

Title: Shirley Jackson Case collection

Creator(s):

Boxes 1-48: This section contains just over 650 books that were collected by Dr. Shirley Jackson Case and were influential in his scholarship. These books were written by various authors.

Boxes 49-75: This section contains Dr. Shirley Jackson Case's personal papers, notes and documents. Dr. Case is the primary creator of most of these documents, however various other creators appear throughout the collection.

Collection/Call Number: SJC

Abstract: The Shirley Jackson Case Collection includes both personal and academic pieces and spans the dates range from 1828 – 1950. Among personal items in this collection there are personal letters/correspondences (dates ranging: 1906-1949). The collection also contains an assortment of postcards and photographs from Dr. Case's trip to the Mediterranean in 1922; these documents depict Cairo, Jerusalem, Genova, and Napoli. The remaining items in the collection are more academic in nature and include articles like Dr. Case's B.A. and M.A. thesis from Acadia, his PhD Thesis from Yale as well as all of Dr. Case's notes and writings. The SJC collection also includes a Megillat Ester (Scroll of Esther or Book of Esther) that was likely obtained on Dr. Case's Mediterranean trip in early 1922. In addition to the religious content, the Shirley Jackson Case collection also includes political content. In 1925 Dr. Case spoke out against William Jennings Bryan with respect to the Scopes Trial in a public presentation. Dr. Case was also familiar with Clarence Darrow (attorney for John T. Scopes); in the early 1920's Dr. Case and Darrow debated the functionality of religion (the debate is part of the collection but was unrelated to the Scopes trial). Finally, the collection includes over 650 books in various languages and by various authors. These were Dr. Case's personal books; the oldest book in the collection was published in 1828.

Summary: The Shirley Jackson Case Collection was donated to Florida Southern College after Dr. Case passed away on December 5, 1947. The collection lay dormant for several years but was revisited by Dr. Walter Weaver (professor of religion at Florida Southern College) while he was researching his book "Historical Jesus in the Twentieth Century" published in 1999. In May of 2011, Amy Natale organized Dr. Case's personal papers: boxes 49-75. In March of 2012, Sonia Wade Lorenz organized Dr. Case's book collection: boxes 1-48. On April 2, 2012, Dr. Sidnie White Crawford, Dead Sea Scroll scholar, examined the scroll held in the SJC collection and confirmed that it is a Megillat Ester. We estimate the scroll to be from the 15th-16th century, but carbon testing is required to determine an accurate date.

The majority of the SJC collection spans the dates range from 1828 – 1950; however, the Megillat Ester falls outside of this range. While the scope of the collection is primarily religious, some documents (like those pertaining to the Scopes Trial) are more politically charged. This collection includes hand written notes, letters, post cards, photographs, books, bulletins, directories, and the scroll.

Physical Description: 1-48 flat file boxes, 49-75 archival boxed.

History:

Early life:

Shirley Jackson Case was born on September 28, 1872. He grew up in Hatfield Point, New Brunswick, Canada, in a small fishing village where he practiced the trades of his father: farming and carpentry (carriage building). Dr. Case recorded many of his memories about his youth in his article, "Living in the Garden of Eden."

Education:

Dr. Case began his academic studies at Acadia University. In 1897, he came to the United States and taught Greek at New Hampton Literary Institution. During this time, Dr. Case enrolled in Yale Divinity School where he studied Hebrew and Greek; in 1904 he graduated *summa cum laude* from Yale University. Dr. Case continued on at Yale as a Greek instructor and as a student; in 1906, Yale awarded Dr. Case a PhD under the guidance of B. W. Bacon. Around 1910, Dr. Case studied at the University of Marburg. During this time, the historicity of Jesus was being debated and this exposure made a strong impact on Dr. Case. While he was a student, Case also served as the pastor for several different churches.

Academic work:

After completing his PhD, Case taught at Bates College for a short term; but after he published a series of monographs, in 1908 the University of Chicago recruited him to be a part of their New Testament staff. In 1912, Case published his first book, "The Historicity of Jesus" and 1914 marked the publication of one of Case's most influential books: "The Evolution of Early Christianity." In 1915, Case achieved the rank of full professor at the University of Chicago. From 1912-1920, Case was the editor for the *American Journal of Theology*. In 1917 Yale awarded Dr. Case with the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In 1923, Case was appointed Chairman of the Church History Department at the University of Chicago. This appointment marked the beginning of some of Case's most significant accomplishments because with this designation, Case was able to select the departmental staff. In short, because of Case's strong leadership and his ability to recruit talented faculty members, the Department of Church History at the University of Chicago became one of the leading departments of its kind in the country.

In 1933, Shirley Jackson Case was named Dean of the Divinity School at the University of Chicago, a post he held until his retirement in 1938. However, his retirement was short lived; in January of 1939 he came to Florida Southern College. As the Dean of the School of Religion, Case continued to write. At FSC, Case published the periodical: "Religion in the Making." After a lifetime of significant accomplishments and contributions to his community he returned home from teaching class on December 5, 1947 and passed away.

Subject Headings:

Case, Shirley Jackson	Christian and Roman Society	Early Christianity
Greek	Hebrew	Historical Jesus
Postcards	Scopes Trial	Religion
University of Chicago	War	Yale University

Location: FSC McKay Archive; shelving unit 6A

Language:

Boxes 1-48: Dr. Case's book collection. The books are written in various languages. The following list outlines the language scope of the book collection. "Multiple languages" indicates books that contain more than one language:

English:	227	French:	83	German:	267
Greek:	15	Italian:	8	Japanese:	1
Latin:	25	Multiple languages:	14	Syriac:	1

Boxes 49-75: Dr. Case's personal papers. These papers are primarily written in English. However, Dr. Case had mastered several languages including Greek, Hebrew, German, and French; these languages are present in his personal papers as well.

Administrative Information:

Provenance: Florida Southern College Archives, given by Dr. Shirley Jackson Case after he died in December of 1947.

Preferred Citation: Shirley Jackson Case collection in the McKay Archives at Florida Southern College

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<http://www.flsouthern.edu/library/archives/archivesfees.htm>

For questions or further information on this collection, contact archives@flsouthern.edu.

Restrictions: no restrictions

Processors: SJC personal papers were processed from May – July, 2011 and selected pieces were scanned in June, 2011 by Amy Natale. SJC books were processed from February – March 2012 by Sonia Wade Lorenz. Finding Aid was prepared by Sonia Wade Lorenz.