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Edmund Irwin Gordon Papers, 1936-1984

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Name of Creator:	Gordon, Edmund Irwin, 1921-1976.
Title:	Edmund Irwin Gordon Papers
Dates:	1936-1984 (bulk 1943-1973)
Collection Number:	Coll. 015
Extent:	2.08 cubic ft (three boxes)
Location:	R1/5
Biographical Abstract:	Edmund I. Gordon was born in 1921 in New York City. He attended graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania, focusing on ancient Near Eastern languages. Gordon put his studies on hold to serve as a signal intelligence specialist in World War II. He earned his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955.
Scope and Content Abstract:	The Edmund Irwin Gordon papers document his studies and professional work. The collection contains correspondence, EIG's writings for publication and otherwise, course materials from the University of Pennsylvania and teaching at Harvard University, photographs of tablets and from digs, translations and notes from writings and tablets in ancient languages, forms and papers related to various grants, and materials from EIG's work in Signal Intelligence during World War II.

Languages:	Material primarily in English. Some materials in Hebrew, Turkish, Akkadian, Sumerian, French, and German.
System of Arrangement:	Arranged in one alphabetical sequence by subject.
Restrictions:	The collection is unrestricted.
Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:	Copyright restrictions may apply. Consult the Archivist for details.

Biographical Note:	Edmund Irwin Gordon (EIG) was born October 9, 1921 in New York, New York. He attended William L. Dickinson High School in Jersey City, New Jersey graduating in January 1938. EIG attended the University of Pennsylvania majoring in Oriental Studies and graduating in June 1941. EIG continued at the University of Pennsylvania from 1941-1942 in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. When the United States entered World War II, EIG joined the Army and worked under Signal Intelligence, utilizing his background in languages. EIG was in the Army from November 1942 to November 1945 working as an interpreter, cryptanalytic and compiler, and traffic analyst, deciphering Japanese messages
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and working to improve code-breaking systems. After the war, EIG returned to the University of Pennsylvania to earn his PhD. in Oriental Studies: Ancient Near East – Cuneiform Studies in June 1955. His education concentrated on history and language courses pertaining to the Ancient Near East. During his graduate studies, EIG worked closely with Professors E. A. Speiser and Samuel Noah Kramer.

After attaining his doctorate, EIG worked as a Research Assistant for the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania (Near East Section). Following his time at the museum, EIG was awarded the George Leib Harrison Fellowship for Post-Doctoral Research, which supported his work from July 1955 to June 1958. In 1956, EIG assisted Time magazine by translating a tablet for an article. In the fall of 1957, EIG traveled to the U.S.S.R. to study archaeological collections in Leningrad and Moscow after The Academy of Arts and Sciences of the U.S.S.R. invited him in a unique exchange of scholars. EIG earned a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, which supported his work from June 1958 to June 1959.

During the summer of 1959, EIG assisted Professor Benno Landsberger at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago. EIG continued to work on his finished doctoral thesis, eventually publishing it as *Sumerian Proverbs: Glimpses of Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia* in 1959.

Accepting a temporary position at Harvard, EIG lectured on Akkadian and other Near East subjects until 1961, when EIG left Harvard to accept the William Foxwell Albright Fellowship from the American Schools of Oriental Research. EIG traveled through the Middle East to Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. EIG continued his travels in Turkey with the J. S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and on his own until 1965.

EIG accepted grants from the American Research Institute in Turkey in 1965 and 1967, spending extensive time in Istanbul. In September 1967, EIG moved home to Jersey City, New Jersey to care for his mother. While in New Jersey, EIG worked for the American Philosophical Society. After his mother's death, EIG continued to work with many institutions, if only as an occasional consultant. Edmund Irwin Gordon died unexpectedly December 2, 1976 of a

