ESSAYS: DIPLOMACY, ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

JOHN HENRY HAYNES AND HIS DOCUMENTS

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In 2008, a number of photographs by John Henry Haynes were offered for sale on an Internet auction site. At the time, Harvard's Fine Arts Library already had a collection of photographs of Anatolia, Syria and Mesopotamia taken by Haynes, acquired in his lifetime by the Harvard Semitic Museum. This seemed like a good opportunity to add to it. We contacted the seller, an antiques dealer who had purchased the photos from Haynes’s descendants and persuaded him to sell us the lot, rather than letting the photographs be dispersed piecemeal. The lot that came to the Fine Arts Library as a result of this deal turned out to be more substantial than we had anticipated. It contained not only a rich trove of Haynes's photographs (more than five hundred prints), but also other material—including Haynes's correspondence with family and friends, his diaries and expedition notes, official documents, newspaper clippings and ephemera related to Haynes's life and the excavations at Nippur, the large American flag that Haynes flew over the first U.S. consulate in Baghdad, the large wooden case in which he carried his camera, and various other items, including a collection of keffiyehs (traditional Arab cloth headdresses).

The diaries, notes and personal correspondence, nearly a hundred items in all, are mostly in English, in Haynes's own handwriting. But the archive also includes about a dozen documents and personal and business letters received by Haynes, written in Arabic and Ottoman Turkish,
some of them accompanied by contemporary English translations or annotations. These items cover more than a decade and range from official government permits to personal letters and business correspondence. They concern mainly mundane matters, but they give us a glimpse of Haynes seen through the eyes of the local people he lived and dealt with in Iraq—Ottoman civil and military officials, Euphrates river boatmen, muleteers, sheikhs and merchants. We meet individuals such as Hajji Tarfah, a prominent sheikh of the al-Hamzah tribes at ‘Afak near Nippur, who became friends with Haynes, or Khwajah Shu’ul Salman, a prosperous Jewish businessman from the town of Hillah who handled the Babylonian expedition’s local business arrangements.

**Haynes Archive 541** (fig. 1)

*(Summary)*

A letter (in Arabic) addressed to his excellency [Haynes] Bey by Sayyid Ahmad, writing from Hillah, who complains that he and others hired to transport goods by pack animals (*makkar*iyah) have not been compensated for their work. They sent three letters prior to this one, asking for the whereabouts of the money they were owed, however those letters apparently did not reach their destination. The writer and his fellows felt too intimidated to demand their money from Khwaja Shahul (Shaoul), so they are once again asking for help in this matter from his excellency [Haynes] Bey and sending this letter by way of Mustafa Agha (Haynes’s steward).

Dated 3 Dhu’ll-Hijjah 1308 / 4 July 1306 (= 17 July 1890).

Signed by Sayyid Ahmed, who also affixed his seal.

The envelope is addressed to the American consulate in Baghdad.
شبا بملعطف وطائرة وصغيرة،
كما اتصلت بمراسلون وهم ولدنا وصعوباتنا إصابة نادر وأین بناءً على ما كنت نسمعه، وتقدمت بين الحين والآخر في جلسة وصوتي، مفاهیم بالسیما، ركز، متبت، نقلت صدى ما عرفنا، ووضعت له هذه نقدا، وغدًا، وصغيرة، صساها، صدحنا، صلب، وخلقت، وحناء، ومرأنا، إلخ.

وزرنا الماء، وذلنا، وحنننا، وضحنا فجأة، إلخ، وحسن على، وصلنا، وشفتنا هذين القولين.

ولا بأس أن نذكر صوراً واحدة، ونذكرنا النجاح، بما كنا أو رأينا، زالو وجاء، ونذكرنا، ونذكرنا، ونذكرنا، نذكرنا، نذكرنا...

شغف، وشفاء ما يأتي، ويضيف، ويشفع، ويشفع، ويشفع، ويشفع، ويشفع، ويشفع... فإننا إذا فجرنا، فإننا إذا مكذبة، فإننا إذا علمنا، فإننا إذا نظرنا، فإننا إذا نظرنا...

نذكرنا النجاح، وما كنا أو رأينا، وما كنا أو رأينا...

ولكن، ولكن، ولكن، ولكن...

