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9-30-2015

## Joseph G. Doherty, SJ Papers

New England Jesuit Province Archives

New England Province of the Society of Jesus

Joseph G. Doherty SJ

All physical materials associated with the New England Province Archive are currently held by the Jesuit Archives in St. Louis, MO. Any inquiries about these materials should be directed to the Jesuit Archives (<http://jesuitarchives.org/>). Electronic versions of some items and the descriptions and finding aids to the Archives, which are hosted in CrossWorks, are provided only as a courtesy.

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### Digitized Record Information

New England Jesuit Province Archives; New England Province of the Society of Jesus; and Doherty, Joseph G. SJ, "Joseph G. Doherty, SJ Papers" (2015). *Finding Aids, Special Collections*. 18.  
[https://crossworks.holycross.edu/findaid\\_nen\\_spcoll/18](https://crossworks.holycross.edu/findaid_nen_spcoll/18)



**Archives of the New England Province Society of Jesus  
c/o College of the Holy Cross Archives & Special Collections  
One College Street, Worcester, MA 01610-2395**

**Record Group:** MSS

**Name of Collection:** Rev. Joseph G. Doherty, SJ (1904 – 1988)

**Record Group Number:** MS DOHERTY, JG

**Size of Collection:** 6 boxes: 4-5” + 2-2.5” document boxes of papers = 3 linear feet of papers, 1-5” box of photographs and 1-2.5” box of photo albums

**Dates of Collection:** Inclusive: 1920-1988; Bulk: 1924-1947

**Historical Background:**

Joseph Gerard Doherty was born on September 11, 1904 in Charlestown, MA to Patrick and Sarah (Quigg) Doherty. Both his parents were born in Ireland. He was baptized on September 15, 1904 in St. Mary's in Charlestown. He had one younger brother, Francis A.J. Doherty, who also was ordained a priest. He graduated from Boston College High School in 1921 and completed one year of studies at Boston College before entering the Society of Jesus at St. Andrew-on-Hudson in Poughkeepsie, NY on August 14, 1922. His novitiate and juniorate were completed at St. Andrew's from 1922-1926. In 1926, he entered Weston College and completed his philosophy studies there in 1929. His regency was in Jamaica, where he taught mathematics at St. George's College in Kingston from 1929-1931. Then he returned to Weston College to study Theology from 1931-1935. During that time, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Thomas A. Emmet, S.J. on June 20, 1934 at the Chapel of the Holy Spirit of Weston College. His tertianship was at St. Robert's Hall in Pomfret, CT during 1935-1936. Following tertianship in the fall of 1936, he was sent to St. Edmund's House, Christ's College, University of Cambridge, in England, where he was enrolled as a research student working on his Ph.D. in prehistory (anthropology and archaeology). His studies were financed by Boston College with an expectation that he would establish a prehistory department for Boston College once his studies were completed. His research was conducted at excavations at the prehistoric rock shelter of Ksâr 'Akil, in the Valley of Antelias, a short distance from the town of Antelias on the coastal road, north of Beirut in Lebanon, then part of Syria, from May 1937 until June 1940, although he was away from the site from January to late June of 1938. Fr. Doherty's main interest was flint tools. On August 23, 1938, he discovered the skeletal remains of a child who had lived about 35,000 years earlier. This skeleton became known as "Egbert." The skeleton interested Fr. J. Franklin Ewing, S.J., an archaeologist from Fordham University. Fr. Ewing joined Fr. Doherty at Ksâr 'Akil in 1939. During this time, in the spring of 1939, both Jesuits also worked on excavations of burial jars in Byblos, Lebanon. In 1940, as funds diminished and World

## Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

War II seriously affected transportation, Fr. Doherty was recalled to the New England Province. "Egbert" had not yet been removed from the ground. The skeleton was protected by encasing it in cement and left in place. Frs. Doherty and Ewing traveled east via India and the Philippines. Fr. Ewing remained in the Philippines and Fr. Doherty continued across the Pacific Ocean to the West Coast of the United States. From 1940 to 1941 he taught prehistory and anthropology at Weston College. The next academic year, 1941-1942, he taught theology at Loyola University in New Orleans. From 1942 to 1952, he taught theology at Boston College. During this time, from July 23 to September 19, 1947, he returned to Ksâr 'Akil with Fr. Ewing while the skeleton of "Egbert" was excavated. When evaluated in 1989, Fr. Doherty's work was considered "good for its time and the artefacts they recovered represent the only complete records of the entire Upper Palaeolithic sequence."<sup>1</sup> Following that, as well as teaching at Boston College, he served as the spiritual director for alumni from 1948 to 1952. From 1952 to 1961, Fr. Doherty was the Assistant Director of St. Joseph's Retreat League for Workingmen and resided at St. Mary's Church in the North End of Boston. In 1961, he was assigned to pastoral work at Holy Trinity Parish in the South End of Boston. From 1961 to 1968 he was assigned to Boston College High School where from 1963-1966 he taught religion. From 1968-1974, he did pastoral work at St. Mary's in the North End. From 1974 until 1988 he was assigned to Campion Center in Weston, MA. Fr. Doherty died on June 9, 1988 and is buried at Campion Center. He was 83 years old and had been a Jesuit for 65 years.

