

George Aaron Barton Papers

UPT 50 B293

Finding aid prepared by Denise Piezynski under the direction of Theresa R. Snyder.

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University of Pennsylvania, University Archives and Records Center

November 1989

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Summary Information

Repository University of Pennsylvania: University Archives and Records Center

Creator Barton, George A., (George Aaron), 1859-1942

Title George Aaron Barton Papers

Call number UPT 50 B293

Date [inclusive] 1903-1942

Extent 2 cubic feet

Language English

ABSTRACT George Aaron Barton was an author, scholar, and Professor of Semitic languages. The collection includes papers relating to a variety of topics. A small portion of the collection is comprised of Barton's personal papers including letters and essays on his personal religious and political beliefs, book reviews, and lecture notes. The bulk of the collection deals with the research Barton conducted in the fields of Christianity, Archeology, and Mysticism.

Biography/History

George Aaron Barton was an author, scholar, and Professor of Semitic languages. Born in Quebec, Canada, Barton became a minister in the Society of Friends in 1879, after attending the Oakwood Seminary in Poughkeepsie, New York. He continued his education at Haverford College, earning his B.A. in 1882 and M.A. in 1885. He worked briefly in the insurance field before teaching at the Friends School

in Providence, Rhode Island from 1884 to 1889. He then resumed his studies at Harvard, focusing on religion, Assyriology and Semitic languages. After gaining his Ph.D. in 1891, Barton became a professor of Semitic languages at Bryn Mawr College, where he also served as college chaplain.

In 1922 Barton came to the University of Pennsylvania where he succeeded Morris Jastrow as professor of Semitic languages and the history of religion from 1922 to 1931 and then as a professor emeritus from 1932 until his death. While at Penn, he also served as the director of the American School of Oriental Research in Baghdad, 1921-1934. After leaving the Society of Friends in protest of its World War I pacifist stand, Barton was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1919; he was professor of New Testament literature at the Divinity School of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Philadelphia from 1922 until 1937. Internationally known for his writings on Biblical subjects, Barton was also a noted scholar of archeology, helping appraise and interpret the findings of many archeological expeditions of the Middle East. His publications on cuneiform writing included work with texts from Penn's University Museum collections as well as with other Sumerian tablets. He also became interested in biblical archeology, writing a popular text book on the subject, published in 1916. His extensive scholarly publications addressed not only Semitic languages and biblical archeology, but also translations and commentaries on biblical texts. After Barton's first wife, Caroline Brewer Danforth, died in 1930, he later married Katherine Blye Hagy. Barton and his first wife had one adopted son.

Scope and Contents

The George A. Barton Papers, 1903-1942, concern both his personal life and his career. As a Professor whose interests and expertise crossed several disciplines, his collection includes papers relating to a variety of topics. A small portion of the collection is comprised of Barton's personal papers including letters and essays on his personal religious and political beliefs, book reviews, and lecture notes. The bulk of the collection deals with the research Barton conducted in the fields of Christianity, Archeology, and Mysticism.

Concerning the topic of Christianity the papers include: a critique of Torrey's Aramaic theory of the Gospels; numerous notes; outlines; and essays regarding the gospels and the life of Jesus. There are also notes and essays on the Apocalypse, and essays and articles on Christianity in general.

Barton's papers on archeology contain translations of texts, including Egyptian translations and those of Gudea Cylinders, A and B; essays on early man and Indo-Sumerian seals with illustrations; correspondence regarding the Hittite code and archeological finds from 1927-1928; photographs of inscriptions and tablets; and Barton's description of Herbert Clark's archeological collection.

Documenting his interest in Mysticism are notes; bibliographies; copies of students' papers, 1927; and an outline and notes for his book, entitled Mysticism. There is some correspondence regarding attempts to have the book published posthumously.

Barton's papers contain the unpublished manuscript of Mysticism (820 p., 1929), and manuscript of his published book The Royal Inscriptions of Sumer and Akkad (578 p., 1928).

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of two series: Personal Papers and Manuscripts.

Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions

Access to collections is granted in accordance with the Protocols for the University Archives and Records Centers.

PROVENANCE

Transferred from Bennet Hall, 1955.

Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- University of Pennsylvania. College of Arts and Sciences.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- New Testament scholars--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

OCCUPATION(S)

- College teachers--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia.

SUBJECT(S)

- Archeology--Research.
- Christianity--Research.
- Mysticism--Research.
- Semitic languages--Study and teaching.

Collection Inventory

PERSONAL PAPERS.

	Box	Folder
Partial inventories of Barton's papers.	1	1
Letter and Essays on Barton's Quaker background and Episcopalian conversion.	1	2
Incomplete article on Yahwehism and Nazism.	1	3
Essay on "When does a Republic Cease to be a Republic" and correspondence concerning it.	1	4
Book Reviews, 1928-1937.	1	5
Notes and papers relating to Barton's classes.	1	6
Miscellaneous papers of George A. Barton.	1	7
Research - Christianity.	1	7
Critique of Torrey's Aramaic theory of the Gospels.	1	8
Notes on the four Gospels and the life of Christ.	1	9
Outline of the life and teachings of Jesus.	1	10
Aramaic or Greek terms employed by Jesus.	1	11
Copies of "The Drama of the Great-souled Jesus".	1	12

Translation of "Enoch".	1	13
Notes for a speech at Woodbrooke Summer School about Psalms.	1	14
Notes on the Apocalypse.	1	15
Published Article, "The Apocalypse and Recent Criticism".	1	16
Article on "Religious Education through Neglect" and correspondence concerning.	1	17
Lamsa's article in "The Churchman" and correspondence regarding it.	1	18
Chapter IX of The Heart of the Christian Message, third edition.	1	19
Essays on Christianity.	1	20
Essays on Religion.	1	21
Research - Archeology.	1	22
Essays on Mormonism.	1	22
Reliefs of ancient writing.	1	23
Miscellaneous copies and translations of ancient texts.	1	24
Egyptian and Coptic translations.	1	25
Egyptian translations of Roeder's Chrestomathy.	1	26
Egyptian translations for Archeology and the Bible.	1	27
Pyramid Texts.	1	28
Essays on Archeological data of early civilized man.	1	29

Essay "On the So-called Sumero-Indian Seals".	1	30
Illustrations of Indo-Sumerian Seals.	1	31
Notes on the Hittite Code.	1	32
Letter from Professor James A. Montgomery concerning Hittite grammar notes.	1	33
Paln Inscription and letter concerning it.	1	34
Notes on Babylon and Assyria.	1	35
Gudea Cylinder A.	1	36
Gudea Cylinder B.	1	37
Mesopotamian Paleography, Part II.	1	38
Photographs of miscellaneous inscriptions and tablets.	1	39
An outline and description of photographs of Palestinian cities.	1	40
Barton's description of archeological collection of Herbert Clark.	1	41
Correspondence regarding archeology, 1927-1928.	1	42
Letters and articles from India concerning archeological finds, 1927-1928.	1	43
Research -- Mysticism.	1	43
Personal notes on mysticism.	1	44
Students' papers on mysticism, 1927.	1	45
Students' papers on mysticism, 1927.	1	46

Students' papers on mysticism, 1927.	1	47
Students' papers on mysticism, 1927.	1	48
Students' papers on mysticism, 1927.	1	49
Students' papers on mysticism, 1927.	1	50
Bibliographies concerning mysticism.	2	1
Outline and description of various types of mysticism.	2	2
Outline for the book Mysticism.	2	3
Compilation of materials for book on mysticism.	2	4
Correspondence regarding attempts to have Barton's book Mysticism published, 1949-1957.	2	5

MANUSCRIPTS.

MANUSCRIPTS OF MYSTICISM, 1929.

	Box	Folder
p. 1-75.	2	6
p. 76-151.	2	7
p. 152-249.	2	8
p. 250-343.	2	9

p. 344-434.	2	10
p. 435-549.	2	11
p. 550-617.	2	12
p. 618-718.	2	13
p. 719-820.	2	14

THE ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS OF SUMER AND AKKAD.

	Box	Folder
p. 1-108.	2	15
p. 109-200.	2	16
p. 201-268.	2	17
p. 269-341.	2	18
p. 342-420.	2	19
p. 421-499.	2	20
p. 500-556.	2	21
p. 557-578.	2	22