ودين، ودليل، ودليل، ودليل...
Haynes Archive 546

[Note on back in English, in Haynes’ handwriting]:
Reshid Charlie
3 Mejidiehs

(Receipt in Arabic)

In the name of God

(diagonal line at top): Only three mecidiye (Turkish pounds) and nothing more

The reason for the writing of this document
I, Rashid al-Chali, verify that I have received payment from Khwaja Shahul in the sum of three mecidiye, as indicated above, for services rendered. I hereby attest that I am in his debt, as the witnesses present will verify.

On 18 Ramadan of the year [1]314 (= 21 February 1897)

The undersigned
Rashid al-Chali

[Revenue stamp]

[Seal]:
Rashid Chali
[1]314

Haynes Archive 548 (fig. 2)

(Personal letter in Arabic)

[at top right]: Please convey our best regards
to our esteemed brother Shawqi Efendi

To our dear friend, the exalted Mister Haynes Bey
We would like to inquire about your esteemed health and well-being; and if you inquire about us, we are in the best of health, thanks be to God. You had asked me to send you a black abaya of the best fabric. We have just sent it to you and may you wear it with joy.
Please send our regards to your Madame, and may you be well. On 28 Dhu’l-Hijjah of the year [1]316 (= 11 May 1899).

Your friend,
Hajji Tarfah
[Seal]: Tarfah

[Envelope]: To Niffar
To his excellency the esteemed Mister Haynes Bey
May it arrive with good fortune
In the name of God

To his excellency the honorable and magnificent Mr. Haynes, may God grant him health. And the first question is as to your esteemed welfare. and from our side, thanks be to God, we are well. Your excellency had promised to leave us two of your horses and you have kept your promise. But as this is an agricultural place, we would also be grateful if you could leave us one of your dog's young puppies. We wish you all the best.


The superintendent (mudir) of ‘Afak

[Seal]: al-Sayyid Muhammad Salih

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**Haynes Archive 549 (fig. 3)**

*(Personal letter in Arabic)*

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*figure 3*
In the name of God

(at top right): Hillah, 23 July 1901

(at top left): New York

To the most exalted and illustrious and generous of men, his excellency Mister Haynes, may he live long.

After inquiring about your exalted health and well-being, I inform you that I have received your letter of 6 June 1901 and am glad to learn that you are well and are returning to Baghdad. As may be known to your excellency, there have been disturbances and fighting, caused by rivalry among the chieftains of the ‘Afak [region]. But at this time the chieftains have made peace and ‘Afak and Nippur are at peace and the citadel is also safe.

The writer informs Haynes that although he has not been able to travel there because he has not received permissions from the government authorities, he is in constant contact with people from ‘Afak and Nippur who have observed and collected information concerning conditions there for two weeks. He has also sent several letters to Hajji Tarfah, who is the leader of the all the chieftains of ‘Afak and of the surrounding areas and he has informed Hajji Tarfah about Haynes’ return. He speaks of the protection that will be offered to Haynes by Hajji Tarfah. The letter concludes with friendly good wishes from the writer, who invites Haynes and his wife to visit again soon.

(Signature):
Your friend
Sha’ul Salman

(seal in Arabic and Hebrew):
Sha’ul Salman …
Haynes Archive 562 (fig. 6)

(official document in Ottoman Turkish)

[at left edge]: Eslıha tezkiresidir

[at top]:

Tezkire-i esliha

cild  aded-i umumî
aded  23
66

Eslıha hamilinin künye ve velâdet ve tabi’iyeti:

İsim ve şöhreti: Mösyö

Pederinin ismi ve mahall-i ikameti: veled-i Con Heyns

Sinni: –

San’at ve sıfat ve ma’işi: –

Tarih ve mahall-i velâdeti: Amerika

Mezhebi: Amerika’ya tabi’

Tabi’iyeti: keza
Eşkâli:

Boy: –
Göz: –
Bıyıği: –
Sakalı: –
Reng: –
Alâmet-i farika-i sabite: –

Mahall-i ikameti:

Memleket: Amerika
Mahalle: –
Karye: –
Sokak: –
Mesken nümerosu: –
Nev’-i mesken: –

Eslihanın nevi’ ve adedi:

Evsaﬁ: 
Tabanca –
Revolver .... 1 aded
Çakmaklı tabanca –
Şeşhane –
Çifte tüfeng 1 aded

Kefilinin isim ve şöhreti:

İsim ve şöhreti –
Pederinin isim ve şöhreti –
Mahall-i ikameti –
San’ati –

Dersaadetde Amerika Ceneral Konsolosu tarafından mevrud ilm ü haber mucebince

Memalik-i Mahruse-i Osmaniye’dede ticaret ve seyahat içi için geşt ü güzar edecek olan bâlâda şöhret ve eşkâli muharrer olan Mösyö sayd ü şıkâr etmek ve hâlât-i reddiyede bulunmak ve esliha-i miriye taşımak üzere ale’l-usul kefâlete rabt olunmuş olduğu yalnız eşâs-ı muzırre ve hayvanât-i vahşiyyeden muhâfaza-i nefs etmek için zikr olunan eslihayı bir sene istishâba ruhsat i’tâ olduğunun müşir işbu tezkire verilmişdir fi 2 Kânun-i evvel sene [1]308

[Mühür]: Dersaadet Jandarma Alay-i Mahallisi

Fiatı beş gurusdur  ahz olunmuşdur fi 2 Kânun-i evvel minhu

[Mühür]: Mehmed Sidka

English translation:

[at left edge]: Weapons permit

[at top]:

Weapons permit

Volume no.   General no.
66           23

Paternity, birth and nationality of the bearer of the weapon

Name and title: Monsieur

Name of father and his place of residence: son of John Haynes

Age: –

Trade and occupation: –

Date and place of birth: America

Religious denomination: American citizen

Nationality: the same

Description:

Height: –

Color of eyes: –
Mustache: –
Beard: –
Color: –
Permanent distinguishing marks: –

**Place of residence:**

Country: *America*
Neighborhood: –
Settlement: –
Street: –
House number: –
Type of house: –

**Type and number of weapons:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pistol</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolver...</td>
<td>1 piece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flintlock pistol</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-shooter</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double-barreled rifle</td>
<td>1 piece</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Name and title of guarantor:**

Name and title: –
Name and title of father: –
Place of residence: –
Profession: –

*In accordance with a memorandum submitted by the General Consul of America in Constantinople.*
Monsieur, whose title and description is entered above and who is traveling about in the well-protected Ottoman domains for purposes of commerce and travel is permitted to carry the abovementioned weapons only for purposes of hunting and for self-defense and, having been bound to a surety according to the regulations for the permit for carrying weapons, which he will use only for purposes of self-defense from persons wishing to harm him and from wild animals, he is granted permission for one year to have said weapons in his possession for the period of one year, by the office of the commanding general which has issued this permit, on 2 December of the year 1308 (19 December 1892).

[Seal]: Local regiment of gendarmerie in Constantinople.

The fee is 5 piastres which has been collected on 2 December of the same year.

[Seal]: Mehmed Sıdkı
His excellency the renowned American Monsieur Haynes, who is setting out to return to Europe by way of Damascus and the [gentlemen] accompanying him, Monsieur Duncan and Monsieur Geere,, and his steward (vekil-i harc) Mustafa Agha, are to be escorted from station to station by mounted gendarmes (zabtiye) in order to ensure their safe passage. This safe conduct (buyruldu) has been issued by the office of the Governor of Baghdad, ordering all officials of the Sublime [Ottoman] State along the way to provide him with assistance.
On 4 Shawwal of the year 1313 and on 6 March of the year 1312 (=18 March 1896).
Haynes Archive 564 (figs. 8-9)

(official document in Ottoman Turkish)

Bismihi

1. Niffer’de atika hafriyatı müdürü ulemâ-yı seyyâhînden Mösyö Heyns Bey nakıl ve hâmil olduğu tufeng
2. zâtına ve muhâfazaya mahsus olmağla mûrâhele olunması hususunda işbu varaka Altncı
3. Ordu-yı Hûmâyûn müşiri cânibinden yedine verildi

[Mühûr]: Altncı Ordu-yı Hûmâyûn müşiriyyeti

NOTE: Issued by the office of the commander (müşir) of the Ottoman Sixth Army.
Translation of Mansfite's letter.

The Director of the Exploration of Niffer the Learned Mr. Haynes is leaving with him a gun for his protection. The Marshal of the Sixth main body of troops gives order to never trouble him on this subject in testimony whereof, the present document has been written to him.

Bagdad 6 March 312 &
4 Shawal 1312 Corresponding
to 15 March 1896.
(Signed) Commanding of the Sixth main body of troops.
The reason for writing this document:
I, Hassan ibn Aydam of my own free will and without coercion pledge to transport Mr. Haynes’ belongings. If the objects should be flooded [while on board ship], then I assume full responsibility and will pay damages and reparations to Mr. Haynes. This document is proof of this contract as is verified by the present witnesses.