### Scope and Content:

The collection contains correspondence, poetry, writings, memorabilia, photographs, postcards and photo albums. There are letters to and from his family, his Jesuit superiors and prehistory researchers. Much of the correspondence is carbon copies of letters Fr. Doherty sent related to his work at Ksâr 'Akil from 1937-40. One letter written in 1946 summarizes the "highlights" of his life from the time he left Lebanon in June of 1940 until 1946. Another provides a biographical sketch of Fr. Ewing and is accompanied by a vita and notes. The Ksâr 'Akil Papers consist of items related to the two "campaigns" of excavation in Lebanon during 1937-40 and 1947. Of note are two papers, "Oriental 'orizons" and "Northern Lights", formatted as if newsletters, with chronological entries describing his work and the locale in Ksâr 'Akil during 1937. There are also reports, fundraising material, an "interview" with Fr. Doherty, and some articles about Ksâr 'Akil authored by others. The Pastoral Work Papers contain retreat outlines and blackboard lecture notes. The blackboard lecture was a format used at St. Joseph's Retreat League for Men. The Other Papers are papers, writings and memorabilia from Fr. Doherty's novitiate and juniorate years at St. Andrew-on-Hudson in Poughkeepsie, NY, his philosophy studies at Weston College, Weston, MA, some ephemera from his travels, and a variety of writings. The Poetry series contains his own as well as the work of others. The bulk of the photographs are from the 1938-1940 when Fr. Doherty was participating in archeological excavations in Lebanon while pursuing his doctorate in prehistory (anthropology and archaeology). There are photographs of excavations of burial jars at

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<sup>1</sup> Stringer, Christopher B., Bergman, Christopher A. "Fifty years after: Egbert, an early Upper Paleolithic juvenile from Kasar 'Akil, Lebanon." In: *Palerient*. 1989, Vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 22-111. Doi: 10.3406/paleo.1989.4512. [http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/paleo\\_0153-9345\\_1989\\_15\\_2\\_4512](http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/article/paleo_0153-9345_1989_15_2_4512), accessed Nov. 8, 2011.

## Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

Byblos, Lebanon, and the discovery of a circa 35,000 year old skeleton, “Egbert” at the Ksâr ‘Akil site in Lebanon. The photo albums with descriptive captions can be used to identify photographs that were loose.

### Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in the following series: Correspondence, Ksâr ‘Akil Papers, Pastoral Work Papers, Other Papers, and Poetry. Each series is in chronological order.

Series	Page in Box-Folder List	Extent
Correspondence	1-3	2-5” boxes + 1-2.5” box
Ksâr ‘Akil Papers	3-4	1-5” box
Pastoral Work Papers	4	Partial 5” box
Other Papers	5	1-5” box
Poetry	6	1-2.5” box
Photo Albums	7	1-2.5” box
Photographs and postcards	7-8	1-2.5” box

### See:

RG 12 Audiovisual, Photographs, Manuscript Collection Photos for photographs.

RG 12 Audiovisual, Scrapbooks, for photo albums. The two completed photo albums have been scanned for access.

RG 1.3 Fr. Provincial Dolan, Series 6 Education Apostolate and Academic Training of Jesuits, Special Studies – Joseph G. Doherty, S.J. [and Ksâr ‘Akil] Folder for additional information about studies in England and excavations in Lebanon, 1936-1940. This folder also contains photographs.

## Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

**Processing Notes:** This collection has had at least three different stages of processing. Two linear feet of material was partially processed by transfer to archival housing sometime before 2005 but no description or box-folder list was formally created. One record carton of miscellaneous, un-ordered material was processed as a collection in 2011 consisting of .75 linear feet of papers, .5 linear feet of photographs and two photo albums. During box shifting in 2014, the two linear feet of partially processed material was identified and the two collections were integrated into the current collection.

**Material in other archives:** Boston College Archives, President's Office Records, Louis J. Gallagher, S.J., William James McGarry, S.J. and William L. Keleher, S.J. for correspondence and a scrapbook related to excavations in Lebanon.

