Syria, Syrians and Syrian Americans

This list details select research sources in the Migration and Social Services Collections relating to Syria, Syrians and Syrians Americans. These materials are available for public research, by appointment, in the Elmer L. Andersen Library Reading Room. To make an appointment, or for more information, please visit the Migration and Social Services Collections website. To contact individual units, follow the link after each collection description.

Select Archival Sources in the Migration and Social Services Collections

**Anderson, K. Brook, papers, 1919-1980 (bulk 1949-1959).** Papers contain correspondence relating to Anderson’s work with prisoners of war in Egypt, Syria and Palestine following World War I. Most of the correspondence is with friends and colleagues, particularly with Archie Harte, YMCA secretary in Jerusalem and under whom Anderson worked. Y.USA.27.

**Ansara, James M., papers, 1920-1982.** Papers consist of correspondence, writings, notes, newspaper clippings, photographs, certificates, magazines, newsletters and books. Subjects include the Syrian and Lebanese American Federation of the Eastern States, the National Association of Federations of Syrian and Lebanese American Clubs, Syrian history, organized tours throughout the Middle East and Arab American relations. Of particular interest are boxes 1-3. IHRC208.


**Hoehler, Fred K., papers, 1917-1965.** Papers document assistance to displaced persons, including displaced local Arab populations in the Middle East and North Africa. There is also correspondence discussing the political situation in the Middle East, circa 1945-1960. sw0117.

**International Institute Records, various.** The IHRCA holds the organizational records for various International Institutes from across the United States, including for several locations which have historically been home to Syrian and Syrian American enclaves, such as Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Boston and Toledo. Contact staff for more information. IHRCA.

**International Social Service (ISS), United States of America Branch, records, 1924-1995.** The ISS records include studies and reports on refugees and displaced persons in the post-World War II era. In particular, the files include a study of a refugee camp in Aleppo, Syria from 1944. sw0109.
Jewish Community Relations Council, records, 1920-2010. The collection consists of the administrative records of this non-profit organization which acts as the public affairs voice of the Jewish community in Minnesota and the Dakotas. There are six folders of material relating to Syria and Syrian Jewry, circa 1974 and 1991-2000. umja0013.

Maria, Frank, papers, 1940-2000. The Frank Maria papers include extensive files of correspondence, reports, meeting minutes and notebooks. The son of Syrian immigrants, Maria was a leader in Arab American community life. Of particular note is series 3: “Organizations,” subseries 3: “Syrian and Lebanese American Federation of the Eastern States.” IHRC1469.


Syrian Ladies’ Aid Society, records, 1908-1958. The records of this Brooklyn, NY based charitable organization consist of by-laws, correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs and miscellany. IHRC2567.

United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, records, 1970-1995. This large collection includes meeting minutes, correspondence, project materials and resource files on refugee groups around the world. Materials relating to Syria are in boxes 23, 28 and 48. There are also numerous folders relating to Lebanon and Palestine. IHRC2640.

Young Womens' Christian Association of Greater Lansing (Mich.), Nationality Communities Department, records, 1916-1941. Records include annual reports (1926-1949), club announcements, newsletters (1926-1931) and photographs. Programs of the Syrian Mothers Club, Syrian Sisterhood and Young Phoenician Society, as well as membership lists, are also included. Microfilm. IHRC1043.

Select Periodicals in the Immigration History Research Center Archives


To view these periodicals, please contact the Immigration History Research Center Archives, IHRCA@umn.edu