	coronary infarction.
Chronology:	
1921	Born in New York, New York.
1938	Graduates William L. Dickinson High School.
1941	Graduates University of Pennsylvania, The College.
1941-1942	Attends University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
1942-1945	Serves in United States Army.
1946	Returns to University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
1953-1956	Works as Research Assistant at University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania (Near East section).
1953	Publishes "Mesilim and Mesannepadda: Are they Identical?" in <i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> .
1954	Publishes "The Sumerian Proverb Collection: A Preliminary Report" in <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> .
1954	Publishes "Biblical Parallels from Sumerian Literature: Handbook on the Special Exhibition in Honor of the American-Jewish Tercentenary 1654-1954" with Professor Samuel Noah Kramer for the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania.
1955	Earns PhD in Oriental Studies: Ancient Near East – Cuneiform Studies.
1955-1958	Works on George Leib Harrison Fellowship for Post-Doctoral Research.
1955	Publishes "The Inscribed Stone 'Foot' from Bahrain" in <i>Bulletin of the Philadelphia Anthropological Society</i> .
1956	Becomes honorary Research Associate at the University Museum.
1956	Publishes "Of Princes and Foxes: The Neck-Stock in the Newly-discovered Agade Period Stele" in <i>Sumer</i> .
1956	Publishes critical review of Andre Parrot's <i>Discovering Buried Worlds, The Flood and Noah's Ark</i> , and <i>The Tower of Babel</i> in <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i> .
1956	Publishes "Lipit-Ishtar of Isin" in <i>Allen Memorial Art Museum Bulletin</i> .
1957	Publishes "Sumerian Proverbs: Collection Four" in <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> .
1958-1959	Works on Fellowship with American Council of Learned Societies.
1958	Publishes "Sumerian Animal Proverbs and Fables: Collection Five" in <i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i> .
1959	Works as Special Assistant to Professor Benno Landsberger at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.
1959-1961	Teaches at Harvard University, Department of Near Eastern

	Languages .
1959	Publishes "The Old-Babylonian Forerunner to Har-ra = hubullu, Tablets VIII-XII" in Benno Landsberger's <i>Materialien zum Sumerischen Lexikon</i> .
1959	Publishes <i>Sumerian Proverbs: Glimpses of Everyday Life in Ancient Mesopotamia</i> .
1960	Publishes "The Old-Babylonian Forerunner to Har-ra = hubullu, Tablet XIII, from Nippur in Benno Landsberger's <i>Materialien zum Sumerischen Lexikon</i> .
1960	Publishes "A New Look at the Wisdom of Sumer and Akkad" in <i>Bibliotheca Orientalis</i> .
1961	Travels to the Middle East for William Foxwell Albright Fellowship, American Schools of Oriental Research.
1961-1967	Publishes "Babylonian Language and Literature" in <i>Funk and Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopedia</i> .
1961-1967	Publishes articles "Kassites," "Media," and "Ur" in <i>Funk and Wagnalls Standard Reference Encyclopedia</i> jointly with Samuel Noah Kramer.
1962-1963	Travels to Turkey for J. S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.
1962	Publishes "Animals as Represented in the Sumerian Proverbs and Fables: A Preliminary Study" in <i>Akademiku Vasiliu Vasil'evicu Struve Drevnii Mir Sbornik Statei</i> .
1964	Researches in Ankara, Turkey.
1965	Receives American Research Institute in Turkey Fellowship grant.
1967	Receives American Research Institute in Turkey Fellowship grant.
1967	Moves to family home in Jersey City, New Jersey .
1967	Publishes "The Meaning of the Ideogram dKaskal.kur = 'Underground Water-course' and Its Significance for Bronze Age Historical Geography" in <i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i> .
1968	Receives American Philosophical Society grant.
1976	Dies of coronary infarction.
Bibliography:	Box 1. Folder 2. About the Gordon Papers Box 1. Folder 6-18. Correspondence Box 2. Folder 3. Personal: Biographical Information
Scope and Content Note:	The Edmund Irwin Gordon papers document his studies and professional work. The collection contains correspondence, EIG's writings for publication and otherwise, course materials from the University of Pennsylvania and teaching at Harvard University, photographs of tablets and from digs, translations and notes from writings and tablets in ancient languages, forms and papers related to various grants, and

