

**GILLET, IRA E.**  
**Ira E. Gillet papers, 1902-1989**

Emory University  
Pitts Theology Library  
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Gillet, Ira E.  
**Title:** Ira E. Gillet papers, 1902-1989  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 259  
**Extent:** 17 cubic ft. (78 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Consists of the papers and image collections of Ira E. Gillet.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Ira E. Gillet Papers, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

#### **Processing**

Processed by Joan S. Clemens, 2004.

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### **Collection Description**

#### **Biographical Note**

Ira Edmond Gillet, Methodist missionary, was born in Fulton County, Ohio, on October 10, 1889. His family moved to Linn County, Oregon, in 1911. Gillet studied at Denver University in Colorado and Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University) before receiving his bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in Ohio. He received his seminary degree from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology. Gillet married Edith Clara Riggs at Oberlin on July 6, 1918, and the couple soon thereafter departed for Africa where they served as Methodist missionaries in

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Mozambique until their retirement and return to Oregon in 1959. Ira taught carpentry and music and Edith taught kindergarten. They served primarily in Kambini and the Limpopo district of Mozambique with one year in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they ministered to the men working in the mines.

In 1915 Gillet was a charter member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, one of many organizations in which he was active during his ministry. Other organizations included the Association for Research and Enlightenment, Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, the Methodist Federation for Social Action and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Gillet presented radio programs on numerous radio stations in Oregon for twenty years.

Ira and Edith Gillet moved to Rose Villa Retirement Center in Milwaukie, Oregon in 1963, where Ira remained until his death at the age of 100 on December 14, 1989. Edith died in 1974, and Gillet later remarried. His second wife, Ida Mae Gillet, also preceded him in death.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of the papers and image collections of Ira E. Gillet. The papers consist of correspondence, which includes the newsletter Ira and his wife Edith sent from 1918 to 1959 on their missionary activities. The collection also includes newsletters Gillet received from other missionaries. In addition to biographical information on Gillet, there are biographical sketches written by Gillet and other on missionaries Ruth E. Northcott, B. F. Ousley, Mary and Julian Rea, and Erwin H. Richards. The collection also contains miscellaneous publications and material used by missionaries in southern Africa, Southeast Africa Conference reports, minutes and other material, and Missionary Committee minutes. Gillet collected postcards documenting his travels in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the United States. Artifacts from Gillet's time in Africa include a leopard skin, a bow, clay sculptured busts, and other small miscellaneous items.

A major component of the collection is Gillet's collection of photographic images taken from the early 1900s through the 1960s. The image collection included prints, film negatives, glass negatives, glass lantern slides, and film slides including almost 400 stereo film slides. Many of the images document the activities of the Methodist Church in south Africa. The bulk of the Africa images were taken in Mozambique but there are also images documenting life and missionary activities in Angola, Belgian Congo, Rhodesia and South Africa. The images document places, cultures, people, worship and social functions, plants, and animals as well as vacations, family, and friends in Europe, Asia and the United States.

The core of the image collection is Gillet's collection of about 3100 glass and film negatives that were housed primarily in 4" x 5" sleeves. There were a few prints included in some of the sleeves. The bulk of this collection documents missionary activities and culture in Mozambique. Of the 1200 images that identify a photographer, the bulk of the images were taken by W. S. Rowe, Ira Gillet and Erwin Richards. P. W. Keys and Donohugh also took a significant number of the images. The dates on the image sleeves do not seem to indicate the date the image was taken but the date the images were collected by Gillet or some other central collecting unit. In some cases, multiple numbering systems were used. Most of the images attributed to Gillet are identified with a number beginning with the letter "S", however, there were some instances where the "S" number had been replaced by another number outside the letter system. All of these number systems are documented on the Excel spreadsheet when provided on the original negative sleeve.

The next major component of the image collection is the collection of 846 glass lantern slides. This collection includes slides from the photographs of Africa, India, Japan, (which may be duplicates of images in the negative collection) and the United States, as well as slides of hymns, scripture readings, responsive readings, and prayers that were clearly designed for use in worship services. Stories, primarily Biblical in nature, are also part of the image collection. Only a few of the stories have complete, or near complete, sets of images. Two of these stories, The Captive Boy and The Other Wise Man have scripts that are housed with Gillet's papers. There are scripts for Back to God and Prince of Peace as well but no complete set of slides for either script. The remaining stories are short or have incomplete sets of slides. The lantern slides also include illustrations, many of well-known paintings such as Rembrandt's The Last Supper. The majority of the illustrations are not labeled so it is not clear how these slides were used. There are also several color-coded series that appear to consist of illustrations. Many of these units are incomplete.

