
The Many Lives of William Alfred Eddy

Author(s): C. A. PRETTIMAN

Source: *The Princeton University Library Chronicle*, WINTER 1992, Vol. 53, No. 2 (WINTER 1992), pp. 200-216

Published by: Princeton University Library

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26410059>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Princeton University Library Chronicle*

JSTOR

The Many Lives of William Alfred Eddy

BY C. A. PRETTIMAN

In 1922 a young doctoral student wrote a critical study of a book of travel narratives. The book chronicled what was to become the young man's persistent quest in life: How does one learn about other cultures when voyaging, to the mutual benefit of oneself and the foreign culture? How learn to face the noble and the absurd in one's own country, reflected in the eye of the Other?

The student was William Alfred Eddy and the book was *Gulliver's Travels*.¹ Nearly a quarter of a century later Eddy (then a colonel instead of an English professor) knelt in front of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud on the deck of a destroyer in the Suez Canal, interpreting for the two men and their respective nations. The quest for the Other, and the desire to learn and to teach was the impetus for Eddy's many careers: educator, diplomat, author, intelligence agent, and tireless advocate of good relations between the United States and the Arab world.²

Arguably the most important of Eddy's numerous professions, and most pertinent today, was his diplomatic career. In the 1940s, Eddy was one of the few Americans who had firsthand knowledge of the Arab world, and he made it his life's work to disseminate that knowledge. He served as naval attaché in Tangier in 1942, and was Eisenhower's only contact in North Africa at the time. From 1944 to 1946, he was the first American minister plenipotentiary to Saudi Arabia; in 1945 he was the sole interpreter between the ailing President Roo-

¹ William Alfred Eddy, *Gulliver's Travels, A Critical Study* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1923).

² Eddy's obituaries made much of the number of his occupations: "Colonel William Eddy, Third Generation American in Lebanon Succumbs at 66: Soldier, Educator, Diplomat, Oil Adviser and Writer was Friend of Arab Countries," *Beirut Weekly*, 14 May 1962. Other obituaries on Eddy, including the one in *The New York Times*, make similar statements. I am indebted to Professor William L. Howarth for pointing out that Eddy's fascination with Swift bore on his later professions.

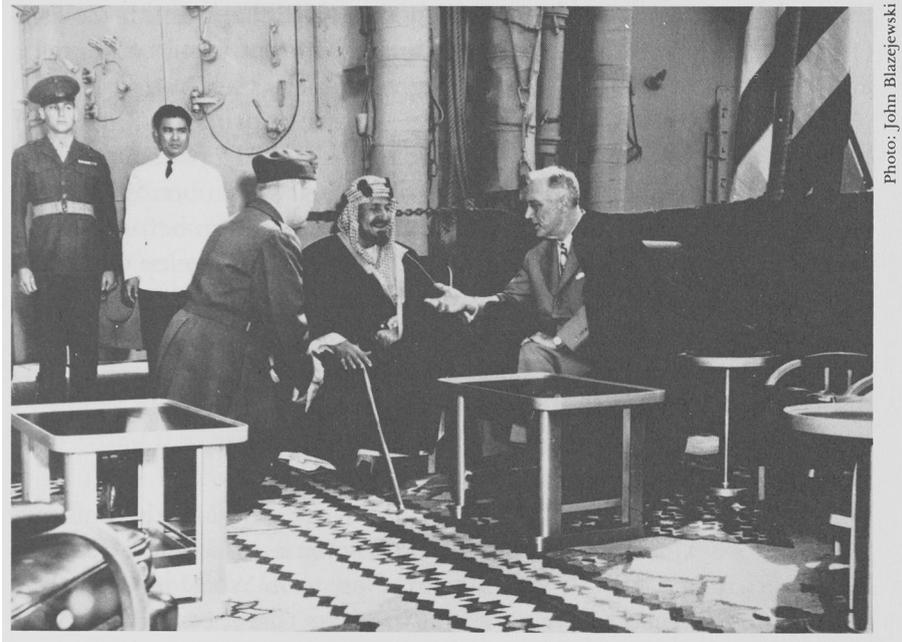


Photo: John Blaziejewski

William Alfred Eddy kneeling before Franklin Delano Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, while acting as interpreter for them at the conference aboard the destroyer *Murphy* in the Suez Canal, 1945. William Alfred Eddy Papers, Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University.

sevelt and King Ibn Saud during the historic meeting between the two heads of state aboard a destroyer in the Suez Canal. In 1946, as envoy extraordinary, he forged the first treaty between the United States and the Imam Yahia of Yemen.

