PALMER, EDWARD HENRY, 1840-1882.
Edward Henry Palmer notebook, 1879

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

Title: Edward Henry Palmer notebook, 1879
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 419
Extent: .1 cubic feet (1 box)
Abstract: Contains one bound volume of notes on the the Arabic language and the Qur'an.
Language: Materials in English and Arabic.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories
[The Scrapbook of E.H. Palmer], 1829-1883. Call number Z318 at the Lane Medical Library, Stanford University.

Source
From the collection of the Christoph Keller, Jr. Library, General Theological Seminary.

Custodial History
Messrs. Luzac and Company (London) purchased E. H. Palmer's library after the death of Palmer's second wife, Augusta Marghereta Elisabeth. The book later became a part of Wilberforce Eames's personal library, and was put on auction on April 11, 1907 (item 5534 in Edward Turnbull's catalog of Eames's library). The Christoph Keller, Jr. Library General Theological Seminary in New York acquired it and subsequently Pitts Theology Library acquired it from General Theological Seminary.
Biographical Note
Edward Henry Palmer (1840–1882), was a scholar in the field of what was then called
Orientalism, specializing in the languages of Arabic and Persian. Palmer had an affinity for
languages—he learned Romani at a young age, then French and several Italian dialects while
in London during his late teens. In 1860, he met Saiyid Abdullah, who taught Hindustani at
Cambridge, and Palmer began learning Arabic, Persian, and Hindustani. This was the start of
his academic career at Cambridge, where he was appointed, in 1871, the Lord Almoner’s chair
in Arabic. He translated a number of works into English, including a two-volume edition of the
Qur’an (Oxford: Clarendon, 1880), and published a grammar of Hindustani, Persian, and Arabic:

Palmer’s personal life was plagued with illness, tragedy, and drama. He was orphaned as an
infant and lived with his aunt. He showed seemingly fatal-signs of pulmonary tuberculosis in
1859, but recovered. He married Laura Hanbury Davis in 1871. The couple had two daughters
and one son. The son died as an infant and his wife’s death followed shortly afterward (1878).
He married his second wife, Augusta Marghereta Elisabeth, in June, 1879. Then, in June of
1882, Palmer left for an expedition in Egypt where, on behalf of the British government, he was
gathering intelligence on an anti-European movement among Bedouins. His party was attacked
and Palmer and his entourage were murdered. Though of relatively humble origins, Palmer's
reputation and the circumstances of his death, awarded him a burial in St Paul's Cathedral in
London.

Biographical Source: Walter Besant, *Life and achievements of Edward Henry Palmer*
(London: John Murray, 1883); Elizabeth Baigent, 'Palmer, Edward Henry (1840–1882),' *Oxford

Scope and Content Note
This collection consists of one notebook containing notes by Edward Henry Palmer. On the
Coll[ege], Syed Waris Ali, do., Syed Nur ul Huda, John’s Coll[ege]." Then on the second page
the following title is given: "Notes for lecture on the Koran." Written in English and Arabic, the
manuscript contains notes, translations, scribbles, on the Qur’an as well as the Arabic language
more generally. It would likely have served as a part of Palmer’s preparation for lectures on the
Koran.