

# **Robert Garrett Diaries and Calling Card MS.17**

**Finding aid prepared by Anna J. Clarkson**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Archives and Manuscripts Collections

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## Summary Information

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|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Repository</b>       | Archives and Manuscripts Collections   |
| <b>Creator</b>          | Garrett, Robert, b. 1875   |
| <b>Title</b>            | Robert Garrett Diaries and Calling Card  |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b> | 1899 Oct 22 -1900 Feb 28   |
| <b>Extent</b>           | 0.1 Linear feet (4 folders)  |
| <b>Language</b>         | English  |
| <b>Abstract</b>         | <p><i>The Robert Garrett Diaries and Calling Card</i> contains three diaries and a calling card. The diaries number approximately 100 pages each and detail Garrett's involvement in Princeton's Abyssinian Expedition of Syria from 1899-1900. The expedition explored three districts; Northern Central Syria, including the stretch of land lying directly to the east of the Orontes river, between the lake of Antioch and the ruins of Apamea; Djebel il-Hass, forty miles eastward; and the mountain country of Hauran. The Diaries contain information about the expedition's work including making surveys, examining monuments, taking photographs &amp; measurements, copying inscriptions, describing the typography, as well as anecdotes about interactions and encounters with local tribesmen, villagers (Circassians, Druze, Kurds), nomads (Bedawins), travelers (Berbers, Armenians), politicians and military figures.</p> |

### Preferred Citation

Robert Garrett Diaries and Calling Card, Archives and Manuscripts Collection, The Baltimore Museum of Art.

## Biographical Information

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Robert Garrett (1875 – 1961) was born in Baltimore County to Thomas Harrison Garrett (1849-1888) and Alice Dickinson Whitridge (1851-1920). Born into a privileged family, Garrett was the great-grandson of Robert Garrett (1783-1857) financier and founder of the banking house Robert Garrett & Company and an original founder of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Educated privately in America and at a lycée in Tours, Robert Garrett graduated from Princeton in 1897 with a Bachelor of Science degree. While at Princeton, Garrett demonstrated strong athletic talent in shot put, broad, and high jumping. In 1896 while at Princeton, Garrett competed in the first modern Olympic Games in Greece where he set the world record for the discus and shot put.

In October 1899 Garrett embarked on the Princeton Abyssinian Expedition which was conducted by Professor William Kelly Prentice (1871-1964), Dr. Enno Littman (1875-1958) and Howard Crosby Butler (1872-1922). The expedition discovered the remains of thirty-three ancient cities and led to a series of publications *The American archaeological expedition to Syria, 1899-1901*. Part I of the series entitled *Topography and Itinerary* by Robert Garrett was published in 1914. Published subsequently were: Part II, *Architecture and Other Arts* by Howard Crosby Butler; Part III, *Greek and Latin inscriptions* by William Kelly Prentice; Part IV, *Semitic inscriptions* by Enno Littman; Part IV (never published); and Part VI, *Modern Arabic tales* by Enno Littman. The body of information gathered on this exhibition set the stage for the subsequent excavation of the world famous Antioch mosaics from 1932-1939. (Numerous said mosaics later came to the Baltimore Museum of Art through Garrett's impetus.)

While on the Abyssinian Expedition to Syria, Garrett kept detailed diaries of his trip, three of which are located in the *Robert Garrett diaries and calling card collection* at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Material in the diaries made up a large part of *Topography and Itinerary* publication of 1914.

After leaving Princeton and returning from Syria to Baltimore, Garrett enrolled in courses at Johns Hopkins University for several years before entering his family's banking firm, Robert Garrett & Company.

Garrett was an incredibly active banker, civic leader and philanthropist for most of his adult life. He served on the board of the Provident Savings Bank, the Safe Deposit and Trust Company, the Davison Chemical Company, the Roland Park Company, the A.S. Abell Company (publishers of The Sun newspapers) and others.

In addition, Garrett financed several gymnasiums in Baltimore to provide athletic facilities and instructions to youth of all economic backgrounds. Garrett served on the Playground Athletic League, the Bureau of Recreation, Playgrounds Association of America, Public Improvement Commission, the Young Men's Christian Association, the National Council of Camp Fire Girls, and the Boy Scouts of America which he was active in bringing to Baltimore in 1910.

He was a unsuccessful candidate in 1903 and 1905 for the House of Delegates and in 1904, 1906, and 1908 he was defeated for Congress.

Garrett was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and attended Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church of Baltimore where he was a trustee for decades. He served on several religious boards including: the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Federation of Churches, Council of Churches and Christian Education of Maryland-Delaware, Inc., and the Religious Education Foundation.

Throughout his life Garrett kept a close relationship with Princeton University where he was largely responsible for the establishment of a department of physical education. In addition, he bequeathed a large and valuable collection of Asian (primarily Arabic) manuscripts detailing early languages and dialects in 1918 and 1942.