Others might argue that Eddy's greater contribution was in military affairs. Recipient of the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Fourragère in World War I, he went on to become head of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)³ in North Africa in 1942 and was one of the principal planners of the Allied landings. He retired with the rank of colonel.

Eddy's other careers were also worthy of note: He published and lectured extensively on academic subjects while a professor of English at Dartmouth and other colleges; he served a revolutionary and con-

³ The Office of Strategic Services (OSS) was the World War II successor to the Central Office of Intelligence and the forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

troversial term as president of Hobart and William Smith College (1936–1942); he was a consultant in Beirut for two oil companies; and, for most of his life, he was a high-level secret agent.⁴

The only accounts of William Eddy's career in print today concern his work as an intelligence agent under "Wild Bill" Donovan in World War II. These reports are mostly brief, hazy, sensationalist, and in one case simply false, surely because they were written before the acquisition or cataloguing of the Eddy Papers in the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library at Princeton University — a collection that contains much unknown and unused material.⁵



William Alfred Eddy was born in Sidon, Syria, on 9 March 1896; his parents were American Presbyterian missionaries of English descent. From 1901 to 1905 Eddy stayed with relatives in Wooster, Ohio, but in 1905 he returned to Syria with his brothers Clarence and Herbert. We can assume that he was reasonably fluent in Arabic as a young boy; according to the Reverend Elwyn Brown, Eddy often spoke of having been sent by his parents into the beduin tents in the summer in order to perfect the boy's Arabic and teach him more about his father's flock.⁶

Eddy's father, William King Eddy, died unexpectedly while on a camping trip with his sons William and Clarence. The collection includes a contemporary account of W. K. Eddy's death:

Before midnight Mr. Eddy was seized with acute pain in the heart and called Hasan, who came with 'Ali and found him suffering. . . . The boys [William and Clarence] awoke and sat up in bed. Mr. Eddy said to them, "My sons, I am

⁴ Nearly all of the documents having to do with Eddy's intelligence work are still classified.

⁵ For truthful if cursory accounts, see Anthony Cave Brown, *The Last Hero, Wild Bill Donovan* (New York: Times Books, 1982); and the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, vol. XLIX. I processed the Eddy Papers in 1991, and acquired additional holdings from Eddy's eldest daughter, which accounts for my familiarity with the material.

⁶ I would like to thank the Rev. Elwyn Brown, who was a student at Hobart College during Eddy's tenure as president, for providing this and other information about Eddy's life.

about to die, good-bye.” He gave them various messages, to their mother and others, and asked Clarence to repeat the Twenty-third Psalm. . . .⁷

The Rev. Eddy insisted on being buried “among my people” in Sidon; William Eddy was to imitate his father’s lack of racial and cultural prejudice all his life. But no one knows how the death of Eddy’s father affected him. His eldest daughter wrote in 1991, “Unfortunately I never heard [Eddy] discuss his father or his father’s work except for the account of the liberation of the village Jezzine.”⁸ We can only assume either that Eddy was not terribly close to his father or (more likely) that even in later life he found the whole subject too distressing for casual conversation.

In 1908 William Eddy made the sea voyage to New York, staying briefly in New Rochelle. The family promptly moved to Wooster, Ohio, where Eddy started eighth grade at Wooster Prep. In 1913 he matriculated at the College of Wooster, but transferred to Princeton, alma mater of all his relatives, in 1915. At Princeton, Eddy threw himself into collegiate activities while pursuing his degree in English: he was on the basketball and baseball teams, tried out for the football team, and was a member of Dial Lodge. He also joined the National Guard in 1916 — a fateful move. He kept contact with a Wooster sweetheart, Mary Garvin, a young woman his age who had lived most of her life with missionary parents in Valparaiso, Chile.