Included in Gillet's collection of African images is the photograph collection of Bishop Eben Johnson. This collection includes prints and negatives. The negatives are designated with the letter "J", which was assigned by the processing archivist. No numbering or identification system was used by Johnson or Gillet for these images. The bulk of the images are of missionaries and missionary families as well as family and friends, most of which are not identified. Many of these images were together in old photograph sleeves. Some of these image units consisted of all prints or all negatives but some were a mixture of both prints and negatives. Each unique grouping or unit was assigned a letter. A list explaining each lettered unit is included in the folders with the Johnson prints.

The remainder of the image collection includes prints and negatives that were not part of the sleeved negative and print collection, and film slides. The negatives are designated with the letter "G". Most of these images are from the 1950s and 1960s and represent the Gillets travels in Europe and the United States. The film slides are both the standard 2" x 2" slides and stereo film slides. Both formats include images from Africa and vacation pictures. A detailed listing of all of the individual slides and negatives is available in the repository. The listing excludes prints and the rolls and strips of negatives that could not be sleeved or numbered individually.

Also included in this collection are films taken by Ira Gillet. Three of these were transferred to videotape in spring 2005 through a preservation grant administered by the National Film Preservation Foundation and funded by the National Film Preservation Act. User copies in DVD and BetaCamSP tape format were created as part of the grant project. The original films and camera masters are stored off-site. All three films are undated. One is identified by titles as having been filmed in the Limpopo district of Mozambique. Locations for the other two films are not stated.

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## Container List

### Papers

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Articles, 1920, 1925
1	2	Articles - fragments, 1930, undated
1	3	Articles on Archeology/Anthropology, undated
1	4	[Artifact description sheets], undated
1	5	Bibliographies, undated
1	6	Biographical information: 1st draft of Ira Gillet's autobiography, undated
1	7	Biographical information: Gillet's memorial service, 1989
1	8	Biographical information: Press release, 1963
1	9	Biographical information: This I recall: my growing up by Ira E. Gillet, 1985
1	10	[Conference/committee material]: Assembleia Consultativa, 1953
1	11	[Conference/committee material]: Christian Council of South Africa, 1954-1958
1	12	[Conference/committee material]: Missionary Committee - Minutes, 1949-1952
1	13	[Conference/committee material]: Missionary Committee - Minutes, 1953
1	14	[Conference/committee material]: Missionary Committee - Minutes, 1954
1	15	[Conference/committee material]: Missionary Committee - Minutes, 1955-1956
1	16	[Conference/committee material]: Missionary Committee - Minutes, 1958-1960
2	1	[Conference/committee material]: Southeast Africa Conference, undated
2	2	[Conference/committee material]: Southeast Africa Conference reports, 1956-1964, undated
2	3	[Conference/committee material]: Southeast Africa Conference Coordination Committee minutes, 1961
2	4	[Conference/committee material]: Southeast Africa Conference Coordination Committee minutes, 1962
2	5	[Conference/committee material]: Southeast Africa Conference Coordination Committee minutes, 1963
2	6	[Conference/committee material]: Southeast Africa Conference Field Committee 1951-1956, undated
2	7	[Conference/committee material]: Southeast Africa Conference Field Committee minutes, 1953-1956
2	8	[Conference/committee material]: Fragments, undated
2	9	Correspondence: From Gillet, 1944, 1956-1958
2	10	Correspondence: From Gillet, 1964-1982, undated
2	11	Correspondence: To Gillet, 1957
2	12	Correspondence: To Gillet, 1963
2	13	Correspondence: To Gillet, 1964
2	14	Correspondence: To Gillet, 1965

