

# HEINRICH SCHLIEMANN PAPERS, 1869-1960

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Collection #  
M 0378

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Processed by  
Charles Latham  
31 May 1994

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	Inclusive 1869-1960; bulk 1869-1870, 1950-1960
PROVENANCE:	Eli Lilly, Indianapolis, 1961; Donnelley and Sons, October 1962
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Eli Lilly, ed., <i>Schliemann in Indianapolis</i> (DF 212 .S4 A32 1961)
ACCESSION NUMBERS:	1961.1004, 1962.1006

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Heinrich Schliemann (1822-1890) was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, the son of a poor Lutheran pastor. Apprenticed to grocer, he strained his chest lifting a cask, and went through a number of other jobs. After being shipwrecked on the way to Venezuela, he settled in the Netherlands, and became involved with international commerce and monetary exchange. This led to his learning several languages, which he was able to do with extraordinary rapidity. His working habits have been described as "a frenzy of effort." Learning modern and ancient Greek caused him to become interested in classical history and archaeology.

In 1846 Schliemann went to St. Petersburg as agent for several Dutch firms. There he opened his own export business, and began to build a fortune. A trip to California during the Gold Rush helped increase his fortune, and he briefly became a United States citizen. Returning to Russia, he married in 1852 Catherina Lishin, by whom he had three children.

In 1858-1859 Schliemann did a good deal of traveling, and in 1866 he settled in Paris. In 1868 he went to Corfu, Ithaca (where he did some archaeological work and claimed to have found sites important in the Odyssey), Mycenae, Tiryns, and Troy. During these years his wife refused to leave Russia or to let his children leave. Deciding in 1869 to resume his U. S. citizenship, and to divorce his wife, he chose Indiana as the state having the most convenient divorce laws.

Upon arriving in Indianapolis in 1869, Schliemann bought a house and a starch factory to establish his residence, conducted a short but successful lobbying campaign in the legislature to prevent a tightening of the divorce laws, and obtained his divorce. In the following years he married a Greek wife, pursued the excavations at Troy and Mycenae and the books describing them which made him famous. He sometimes talked about returning to Indianapolis, but never did.

Eli Lilly (1885-1977), Indianapolis industrialist, historian and archaeologist, became interested in Schliemann's Hoosier interlude because of his own interest in classical Greece and in archaeology. With the help of professional scholars, he assembled letters of Schliemann from his Indianapolis period, had them translated, edited them, and had them published in 1961 under the aegis of the Indiana Historical Society.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling one manuscript box, contains photostats of letters dated 1869-1870, with translations and notes made ca. 1950-1960. They are arranged in the order in which they were received, in three notebooks. The letters, photostats of letters in the Gennadi Library in Athens, are in English, German, Greek, French, and Russian. Usually the translation precedes the photostat. There are some carbon copies and duplicates.

The letters deal mainly with business matters and with the progress of Schliemann's divorce. At one point his first wife challenged the validity of an Indiana divorce. Correspondents include Schliemann's first wife, his Indianapolis lawyers and agents, and his friend the Archbishop of Athens. In one unusual letter, to Charles Parsons of St. Louis, Schliemann asks for "the plan of a fine specimen of a St. Louis two story private dwelling house of abt 12 or better say 14 rooms, with water conduits and bathroom" with indoor shutters-- possibly the model for the mansion which he built in Athens.

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## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's [online catalog](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related

materials.

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