William Eddy and Mary Garvin received their baccalaureate degrees in 1917 and married on the eve of his departure with the Marine Corps for the trenches in France. According to his superiors he was “an officer of exceptional ability”⁹ and soon found himself a brigade intelligence officer and aide-de-camp to General Wendell Cushing Neville. At the battle of Belleau Wood he was wounded by a high-explosive shell on 25 June 1918. Dampness and exhaustion left him with double pneumonia and a draining abscess in his wounded

⁷ Pamphlet entitled “Rev. William King Eddy: Twenty-Eight Years a Missionary in Sidon, Syria, Died November Fourth 1906,” p. 10. William A. Eddy Papers, Box 8, used by permission of the Princeton University Libraries.

⁸ Letter from Mary Furman (née Mary Garvin Eddy) to C. A. Prettiman, 17 August 1991.

⁹ Extract from the Headquarters U. S. Marine Corps Adjutant and Inspector’s Department, France, 5 July 1918, General Order No. 30, p. 32. Eddy Papers, Box 5, folder 6.

hip; he was not expected to live. The next part of the story is told by his daughter, Mary Eddy Furman:

When Woodrow Wilson was elected President of the U.S., he brought to the White House a few Princeton graduates as aides and secretaries. One of these was Donald Close. . . . One morning Donald Close said, "Mr. President, my sister-in-law has a younger brother serving in the Marine Corps . . . he is now in a hospital in France and the family is worried as they have been receiving incoherent letters from him and they don't know where he is." Whereupon President Wilson . . . wrote "Find Lt. William Alfred Eddy, USMC, and have him returned home immediately" and fired it off to the War Department. Eventually the order arrived at a hospital outside of Paris and the resident doctor protested that the Marine was not in good enough condition to travel, but the order from the President left him no alternative. When the wounded soldiers arrived at the ship for transport home, the ship's doctor refused to take Eddy for the same reason: "He'll never make it across the ocean." Again the order prevailed. Lt. Eddy [who was six feet tall] weighed 108 pounds when the ship docked in New York.¹⁰

William Eddy finally arrived safely at the Naval Hospital in Brooklyn and spent more than a year recuperating. He shakily wrote a letter full of pathos to his mother-in-law:

You don't have to worry about how we are managing to get along, while I am sick. Fortunately the government continues my full salary until I recover as far as possible. It is a real question what we will do after I leave the hospital (probably next fall) as you know I will be a cripple all my life. There will be something I can do I know.¹¹

There was indeed something that Eddy could do, even from his bed:

¹⁰ Letter from Mary (Eddy) Furman to C. A. Prettiman, 29 August 1991.

¹¹ Letter dated 10 June (1919?). Eddy Papers, Box 5, folder 6.



William Alfred Eddy, Class of 1917, and his son at his fifth Reunion, Princeton, 1922. Note the position of Eddy's right leg, the result of a wound to his hip at the battle of Belleau Wood. Eddy Papers, Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University.

continue his studies. After receiving his A.M. and Ph.D. in eighteenth-century English literature from Princeton, he embarked upon an academic career. In 1922 he taught a one-year stint at Peekskill Military Academy, then returned with his small family to the Near East where he had been raised. In 1923 he accepted the position of chairman of the English Department at the American University in Cairo. Life in Cairo in the twenties was a sweltering and austere one, but William Eddy clearly enjoyed himself: Despite the pronounced lameness from the shrapnel in his hip, he managed to coach basketball and tennis, write the first basketball rule-book in Arabic, and introduce the sport to the Nile valley.

Needing to consider three children and the feelings of a young wife who was longing for the States, William Eddy accepted a position as assistant professor at Dartmouth College in 1928. A telegram from Ernest M. Hopkins dated 24 December 1927 reads, "Eddy victorious Cairo writing in full will recommend trustees assistant professorship three thousand."¹² We can only assume from this cryptic congratulatory telegram that Eddy drove a hard bargain and got his terms.