	<p>materials from EIG's work in Signal Intelligence during World War II.</p> <p>The General folder contains pamphlets, various pieces of writing, handwritten notes, and a paper in Hebrew.</p> <p>The Bibliographies file contains lists of materials used in EIG's writings.</p> <p>The Catalog of Roads file contains a drawn map of ancient Near Eastern roads and transcriptions of writings about those roads.</p> <p>The Coursework folder contains school materials, but it is undetermined if they are from The University of Pennsylvania where EIG was a student or from his time as a lecturer at Harvard.</p> <p>The Personal: Political Affiliations file contains materials pertaining to leftist political clubs.</p> <p>The Maps file contains a map of Israel and a map of ancient sites in Iraq.</p> <p>"The Old-Babylonian Forerunner to Har-ra = hubullu" file contains correspondence, lists, and writings pertaining to the publication by the same name.</p>
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Collection Inventory

<i>Box</i>	<i>Folder Number</i>	<i>Folder Title</i>	<i>Dates</i>
1	1	General	n.d., 1951-1963
1	2	About the Gordon Papers	n.d, 1977-1984
1	3	American Oriental Society	1954-1966
1	4	Bibliographies	n.d.
1	4a	Business Cards	n.d., 1962-1965
1	5	Catalog of Roads	n.d.
		Correspondence	
1, 3	6-18; 1	General (14 folders)	n.d., 1836, 1937-1974
1	19	Greeting Cards	
1	20	Postcards	n.d., 1944-1965
1	21	Samuel Noah Kramer	n.d., 1955-1957
1, 3	22; 2	Coursework (2 folders)	n.d.
1	23	Financial	n.d., 1935, 1958-1967
1	24	Grants and Fellowships	n.d., 1955-1964

1	25-26	Harvard University Teaching Materials (2 folders)	n.d., 1957-1962
1	27	Last Will and Testament	n.d.
1	28	Maps	1954, 1973
1, 3	29, 30; 3	Nippur Excavation (3 folders)	n.d., 1955
1	31	Notes	n.d.
2	1	"The Old-Babylonian Forerunner to Har-ra = hubullu"	n.d., 1955-1959
		Personal	
2	2	General	n.d., 1937, 1956
2	3	Biographical Information	n.d., 1946, ca. 1969
2	4	Drawing	n.d.
2	5	Poems	n.d., 1950-1958
2, 3	6; 4	Political Affiliations (2 folders)	n.d., 1957-1958
2	7	Press	n.d., 1958-1967
2	8	Proposal for a Program in Cuneiform Studies	n.d., 1973
2	9	"Report on Visit to the U.S.S.R."	ca. 1958
2	10	Time Magazine: Tablet Translation	1956
2, 3	11, 12; 5, 6	Translations and Transcriptions (4 folders)	n.d., 1947, 1958-1959
2	13	Travel Diary: Turkey	1961-1962
		University of Pennsylvania	
2	14-15	General (2 folders)	n.d., 1956
3	7	Diplomas	1941, 1955
2	16-23	Graduate Studies (8 folders)	n.d., 1949-1953
2	24	Undergraduate Studies	n.d., 1939-1941
		World War II	
2, 3	25; 8	General (2 folders)	194?, 1942
2	26	Handbook on Japanese Military Forces	1944
2, 3	27, 9	Signal Intelligence School (2 folders)	n.d., 1944
2	28-29	Writings (2 folders)	n.d., 1953-1967
2	30-32	Photographs (3 folders)	n.d., 1952-1962

Subject Headings:	
600 - Subject Added Entry - Personal Name	Gordon, Edmund I.
610 - Subject Added Entry - Corporate Name	American Schools of Oriental Research
610 - Subject Added	American Schools of Oriental Research. American School of

Entry - Corporate Name	Oriental Research in Jerusalem
650 - Subject Added Entry - Topical Term	Ancient texts & translations

This collection was processed by Britta Abeln in February, 2010.