

**The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries)
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

Missionary Research Library Archives: Section 2. Near/Middle East

Finding Aid for

Pliny Fisk Papers, 1821 – 1825



Finding Aid prepared by: Tenny Thomas, June 2009

Summary Information

Creator: Pliny Fisk, 1792 – 1825
Title: Pliny Fisk Papers, 1821 – 1825
Inclusive dates: 1821 – 1825
Bulk dates: 1821 – 1825
Abstract: Middlebury College and Andover Theological Seminary alumnus;
Missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign
Missions; provenance notes; journal; book of extracts and records.
Size: 1 box, 0.5 linear ft.
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** Provenance notes in folder 1 give evidence of the purchase of the Journal from Mr. E. J. Van Lennep, grandson of Isaac Bird, Great Barrington, Mass., August 3, 1935. The papers were transferred to the Mission Research Library (date unknown) and thence to the Burke Library archives after 1976.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials however are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, MRL 2: Pliny Fisk Papers, box 1, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Pliny Fisk was born in Shelburne, Mass. on June 24, 1792. After his preparatory studies he went to Middlebury College, Vermont, class of 1814. In January 1815, he was examined by the Franklin Association of Congregational ministers and received a license to preach. In March, 1815 his first assignment was to preach in Wilmington. He established a Sabbath school and a Ladies' and Gentlemen's Missionary Association while he was in Wilmington. In November 1815, Fisk became a member of the Andover Theological Seminary.

In September 1818, Fisk completed his professional studies and that same month at a meeting of the Prudential Committee of the Board, the Palestine Missions was established and Fisk was appointed to that station. In November 1818, he received ordination in the Tabernacle Church, Salem. Fisk died on October 23, 1825 in Beyroot [Beirut].

See also

Memoir of the Rev. Pliny Fisk, late missionary to Palestine, by Alvan Bond. Boston: Crocker and Brewster, 1828, c1827.

Burke [UTS] Union Rare (Non-Circulating) Call Number: MP84 F54x

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection, organized in one box, is formed of two volumes comprising the Journal and also the Book of extracts and records kept by Rev. Pliny Fisk, a missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions while on station in Syria.

Journal

The Journal is in the hand of Pliny Fisk up to page 117 and the following pages are in another hand probably that of Isaac Bird [Yale, 1816, Andover Seminary, 1818] as diary notes and translations with a loose manuscript letter from W. Turner, Constantinople, Nov, 16, 1824 and an extract reply from John Barker. Also in Fisk's hand are 18 pages from the back of the volume. There is an exposition of the products of the French industry in French in these pages.

In 1935, the preceding Journal volume was held by the Library of Middlebury College, VT.

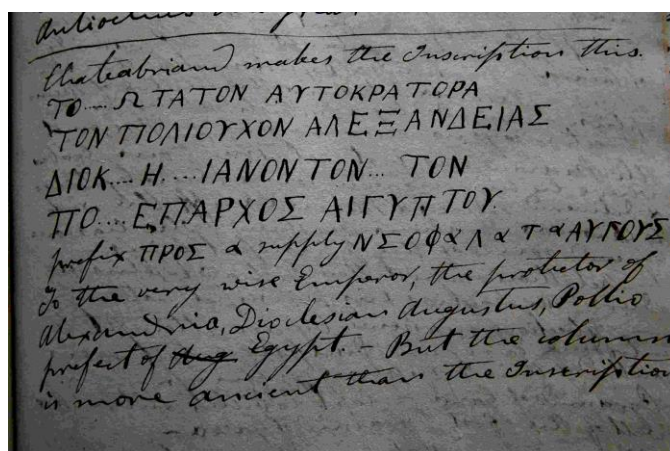
Book of Extracts and Records

The Book of Extracts and Records was compiled by Fisk while he was stationed at Smyrna and comprises one volume. The writings in this book are in Arabic, English, Greek and Latin.

Fisk Records: This volume is paginated up to page 289 and written by Fisk. There are 4 pages from the back of the book that are in Fisk's hand as well. The 17 pages after page 289 are in a different hand, possibly Isaac Bird. It contains a transcription by Fisk of Capitulations and Articles of Peace between H M King of Great Britain...and Sultan of the Ottoman Empire...Dardanelles, 1809. The volume also contains the Order of the Maronite Patriarch (the order is dated 1825 so could be Patriarch Youssef Hobaish of Sahel Alma, 1823-1845), against the missionaries use of the Bible without the deutro-canonical books as decided at the Council of Trent.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and box.



Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Provenance Notes re Purchase, ms by E. J. Van Lennep, 1935
1	2	Journal of Pliny Fisk, ms, 1824 – 1825
1	3	Pliny Fisk's Book of Extracts and Records, Smyrna, 1821 – 1825