Hanover seemed like "heaven" to his young wife Mary after the dusts of Egypt and the iciness of her British neighbors, who still occupied Egypt at that time and who did not trouble themselves overmuch about colonials. William Eddy published regularly when at Dartmouth (mostly on the eighteenth-century novel, pedagogy, and Islam), swam, and played squash with his friends. The refreshing climate was enjoyed by the family (Mary was the first woman in Hanover to wear a genuine pair of ski pants made for women, and was the envy of the neighbor ladies, who borrowed their husbands' trousers to ski). This happy period came to an end in 1936, when William Eddy accepted an invitation to become president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges — a decision that was to change his outlook on academia permanently.

The years at Hobart were not joyous ones for the Eddy family. The young couple had to do the endless entertaining and fundraising required of a college president,¹³ and William Eddy soon found himself violently opposed by conservative faculty who were outraged by his sweeping reforms of the curriculum.

¹² Eddy Papers, Box 5, folder 7.

¹³ The Reverend Elwyn Brown, telephone conversation with C. A. Prettiman, 27 August 1991.



The official portrait of William Alfred Eddy as president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 1936. Eddy Papers, Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University.

Mary McCormick Scott-Craig, former academic dean at Hobart's sister-school, William Smith College, explained Eddy's policies thus: "Mr. Eddy came to the colleges with a plan for a new core-curriculum — Citizenship. He was aware that only an informed and responsible electorate could breathe new life into the economy and public life. This was to be a four-year course, one required each year."¹⁴ These courses "won the support of most of the faculty," but were vehemently disputed by others — disputes that grew more heated as his term went on. The final blow fell when several faculty members resigned in protest in 1941. Eddy had had enough. He resigned from the troublesome post with the words, "college presidency is a job with which I am definitely out of love; I want to be a Marine."¹⁵ His decision was quite unpopular with most students, who loved their

¹⁴ Letter of 30 August 1991 from Mary M. Scott-Craig to C. A. Prettiman.

¹⁵ Eddy was already in Tangier as naval attaché at the time of his Hobart resignation.

“prexy.” The collection has an emotional letter from William Eddy’s personal secretary written to the couple the day following his resignation: “Yesterday and the days preceding were very hard ones for me — for I know that when you two leave Geneva I have lost the best friends I ever had. . . . I have never known such joy or happiness as has come to me in working for both of you.”¹⁶ Clearly, William Eddy was someone who sparked either great loyalty or tremendous animosity.



When Eddy declared that he wanted to be a Marine, he was not being facetious. In 1942 he did indeed offer his services to the Marines through William Donovan, and was appointed naval attaché in Tangier for the American legation. He was commissioned a major, and eventually was made colonel on the staff of Mark Clark. The attaché’s job was actually a cover for his real position: head of Allied intelligence in North Africa. Memos from the Marine Corps headquarters reveal that William Eddy first became involved in U.S. intelligence operations in France when he was twenty-two years old;¹⁷ many of his citations are for gathering valuable information from the enemy under perilous conditions. Almost surely he continued to work for military or governmental intelligence offices after the Great War. What we do know is that, with Robert Murphy, he was one of the few men who helped to plan the Allied landings in North Africa, deceiving the Germans completely and saving hundreds of lives.¹⁸

Despite his tone when resigning from Hobart, however, William Eddy was not really a military man. He was too fond of tempering

¹⁶ Hester Brennan Holleran, letter of 23 June 1942. Eddy Papers, Box 9.

¹⁷ Eddy Papers, Box 5, folder 6.

¹⁸ For more information on the OSS and Eddy’s role in the North African landings, see Corey Ford, *Donovan of OSS* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1970); Stewart Alsop and Thomas Braden, *Sub Rosa: The OSS and American Espionage* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1964); R. Harris Smith, *OSS: The Secret History of America’s First Central Intelligence Agency* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972); and Robin W. Winks, *Cloak & Gown: Scholars in the Secret War, 1939–1961* (New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1987). The most reliable of these accounts is Corey Ford’s. Robin Winks’ account, full of absurd statements like “in World War I [Eddy] had lost a leg, and the stump and attached wooden leg gave him pain in the heat . . .” (p. 190), can safely be dismissed.



