	1	6
1965.	1	7
1966-1970.	1	8
1971-1975.	1	9
1976-1980.	1	10
1981-1985.	1	11
1986-1994.	1	12
circa 1930-1994.	1	2

SERIES II. EVENTS AND LECTURES, CIRCA 1960-1970.

	Box	Folder
Columbia University Summer Program, programs and announcements, 1970.	1	13
Conference at Villa Serbelloni, program, clipping, and reports, 1964.	1	14
Other events and lectures, programs, clipping, and invitations, circa 1930-1994.	1	15
World Congress of Iranologists, correspondence, clippings, and attendee lists, 1966.	1	16

SERIES III. PERSONAL FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS, 1960-1990.

	Box	Folder
Undated, circa 1930-1944.	1	17
1960-1969.	1	18
1984.	1	19
1985.	1	20
1986.	1	21
1987.	1	22
1988.	2	1-2
1989.	2	3-4
1990.	2	5

SERIES IV. FUNDING AND GRANTS, 1970, 1978-1979.

	Box	Folder
Fulbright Research Scholarship to Iran, correspondence, travel documents, and tips for Americans in Iran, 1970.	2	6
National Endowment for the Humanities, Translations Program of the Division of Research Grants, Translations Panel for Near Eastern Languages, correspondence, reviewer rating sheets, program announcements, summaries of programs, newsletters, and guidelines and instructions, 1978-1979.	2	7-8

SERIES V. PERSONAL DOCUMENTS, CIRCA 1930-1994.

	Box	Folder
	1,2,3	1, 9-11, 1-2
	Box	Folder
Address book, information regarding family and friends, and information about serving as visiting professor at Columbia University, circa 1960s.	3	1
Biography, resume/curriculum vitae, and list of publications, 1976.	2	18
	Box	Folder
250th Anniversary of the Founding of the Persian Empire, photograph album from the Imperial Embassy of Iran in Washington, DC, 1972 January.	55	1
Diploma from the University of Utrecht, 1941.	55	2
	Box	Folder
University of Pennsylvania certificates designating honorary degree and Professor Emeritus, 1971, 1977.	3	3

SERIES VI. PROJECTS, 1966-1989.

	Box	Folder
Atlas Linguistique et Ethnographique de l'Iran, correspondence regarding the creation of the project and official project documentation, 1957-1959.	2	12
Art reproductions, correspondence regarding (includes a photograph of a Persian miniature from the Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as slides of paintings by Giuseppe Arcimboldo), 1972.	2	16
Biographical Dictionaries, correspondence and directions for contributors, 1973-1974.	2	13
"Library of the Late Professor Mark J. Dresden on Indo-Iranian Linguistics and Languages," catalog, correspondence, lists, and preface, 1989.	2	15
Pahlavi University Curriculum and Field Program for National Development, correspondence, lists of "Needs and Suggestions," lecture announcement, and articles regarding the University of Pennsylvania's involvement in Pahlavi University development, 1965-1966.	2	14

SERIES VII. RESEARCH AND WRITING, CIRCA 1930-1994.

	Box	Folder
Book reviews (written by Dresden), 1983-1984.	1	1
Hiroshi Kumamoto education records, 1977-1980.	2	9
Newspaper clippings, circa 1930-1994.	2	10
Research documents, including notebook with clippings from journals and notes on coins, notes, clippings, and typescripts (one on Alexander the	2	17

Great), circa 1930-1994.

Unidentified project notes, circa 1960s.

3

2

Writings by Dresden and others, 1942-1980.

2, 3

11, 4

Denkart, a Pahlavi Text, edited by M.J. Dresden, 1966.

3

4