- 2 15 Correspondence: To Gillet, 1966
- 2 16 Correspondence: To Gillet, 1967
- 2 17 Correspondence: To Gillet, 1971-1983, undated
- 2 18 Correspondence: Missionaries, 1942-1943
- 2 19 Correspondence: Missionary, 1951-1958
- 2 20 Correspondence: Newsletters from Gillets, 1918-1919
- 2 21 Correspondence: Newsletters from Gillets, 1920-1928
- 2 22 Correspondence: Newsletters from Gillets, 1930-1939
- 2 23 Correspondence: Newsletters from Gillets, 1940-1948
- 2 24 Correspondence: Newsletters from Gillets, 1951-1959
- 2 25 Correspondence: Newsletters from Gillets, 1964-1987
- 2 26 Correspondence: Newsletters from other missionaries, 1938, 1940s
- 2 27 Correspondence: Newsletters from other missionaries, 1950s
- 2 28 Correspondence: Newsletters from other missionaries, 1960s
- 2 29 Correspondence: Newsletters from other missionaries, 1970s
- 2 30 Correspondence: Newsletters from other missionaries, 1980s
- 2 31 Correspondence: Newsletters from other missionaries - fragments, undated
- 2 32 Map of Delagoa Bay, 1953
- 2 33 Missionary biographies: Ruth E. Northcott, 1981
- 2 34 Missionary biographies: B. F. Ousley, undated
- 3 1 Missionary biographies: Mrs. Mary Rea's memoirs [Julian Rea], undated
- 3 2 Missionary biographies: Erwin Richards, undated
- 3 3 Missionary biographies: Erwin H. Richards - Elementary principles of the  
Sheetswe language, 1902
- 3 4 Missionary biographies: W. C. Wilcox, undated
- 3 5 Missionary biographies: [Miscellaneous notes], undated
- 3 6 [Missionary material]: 1956-1961, undated
- 3 7 [Missionary material]: Lesson books, undated
- 3 8 [Missionary material]: Xitshwa, Sunday school paper for use by miners in the  
Transvaal, 1959, undated
- 3 9 [Missionary material]: UMYF Handbook, undated
- 3 10 [Missionary material]: When we miners pray, undated
- 3 11 Newsletters, 1958-1961
- 3 12 Papers on Africa, 1956-1984
- 3 13 Papers on Africa - Mandelbaum, JonnaLynn. The Missionary as a cultural  
interpreter: a prospectus, undated
- 3 14 Printed material, 1919-1965
- 3 15 Printed material - Bilingual pamphlet on maternity, 1961
- 3 16 Radio program, KLIQ Portland, 1971
- 3 17 Reports by Gillet, undated

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|---|----|---|
| 3 | 18 | Transvaal Good Friday services, 1959  |
| 3 | 19 | Writings by Gillet - Miscellaneous, undated   |
| 4 | 1  | Miscellaneous items, 1930, undated  |
| 4 | 2  | [Visual material]: Old slide lecture - "Fathers and mothers with their children," undated |
| 4 | 3  | [Visual material]: SA Xu Council - Tambaram, 1938-1939                                    |
| 4 | 4  | [Visual material]: Slide presentations, undated   |
| 4 | 5  | [Visual material]: List of 2" x 2" slides [I-1-23], undated                               |
| 4 | 6  | [Visual material]: Miscellaneous photographs and images, undated                          |
| 4 | 7  | [Visual material]: Unidentified lists of lantern slides or negatives, undated             |
| 4 | 8  | [Visual material, lantern slide scripts]: The Captive Boy, undated                        |
| 4 | 9  | [Visual material, lantern slide scripts]: The Other Wise Man, undated                     |
| 4 | 10 | [Visual material, lantern slide scripts]: Back to God by Anderson Crain, undated          |
| 4 | 11 | [Visual material, lantern slide scripts]: The Prince of Peace by Anderson Crain, undated  |
| 4 | 12 | [Visual material]: Blowing art from Angola, 1934  |

### Postcards

- |   |   |                                       |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 5 | 1 | Africa, undated                       |
| 5 | 2 | Africa - Egypt, undated               |
| 5 | 3 | Arabia, undated                       |
| 5 | 4 | Asia, undated                         |
| 5 | 5 | Europe, undated                       |
| 5 | 6 | Europe - Portugal, undated            |
| 5 | 7 | Israel, undated                       |
| 5 | 8 | United States - C-D, undated          |
| 6 | 1 | United States - I-W, undated          |
| 6 | 2 | United States - Shoshone Dam, undated |
| 6 | 3 | Unidentified, undated                 |