Garrett was a sponsor of the Baltimore Museum of Art and chairman of the Museum's *Site Committee*. In addition, he was a trustee of the Walters Art Gallery, the Peabody Institute, and Director of the Municipal Art Society. As a member of the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities, he was interested in the restoration of Hampton, the Ridgely Family mansion, as a historic Federal site.

Garrett married Katherine Barker Johnson (1885-1961) in 1907. They had ten children together. He died in 1961 at the age of 85.

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## Scope and Contents

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*The Robert Garrett diaries and Calling Card* contains three diaries and a calling card.

The diaries number approximately 100 pages each and detail Garrett's involvement in Princeton's Abyssinian Expedition of Syria from 1899-1900. The expedition explored three districts; Northern Central Syria, including the stretch of land lying directly to the east of the Orontes river, between the lake of Antioch and the ruins of Apamea; Djebel il-Hass, forty miles eastward; and the mountain country of Hauran. The Diaries contain information about the expedition's work including making surveys, examining monuments, taking photographs & measurements, copying inscriptions, describing the typography, as well as anecdotes about interactions and encounters with local tribesmen, villagers (Circassians, Druze, Kurds), nomads (Bedawins), travelers (Berbers, Armenians), politicians and military figures.

Diary "II" covers a period of October 22, 1899 to November 18, 1899 and is 100 pages long. The diary details the expeditions traversing between Antioch to Aleppo and through Djebel Il-A'La, Djebel Barîsha, Djebel Halakah, and Djebel Shêkh Berekât. A selection of sites visited include: Antioch, Bamukka, Banakusa, Bashmishli, Behyo, Benâbil, Bshindelâya, Dauwâr, Dêhes, Hârim, Hattân, Kalb Lauxch, Karrus, Kefr Kila, Kfêr, Kirk Beza, Ma'sartch, Silfâya, and Taltîtâ.

Diary "III" covers a period of November 19, 1899 to December 4, 1899 and is 101 pages long. The diary details the expedition leaving the previous region of Djebel Barîsha and moving from Aleppo to the Eurphrates and then to Biredjîk. A selection of sites visited include: Aleppo, Biredjîk, Dâna, Dêrit 'Azzeh, Katura, Kefr Kermîn, Membidj, and Tell Beddâyi,

Diary "IV" covers a period of December 5, 1899 to February 28th, 1900 and is 95 pages long. The diary details the expedition moving from Biredjîk to Beirût followed by a prolonged period of rest brought on by severe weather conditions. A selection of sites visited included: Djuayehî, Hama, Ma'arrit in'Nu'mân, and Têdif.

It can be gleaned that Garrett took large amounts of material directly from his diary when writing *Topography and Itinerary Part I* in a series entitled *The Publications of An American Archaeological Expedition to Syria in 1899-1900*.

This collection is missing Diary "I" which presumably covers the early period of October whereupon Garrett would have traveled from London to Beirût and then smaller towns on the way to Antioch. In addition, it is missing any subsequent diaries after Diary "IV" detailing the remainder of the trip from March 1900 through May 1900 when the expedition ended in Damascus.

In addition to the diaries, the collection contains a calling card from Robert Garrett with the handwritten inscription "Compliments of" added prior to Mr. Garrett's name. The provenance of the calling card is not known.

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## Arrangement note

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Arranged in one series. Includes Diaries ("II", "III", and "IV") and a calling card.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Archives and Manuscripts Collections May 31, 2012

### Restrictions on Use

*Robert Garrett Diaries and a Calling Card* are the physical property of the Manuscripts Collections, Baltimore Museum of Art. Copyright, except in cases where material has passed into the public domain, belongs to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult a Library staff member.

### Provenance

The diaries were gifted by J.Gilman D'Arcy Paul. Transferred from the BMA's Registration Department to the Archives in March of 2000.

The provenance of the calling card is not known.

### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Anna J. Clarkson in May of 2012.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Genre(s)**

- Diaries

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Butler, Howard Crosby, 1872-1922
- Huxley, Henry Minor, b. 1880
- Littman, Enno, 1875-1958
- Post, George E. (George Edward) 1838-1909
- Prentice, William, 1871-1964

### **Subject(s)**

- Antioch (Turkey)--Antiquities, Roman
- Pavements, Mosaic--Turkey--Antioch

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## **Topography and Itinerary**

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Part I of the Publications of an American Archaeological Expedition to Syria in 1899-1900 by Robert Garrett. Published in 1914.



## Collection Inventory

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|                                     | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Diary "II" 1899 Oct 22 - Nov 18     | 1          | 1             |
| Diary "III" 1899 Nov 19 - Dec 4     | 1          | 2             |
| Diary "IV" 1899 Dec 5 - 1900 Feb 28 | 1          | 3             |
| Calling Card undated                | 1          | 4             |