Photo: John Blazejewski

William Alfred Eddy with the first president of Egypt, General Mohammed Naguib, Cairo, 1943. Eddy Papers, Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University.

discipline with courtesy and independent thought, and too much an educator to be pleased with an automatic “yes, sir.” Thus, in 1944, he resigned from the Marine Corps. Where to turn next? The war had interrupted his academic career. Although he disliked administration, he had enjoyed the research, publishing, and teaching he did as a professor, but a sudden offer again deflected him from pursuing a scholarly career.

On 12 August 1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Eddy to become minister plenipotentiary to Saudi Arabia. Eddy was a logical choice for a diplomatic position: he had already been naval attaché in Cairo and Tangier in 1941 and 1942, and even though that job was a cover for his intelligence operations, he carried out his public duties with charm, grace, tact, bonhomie, and the opacity of motive so necessary to diplomatic work.¹⁹ An accomplished raconteur, William

¹⁹ William Eddy also had some traits that were not so characteristic of a diplomat. He often expressed his own opinion, which was usually egalitarian and democratic, in ringing tones, even at administrative and diplomatic functions. At Dartmouth and Hobart he expressed contempt for the students who were there “to get a better job or be

Eddy was attractive, likable, and well-educated. He was fluent in French and at least two dialects of Arabic.

Eddy's fluency in Arabic, acquired during his childhood in Syria, served him in good stead. In a time when few Americans understood that language, he was the obvious choice to interpret for President Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia during their historic meeting in the Suez Canal in 1945. Eddy wrote an amusing and informative account of the meeting aboard the destroyer *Murphy*, entitled *F.D.R. Meets Ibn Saud*.²⁰ In later years Ibn Saud was to address Eddy as "my great and good friend" — and to offer one of his sons for William Eddy's eleven-year-old daughter Carmen to marry. (A diplomatic problem, indeed.)

After the war William Eddy remained a diplomat for some years. In 1946, he was head of a special mission to Yemen and developed the U.S. treaty with that unallied nation. But for his strenuous efforts and knowledge of the Arab culture, the entire mission would have been in vain. In 1946 – 1947 he was also a special assistant to the secretary of state, in charge of research and intelligence.

Eddy's carefully guarded intelligence career was to occupy him for the rest of his life, but it did not stop him from having other occupations. After his diplomatic work (he resigned from the Department of State in September 1947) he was increasingly drawn to write about the Middle East and the economic and political problems there; eventually, he and his wife moved to Beirut. He was a part-time consultant for the Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) and the Trans-Arabian Pipeline Company (Tapline) for some years, and became a full-time consultant from 1947 (when he flew to Arabia at their behest) until his retirement in 1957, continuing to work part-time until his death in 1962.

William Eddy spent his spare time with his wife Mary, who was cheerfully learning Arabic and watching the local birds. Mary was a fit companion for him: in her late fifties she was publishing ornitho-

more respected in social circles, instead of learning how to be an adult." (See his first Hobart address.) He was not racially or culturally prejudiced, and he was firmly in favor of education and equality for women. (He even believed that women should be given equal positions with men in the armed forces.) His own wife and daughters earned university degrees, and he told his elder daughter, "women are just as bright as men; you can be anything you want to be." (Mary Eddy Furman, interview with C. A. Prettiman, Bethesda, Maryland, 27 July 1991.)

²⁰ New York: American Friends of the Middle East, 1954.



William Alfred Eddy in Arab garb with 24-karat gold embellishments, a gift of King Ibn Saud. The photograph was taken at the King's palace in Riyadh, 1945. Eddy Papers, Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University.



William Alfred Eddy seated at the desk with the Imam of Yemen during the signing of the Treaty of the Yemen, Sana'a, 1946. Eddy Papers, Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University.

logical articles and skiing in Switzerland. William Eddy wrote numerous letters to his children, then grown, about his doings and about circumstances in the Middle East. He loved to travel, as always, and in his later years had an audience with Pope Pius XII in the Vatican (an audience gotten by illicit means, he gleefully reported to his family). He visited Dhahran, Venice, Naples, Kuwait, and Bagdad, and roamed the hills around Sidon and Beirut.²¹ He went to Jerusalem in 1947, 1954, and 1955, and his sojourns there sparked his anti-Zionist writings.