### Image Collection

- |   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 6 | 4  | Prints, numbered 39227-58385, circa 1919-1920  |
| 6 | 5  | Prints, numbered 58386-62247, circa 1919-1920  |
| 6 | 6  | Prints, numbered 71398a-71437, circa 1919-1920 |
| 6 | 7  | Prints, numbered 71438-71522, circa 1920       |
| 6 | 8  | Prints, numbered 71523-71556, circa 1920       |
| 6 | 9  | Prints, numbered 71557-71877, circa 1920       |
| 6 | 10 | Prints, numbered 71878-92362, circa 1920       |
| 6 | 11 | Prints, numbered C9676, C9727, undated         |
| 6 | 12 | Prints, numbered S27565-S29366, undated        |

- 6 13 Prints, numbered G001-G030, G076, undated
- 7 1 Africa, undated
- 7 2 Africa, undated
- 7 3 Africa negative envelopes, undated
- 7 4 Africa negative strips, undated
- 7 5 Ira and Edith Gillet, undated
- 7 6 Ira and Edith Gillet - cardboard relief blocks, undated
- 7 7 Ira Gillet negative, undated
- 7 8 Luncheon at Rose Villa, 1964
- 7 9 Luncheon at Rose Villa, 1964
- 7 10 [Retirement home?], circa 1960s
- 7 11 Travel, 1965
- 7 12 Travel, undated
- 7 13 Travel, undated
- 7 14 Travel, undated
- 7 15 Travel - Israel, undated
- 7 16 Travel - NY Worlds Fair, 1965
- 71 Rolls of negatives, 1960s, undated
- 7 17 Unidentified, undated
- 7 18 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - Angola, circa 1900-1930
- 7 19 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - Belgian Congo, circa 1900-1930
- 7 20 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - Liberia, circa 1900-1930
- 7 21 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - Mozambique, circa 1900-1930
- 8 1 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - Rhodesia, circa 1900-1930
- 8 2 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - Unidentified countries with captions, circa 1900-1930
- 8 3 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - Unidentified countries, no captions, circa 1900-1930
- 8 4 Eben Johnson photo collection: Places - United States, undated
- 8 5 Eben Johnson photo collection: Friends and family - Captions, circa 1910-1930
- 8 6 Eben Johnson photo collection: Friends and family - Unidentified, circa 1910-1930
- 9 Negatives, film: G001-G076; J001-J105; 39227-71427 1919-1935, undated
- 10 Negatives, film: 71431-71898, 1918-1920
- 11 Negatives, film: 71900-93403; S17300-S29370; no numbers, 1920-1940
- 12 Negatives, film: 62315-62320 [3 1/2" x 5 1/2"], 1919
- 12 Negatives, glass: 39182-71384 [3 1/4" x 5 1/2"], 1920
- 13 Negatives, glass: S26249-S26269, no number [5" x 7"], 1932
- 14 Negatives, glass: 39183-62251, 1919
- 15 Negatives, glass: 62252-62285, 1919