On 18 Ramadan of the year [1]316 (=30 January 1899)
Declared by
Hassan ibn Aydam

Ottoman revenue stamp
18 Ramadan of the year [1]316

Witness
——— Hassun ibn ‘Ali
[seal]: Hassun ibn ‘Ali

Witness
Mulla Ali al-‘Umran
[seal]: Mulla Ali al-‘Umran

Witness
Sayyid Tahir al-Sayyid ...
[seal]: al-Sayyid ...
Tahir
[seal]: ‘abdahu [God’s servant] ‘Iyas ...

Notations on back in English, in Haynes’s handwriting:

Sefinahger*
Hillah to Niffer

Hillah Jan 30, 1899
11 Mejidiehs
Senet** from Sefinahger
If sefinah*** takes water
no hire is to be paid

Explanatory notes – AR
* Sefinahger = boatman, boat captain
** Senet = promissory note
*** sefinah = boat
figure 10
النص العربي غير قابل للقراءة بشكل طبيعي.
In the name of God

To the presence of his excellency Mister Haynes

Efendim,
The carrier of this note is one of our people and is to be employed as one of your servants if you so wish, subject to your decision, Efendim.

On 7 Shawwal of the year [1]316 (= 19 February 1899)

The servant of God
Mandhur

[seal]:
Mandhur
[1]316
انضم

.figure 12
**Haynes Archive 574** (figs. 13-14)

**(Summary)**

**(Verso): (Receipt in Arabic)**

10 pounds (lira mecidiye) - Only ten pounds mecidiye and no more.

I have received from Mr. Haynes the amount indicated above, ten pounds mecidiye, and that at the rate of one hundred and eight piastres (guruş) per one pound mecidiye, for a total of one thousand and eighty piastres.

**(Seal): Mehdi**

**(Pencilled notes added in English in Haynes’ hand): May 24, 1900
Pd. 10£ a/c mules**

**(Recto): Text of the agreement in Arabic and in contemporary English translation.**
The Arabic text includes the seals of two witnesses to the agreement (Sayyad ibn Hawasin, and Abdallah Sha’ban) and at bottom left, affixed to a one-piastre document stamp, the seal of the contractor, Mehdi ibn Muhsin.

**(English text):**

Agreement of Mehdi ibn Muhissin for
8 mules: 2 for the Takhtarawan (sedan chair)
1 “ saddle
2 “ effects

every mule at nine (9 Medjidis) for Aleppo
& 12 “ for Damascus

but for the 2 mules of the takhtarawan, double fee must be paid.

Half of the money to be paid at Bagdad and the half at the arrival at destination.

Dated May 24th 1900.
figure 13
Augment the Mehdi al-Muhammadi for
8 mules, 2 for the Tashkharawan
1 saddle
5 s. 10 file
every mule at mine (£9 Mezipeli) for Aleppo
2 m. 18 s. Elephants
last for the 2 mules of the Tashkharawan, double
the rent for three:
Shall the money be paid at Baghdad
and the bill at the arrival at destination.

Dated May 22nd 1905

figure 14
Haynes Archive 575 (fig. 15)

(official document in Ottoman Turkish)

[Mühür]: Sinan Namık
vali-i vilâyet-i
Bagdad

Bismihi

1. Bu kerre Deyr ve Haleb tariktiyle memleketine avdet eden Amerika-yi Şimâli Hûkûmât-i Müctemi’ası teba’asîndan
2. Mister Heyns’în levâzim-i seferiyesinden dolayı teshilât icrâsî ve noktadan noktaya
3. refâkatına zabtiye atlusunun ‘tâsiyle te’min-i imrârî hususuna me’murîn-i Devlet-i Aliyye taraflarîndan
4. heme bulunmak üzere Bağdad Vilâyeti Vâliliğinden isbu buyuruldu isdar ve i’tá kîlîndî


English translation:

In the name of God

[Seal]: Sinan Namîk
Governor of the province
Of Baghdad

Mister Haynes, a citizen of the United States of North America who at present is returning to his country by way of Deir [ez-Zor] and Aleppo, is to be given every assistance with all his travel needs and mounted gendarmes are to be provided to escort him from station to station to assure his safe passage. This safe conduct (buyruldu) has been promulgated and issued by the office of the Governor of the Province of Baghdad, ordering all officials of the Sublime [Ottoman] State to provide him with assistance.

[Signature]

On 25 Muharrem of the year 1318 and on 11 May of the year 1316 (=25 May 1900).