As early as 1950 Eddy's health had begun to fail, and he fell victim to bouts of bronchial pneumonia, heart attacks, and high blood pres-

²¹ A series of index cards in the Papers, in Eddy's and his wife's handwriting, lists many trips and biographic events throughout his lifetime — information that was presumably intended to be used in his memoirs. A look at his extensive passports, with all pages filled with stamps and many extra pages stapled in, also indicates the route of his official and leisure traveling.

sure. Thus it was both a shocking and an expected event when William Eddy died suddenly and quietly at age sixty-six from a cerebral thrombosis. He was buried next to his father and other relatives in the family graveyard in Sidon (now in Lebanon) as hundreds of condolences poured in from all over the world. They came from ambassadors, former students, professors and university administrators, admirals and generals, presidents of countries, and Arab villagers. Admiral W. Hill spoke of William Eddy's "personal charm, force, ability, integrity, all combined in one person in an unusual degree." President John F. Kennedy sent a certificate awarded "by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of mankind."²²



William Eddy's papers remained in his widow's possession after his death, and in 1978 she donated them to the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library at Princeton University. Personal correspondence from 1914 to 1918, 1935, and the 1940s was donated by his eldest daughter, Mary Garvin Eddy Furman, in 1991.²³ Although most of the correspondence is from Eddy's term as president of Hobart College, the collection includes many military documents, especially from 1941 to 1946 when he was involved in planning the North African landings, translating for Roosevelt and Ibn Saud, and working on the Treaty of the Yemen. There are many genealogical papers and letters from relatives concerning American missionary work. Brought together for convenience are most of William Eddy's numerous publications concerning eighteenth-century English literature, religious and civic duties, U.S. foreign policy towards Israel and the Arabs, and socio-economic accounts of the Middle East. Mary Eddy added her own papers dating from William Eddy's death (1962) until 1978; often these letters have to do with mutual friends, royalties from William

²² The condolences are in the Eddy Papers, Box 1, folder 5.

²³ I must express my gratitude to Mary "Cita" Furman, who shared her memories and mementoes of her father. I also wish to thank the other people who were valued by William Eddy and who graciously discussed long-ago events and people with me: Carmen Eddy Costinett (his youngest child); Barbara Hayward Weymouth (one of William and Mary Eddy's closest friends); Mary M. Scott-Craig (former academic dean of William Smith College); and the aforementioned Reverend Elwyn Brown.

Eddy's books, William Eddy's estate, or Mary's unsuccessful attempts to publish his book of memoirs.

The collection has been arranged in six sections: correspondence, documents, diaries and notebooks, addresses, publications, and photographs. The majority of the letters are William Eddy's professional, day-to-day correspondence, and personal letters to and from his wife and four children. Individual files include correspondence with Dorothy Thompson, Crown Prince Faisal, Robert Murphy, and John Foster Dulles, and most are dated 1936 – 1962.

The documents principally concern Eddy's military promotions, citations and service records from both World Wars, medical records, genealogical information, his will, and deeds to property — and a list of books in his personal library.

The series of articles is less diverse than the documents. Eddy's files contained essentially three types: articles from scholarly journals concerning eighteenth-century English literature, especially satire;²⁴ sermons and pamphlets of a religious nature; and articles written for popular magazines concerning U.S.-Middle Eastern relations. Conceivably a scholar could track down these works elsewhere, but since Eddy's books and pamphlets are out of print, and some of the learned journals may be hard to find, having the run of articles here is a great convenience.

The personal journals are partly class notebooks from Eddy's college days. Others are lecture notes for classes that Eddy was teaching as a young professor; they give a coherent idea of his opinions on various literary subjects. There is a short diary kept by his future wife, Mary Garvin, from 1914 to 1915. Also contained in this series are daybooks and journals for various years, and a set of "Middle-East Memoirs."