- 16 Negatives, glass: 62286-71389, 1919-1920
- 17 Negatives, glass: 71389-71544, 1920
- 18 Negatives, glass: 71554-71623, 1920
- 19 Negatives, glass: 71624-71844, 1920
- 20 Negatives, glass: 71845-71932, 1920
- 21 Negatives, glass: 71933-74612, 1920
- 22 Negatives, glass: 74613-87651, 1920-1922
- 23 Negatives, glass: 87652-98385, 1922-1928
- 24 Negatives, glass: C9676, S17238-S26185, 1920-1940
- 25 Negatives, glass: S26186-S27754, 1932-1940
- 26 Negatives, glass: S27756-S27801, 1935-1940
- 27 Negatives, glass: S27801a-S29334, no number, 1919-1940
- 28 Negatives, glass: no number, undated
- 64 Negatives, glass: broken negatives, 1919-1920
- 65 Negatives, glass: broken negatives, 1919-1920
- 29 Glass lantern slides: Advertisements, undated
- 30 Glass lantern slides: Africa, 3558-30271, undated
- 31 Glass lantern slides: Africa, 32040-62271, undated
- 32 Glass lantern slides: Africa, 62272-92301, D174-D590, undated
- 33 Glass lantern slides: Africa, R7; S15404-S15513, UU11060, no numbers with captions, unidentified, undated
- 34 Glass lantern slides: Africa, unidentified, undated
- 35 Glass lantern slides: Africa, unidentified, undated
- 35 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, Ab-Am 17, undated
- 36 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, Am 18-B, undated
- 37 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, B-G, undated
- 38 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, G-I, undated
- 39 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, I-L, undated
- 40 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, L-O, undated
- 41 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, O-T, undated
- 42 Glass lantern slides: Hymns and songs, T-Y, undated
- 42 Glass lantern slides: Illustrations, Identified with captions, undated
- 43 Glass lantern slides: Illustrations, Identified with captions and unidentified, 232-390, undated
- 44 Glass lantern slides: Illustrations, Unidentified 2150-19080, undated
- 45 Glass lantern slides: Illustrations, Unidentified 19588-23815, undated
- 46 Glass lantern slides: Illustrations, Unidentified 23818-26349; no numbers, undated
- 46 Glass lantern slides: India, undated
- 47 Glass lantern slides: Japan, undated



- 47 Glass lantern slides: Photographs, California and 1777-10445, undated
- 48 Glass lantern slides: Photographs, 10652-24962, no numbers, undated
- 49 Glass lantern slides: Photographs, no numbers, undated
- 49 Glass lantern slides: Prayers, by author A-R, undated
- 50 Glass lantern slides: Prayers, by author R-W and unknown, undated
- 50 Glass lantern slides: Quotes, undated
- 50 Glass lantern slides: Responsive readings, undated
- 50 Glass lantern slides: Scripture, Acts-Deuteronomy, undated
- 51 Glass lantern slides: Scripture, Deuteronomy-Psalm 127, undated
- 52 Glass lantern slides: Scripture, Psalms 146-157, undated
- 52 Glass lantern slides: Stories, The Captive Boy, undated
- 53 Glass lantern slides: Stories, The Captive Boy and The Other Wise Man, Slide 1-24, undated
- 54 Glass lantern slides: Stories, The Other Wise Man, Slide 25-49, undated
- 55 Glass lantern slides: Stories, The Other Wise Man, Slide 50-The End; Casey at the Bat; Back to God, undated
- 56 Glass lantern slides: Stories, Back to God and Prince of Peace, undated
- 57 Glass lantern slides: Stories, Prince of Peace, A Christmas Story and other incomplete stories, undated
- 58 Glass lantern slides: Color coded series - Green, Slide 2-27, undated
- 59 Glass lantern slides: Color coded series - Green, Slide 28-52, undated
- 60 Glass lantern slides: Color coded series - Green, Slide 53-64, undated
- 60 Glass lantern slides: Color coded series - Gold, undated
- 61 Glass lantern slides: Color coded series - Yellow, Silver, Orange, undated
- 62 Glass lantern slides: Color coded series - Blue, Red, undated
- 63 Glass lantern slides: Broken lantern slides, undated
- 66 Stereo slides, SFS1-80, circa 1950s, undated
- 67 Stereo slides, SFS81-170, circa 1950s, undated
- 68 Stereo slides, SFS171-270, circa 1950s, undated
- 69 Stereo slides, SFS271-366, circa 1950s, undated
- 70 Slides, circa 1950s-1960s

### **Artifacts**

- 72 Clay sculpture, woman [broken]
- 73 Clay sculpture, man
- 74 Leather bag, divining bones, a belt, and a wood carving
- 75 Leopard skin, a bow

### **Moving Images**

- 85 "Beauty for Ashes," undated. 16mm film. Item #F0330.

- 87 "Limpopo District," undated. BetaCamSP and DVD user copies made from original 8mm film. Item #M0130. Color. Running time: 00:13:35.
- 87 "Ten Days Vacation," undated. BetaCamSP and DVD user copies made from original 16mm film. Item #B0310. Black and white. Running time: 00:02:58.
- 87 Untitled, undated. BetaCamSP and DVD user copies made from original 16mm film. Item #F0280. Black and white / color. Running time: 00:12:30.
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