

**University of Toronto Archives and
Records Management Services**



**Theophile James Meek
Personal Records**

B2007-0017

**Prepared by: Marnee Gamble
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Biographical Note

Born in 1881 into a farming family in Port Stanley Ontario, Theophile James Meek graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.A. in 1903. After theological studies at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago (1903-06) and two years as a traveling scholar in Germany, he held a post at James Millikin University in Illinois (1909-1918) while studying for his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto (Ph.D. 1915). While at Chicago, he met and married his mentor's daughter, Dorothea Carrier in 1909. After teaching at the Meadville Theological School (1918-1922) and after spending a year as Professor of Semitic Languages at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, he returned to the University of Toronto in 1923 to take up the same position. In his final year before retirement (1951-52), he became Chair of the Department Oriental Studies and upon retirement was made Professor Emeritus. T.J. Meek died on February 19 1966.

Professor Meek's areas of specialty were Mesopotamian Literature and the Old Testament. He is perhaps best known for his contributions to *The Bible, An American Translation*. From 1931-1941, he was associate editor of *American Journal of Semitic Languages*; he served as president of the American Oriental Society (1942) and the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis (1943). Throughout his career he traveled extensively and led studies in various Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq and Egypt. He was an internationally recognized scholar and contributed to the University of Toronto's reputation as a serious centre for Oriental Studies.

Scope and Content:

186- - 2007, predominant dates 1903-196- 1.15 m textual; graphic

This small accession consists of both personal family papers documenting the Meek family as well as a small amount of professional records documenting T.J. Meek's career. Professional records include some articles, correspondence, clippings, reviews of his work, memorabilia, and photographs. Family papers include early ancestral photographs as well snapshots, correspondence, family documents and memorabilia.

Access: Open

Corresponding Accessions: B2007-0017. See also B1972-0017

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Acc/box (file)	Description	Dates
B2007-0017/001 (01)	Biographical material & obituaries	193-?, 1966-2007
(02)	Clippings re. Meek's activities	191- 193-?
(03)	Notices of talks and conferences	1916-1934
(04)	Documents relating to publishing	1951-1962
(05)	Tsp – papers re. Pompeii and Rome	ca. 1908
(06)	Reviews of Meek's books	1936-1950
(07)	Clippings re. Bible Translation	1927-1937
(08)	Newspaper and magazine articles by Meek	1908-1935
(09)	Examination for Meek's Course on Oriental Literature	1917
(10)-(16)	Correspondence, mainly with family members while on trips to the Middle East	190- - 196-
(17)	Research notes and journal entries	n.d.
(18)	Memorabilia including programme for retirement dinner	1909-1952
(19)	Clippings re. family members	191- - 194-
(20)	Meek family documents	1881-1925
(21)	Genealogies for Meek Family	1902? and 1962
B2007-0017/002 (01)	Oversize Newspaper clippings about Meek	191- - 193-?
(02)	Diploma and award	1933 - 1948
B2007-0017/001P	Snapshot photographs and negatives documenting Meek's various trips including his trip to Europe in 1908 and particularly his trip to Egypt and the Middle East in 1930-31 (Approx. 165 photographs and 100 negatives)	1908-193-
B2007-0017/002P	Photographs documenting Prof. Meek and his family. Includes portraits of his wife, parents and siblings, images of his wife Dorothea Carrier's family as well as the Meek family and farm in Port Stanley (Approx 60 photographs)	188-? 196-?
B2007-0017/003P	Two photo albums: trip to Europe in 1906 (72 photographs) and Meek family in Port Stanley, 1935 (50 photographs)	1906, 1935

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Acc/box (file)	Description	Dates
B2007-0017/004P	Portrait album of Meek family and ancestors (54 photographs)	186-? – 195-
B2007-0017/005P	61 coloured lantern slides of Italy used for a talk	192-?