The photographs, some of which have accompanying negatives, are divided into two sections: portraits and landscapes. The portrait section contains photographs of William Eddy and his family, friends, and professional acquaintances, most dated from 1945 to 1961. There are many pictures of Eddy and dignitaries at various official and political functions. The landscapes section contains extensive photo collections of Middle Eastern landmarks and scenes of

²⁴ See also a book, *Jonathan Swift: Satires, and Personal Writings* (London: Oxford University Press, 1944), edited and with an introduction by Eddy.

daily life. The landscape photographs are very helpful in charting Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia over the last hundred years. Middle Eastern life, dress, and customs are represented in detail. There are also a few military aerial shots.

The scrapbooks in the collection, four of them put together by Mary, also contain photographs. One of them depicts Eddy's family life from boyhood to World War I. Three of the scrapbooks preserve newspaper clippings from the Hobart College years. The fifth contains photographs of the Eddys in the Middle East in 1945.

Interesting information is also to be found in the segments of the collection that span the years *before* Eddy's birth. There are letters dating from as early as 1859 and written by relatives who were missionaries in the Middle East, and there are genealogical materials of the same sort from Mary Garvin Eddy's family in Valparaiso, Chile. We have, however, little information about Eddy's early years as a student and as a soldier in World War I. There are a dozen or so Wooster-era photos, some undergraduate notebooks and his graduate school records, but William Eddy's years as a young academic in Cairo and Dartmouth are all but blank; we have little besides his publications and addresses to give any indication of his doings.

The next phase of his career, that of administrator, is very well documented with scrapbooks and letters, as is the World War II era. There is a file of correspondence with Robert Murphy, information on Tangier, on his years as naval attaché there, and on the landings in North Africa. The photo collection and newspaper clippings for these years are especially informative. The collections of photos of Jidda, Saudi Arabia, in 1945 and Sana'a, Yemen, in 1946 are particularly interesting from a sociological point of view: William Eddy often took pictures of local people that a non-Arabic speaker could not hope to get. His facility with the language also enabled him to fill a notebook in Yemen with information describing that culture.

The later years are still more fully documented. For instance, we have passports for 1956 and 1962, information on Eddy's conference with Adlai Stevenson in 1954, his daybooks for 1961, and the journals he kept in Egypt and Yemen. There is information on his crusade against unfair treatment of the Arabs by the Israelis and on the Persian Gulf Command. In addition, there is a veritable avalanche of personal letters from the later years. He wrote of his activities in Beirut and its environs in round-robin letters to his grown children in

passages that almost sounded like bits from a journal or memoir, which they may well have been.

William Eddy had made major inroads into getting his “Adventures in the Arab World” (included in the Papers) written and published. As his health failed, the task may have taken on some urgency: In a late letter to his children, he wrote, “As I get older I believe one must do things while one can, before some unforeseen event slams a door shut.”²⁵ A commonplace sentiment, perhaps, but never truer than in his case. His sudden death shut the door on finishing his book, arranging his papers, or — another project that occupied his interest — finding Adam’s tomb.

After his death the collection continues with condolences, accounts by William Jr. of the funeral, pictures of Mary in later life, and financial correspondence with John Eddy (their younger son, an attorney) winding up the Eddy estate. Then the collection becomes more properly the letters of Mary Garvin Eddy, having to do mostly with her husband.

Without doubt, William Alfred Eddy deserves more scholarly study than has been accorded him in the last thirty years. His diplomatic work in the Arab world set the tone in early twentieth-century relations between the two disparate cultures. He launched a passionate campaign against anti-Arab sentiments in the United States and abroad, especially during the formation of the state of Israel, and his numerous speeches and articles educated the government and the military about the Middle East. He was one of the unsung heroes in military intelligence operations during World War II. These achievements alone would make him worthy of scholarly study. His papers are likely to contain valuable and previously unknown information, especially about the Middle East, the North African campaigns, and about world leaders.

The William Alfred Eddy Papers are a rich resource for scholars interested in a wide variety of subjects. The paraphernalia of Eddy’s many lives illuminates a part of the world about which we in the United States know too little, and sheds light on a past that has shaped our most recent history.

²⁵ Eddy Papers, Box 6, folder 7.