**Access / Restrictions:** This collection is open to researchers.

**Cite As:** Rev. Joseph G. Doherty, SJ Manuscript Collection  
MS DOHERTY, JG  
Archives of the New England Province of the Society of Jesus  
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

Manuscript Collection: Rev. Joseph G. Doherty, S.J. (1904 – 1988)  
MS DOHERTY JG

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Correspondence</b>			
Letters of acceptance into Boston College and the Jesuit Order	1921-1922	1-5" box	1
Letters from Mother and Pa, undated	1924-27, circa	1	2
Letters from Mother and Pa	1922	1	3
Letters from Mother and Pa	1923	1	4
Letters from Mother and Pa	1924	1	5
Letters from Mother and Pa	1925	1	6
Letters from Mother and Pa	1926	1	7
Letters from Mother and Pa	1927	1	8
Letters from Mother and Pa	1928	1	9
Letters from Aloysius J. Hogan, S.J.	1920-1926	1	10
Letters from Leo P. McCauley, S.J.	1926-1927	1	11
Letters and postcards from Jesuits	1924-1927, 1940-1941	1	12
Letters from R. J. "Dick" Stapleton	1924-1928	1	13
Letters from friends	1921-1928	1	14
Letters to friends, unfinished	1926-1927	1	15
Greeting cards	1920s	1	16
Notices from University of Cambridge (England)	1936, 1940-41	1	17
Letters to Ma, Pa, and Fran (brother) from St. Edmund's House, Cambridge, England	1936-1938	1	18
Correspondence with Dorothy Garrod, advisor at University of Cambridge, <i>also see: Box 3, Folder 9, Correspondence, 1947</i>	1937-1940	1	19
Correspondence with J. Franklin Ewing, S.J., <i>also see: Box 3, Folder 4, Letters from J. Franklin Ewing, S.J. re: Grant</i>	1937-1939	1	20
Letters to Ma, Pa, and Fran (brother) from Lebanon	1937-1938		21
Correspondence with Weston College, Folder 1 of 4: George Mahan, S.J. and Joseph Murphy, S.J. who assisted Doherty at Ksâr 'Akil during summer of 1937	1937-1940	2-5" box	1
Correspondence with Weston College, Folder 2 of 4: Michael J. Ahern, S.J.	1937-1940	2	2

**Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England**

**Manuscript Collection: Rev. Joseph G. Doherty, S.J. (1904 – 1988)**  
**MS DOHERTY JG**

<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Correspondence</b>			
Correspondence with Weston College, Folder 3 of 4: Letters from Doherty at Ksâr 'Akil to various Jesuits	1939	2	3
Correspondence with Weston College, Folder 4 of 4: Letters to Doherty at Ksâr 'Akil from various Jesuits	1937-1938	2	4
Correspondence with James H. Dolan, S.J., Fr. Provincial, New England Province	1937-1940	2	5
Correspondence with Jesuits at St. Edmund's House in Cambridge, England	1937-1940	2	6
Correspondence with Cambridge, England	1937-1939	2	7
Correspondence re: Funding and Permissions for Ksâr 'Akil	1937-1940	2	8
Correspondence with William J. McGarry, S.J., President of Boston College	1938-1939	2	9
Correspondence with Zacheus Maher, S.J., American Assistant	1938-1939	2	10
Correspondence with F. (Felix) M. Pareja, S.J.	1938-1940	2	11
Correspondence with Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, American Consul General, Lebanon	1938-1940	2	12
Letters from Doherty at Ksâr 'Akil	1937-1940	2	13
Letters to Doherty at Ksâr 'Akil	1938-1940	2	14
Correspondence at Ksâr 'Akil	1938-1940	2	15
Correspondence with Ma, Pa, and Fran (brother), Lebanon – Charlestown, MA	1939	2	16
Note from Park	1939	2	17
Correspondence with C.H. Heithaus, S.J.	1939	2	18
Correspondence re: photography at Ksâr 'Akil	1939	2	19
Correspondence and Receipts, Philippines Mission	1940	2	21
Letters of introduction and recommendation	1940-1941	2	21
Letters to, re: work at Ksâr 'Akil	1941-1942	2	22
Correspondence, personal	1941-1945	3-2.5" box	1
Letters to the editor and varia	1941, 1970	3	2
Letters from John H. Dolan, S.J., Fr. Provincial, New England Province	1942	3	3
Letters from J. Franklin Ewing, S.J. re: Grant to excavate at Ksâr 'Akil in 1947, includes copies of letters from other correspondents, such as, John J. McEleney, S.J., Fr. Provincial, New England and Robert I. Gannon, S.J., President of Fordham University.	1945	3	4

Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

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MS DOHERTY JG

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Correspondence</b>			
Correspondence with Cambridge, England—includes long incomplete letter describing life from 1940 when left Lebanon until 1946	1946	3	5
Correspondence re: customs and shipping for 1947 excavation	1940-1947	3	6
Correspondence with Government officials re: 1947 trip to Lebanon	1947	3	7
Correspondence re: 1947 trip to Lebanon: fundraising, supplies, letter of introduction and recommendation for expedition from Boston Police Superintendent	1947	3	8
Correspondence, 1947, mostly letters from Doherty, while in Lebanon, mostly at Ksâr 'Akil in 1947, correspondents include John J. McEleney, S.J., Fr. Provincial, New England Province, William L. Keleher, S.J., President of Boston College, Ma and Fran, Prof Garrod in England	1947	3	9
Letters from Mary (Marilee L. Bass)	1980s	3	10
Letter and notes about J. Franklin Ewing, S.J. (life dates: 1905-1968)	1985	3	11
<b>Ksâr 'Akil papers</b>			
Oriental 'orizons, 68 single-spaced typed, newsletter format paper, about Ksâr 'Akil, text dated Sept. 8 – Dec. 11, 1937	1937	4- 5"box	1
Northern Lights, 31 single-spaced typed, newsletter format paper, about work at Ksâr 'Akil, text dated January 28, 1938 – April 22, 1938	1938	4	2
<i>Also see: Box 2, Folder 5, Correspondence with Fr. Provincial Dolan, for a 50 pages letter of March 23, 1939 on state of excavation and future needs</i>	1939		
Memorandum from M.J. Ahern, S.J. – fundraising piece, includes brief description of work at Ksâr 'Akil, Prominent visitors with a summary of their opinions, and list of Principle finds	1939, circa	4	3
"Age of Pleistocene Man" – Incomplete, typed paper	n.d.	4	4
Writings re: Ksâr 'Akil	n.d.	4	5
Authorizations for shipping and transport of antiquities	1938	4	6
Payroll, August 27, 1938	1938	4	7
Receipts from Georges Bhamdouni, Beirut, Lebanon	1938	4	8



Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

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MS DOHERTY JG

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Ksâr 'Akil papers</b>			
Expedition expenses and estimates	1938-40, 1945	4	9
News clippings re: Doherty's work in Lebanon	1940-1941	4	10
A Window on the Unwritten Past, presentation about Lebanon and Syria Expeditions	1940, circa	4	11
Ksâr 'Akil, lecture notes	1944, circa	4	12
Jesuit Cooperative Archaeological Plan	n.d.	4	13
Memo: Completion of Excavations at Ksâr 'Akil, Lebanon	1947, Jan. 31	4	14
Newspaper Clipping re: 1947 expedition – Arabic, French translation	1947, July 2	4	15
Interim Report of Field Work and Sketch Map of Campaign of 1947-48	1948	4	16
"Interview" with Fr. Doherty re: both expeditions to Lebanon, Egbert is at Harvard	1948, circa	4	17
Articles about Ksâr 'Akil, authored by others	1950s	4	18
<b>Pastoral Work Papers</b>			
Retreat Outlines and Blackboard Notes – Possibly used at St. Joseph's Retreat League	1950s-1960s	4	19
Grade 3 C.C.D. Lessons	1958-1959	4	20
Novena of Grace 1936, 1941	1936, 1941	4	21
Nantucket sermons and notes	1967-1970	4	22
Varia	1920s-1970	4	23

Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

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MS DOHERTY JG

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Other papers</b>			
Memorial Cards	1920s-1930s	5-5" box	1
Papers from St. Andrew-on-Hudson, novitiate and juniorate	1922-1926	5	2
Juniora – student publication of Rhetoric Class A, St. Andrew-on-Hudson, 1926, (Doherty and Ewing are writers)	1926	5	3
Papers from Weston College, philosophy	1926-1928	5	4
Study Notes	1920s	5	5
Address Book	1930s-1950s	5	6
Passports and other identification cards (many with photos)	1936-1947	5	7
Ephemera from Cambridge, England	1936-	5	8
Ephemera from Philippines	1940	5	9
Booklet: Le Relief de Beyrouth et son Influence sur le Developpement de la Ville by E. De Vaumas, in French, published in Beirut	1946	5	10
Bibliography: American School of Prehistoric Research, compiled by Hallam L. Movius, Jr., Peabody Museum, Harvard University	1949-1952	5	11
Fr. Francis A. J. Doherty, Silver Jubilee of Ordination, 1940-1965	1965	5	12
Writings, 1950s-1960s	1950s-1960s	5	13
Writings, 1970s-1980s	1970s-1980s	5	14
Jubilee and anniversary memorabilia	1970s-1980s	5	15
Sketch	n.d.	5	16
Architectural detail sketches	n.d.	5	17

Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

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MS DOHERTY JG

Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Poetry</b>			
Poetry and other writings	1920s	6-2.5" box	1
Verses for Fr. Kilroy Golden Jubilee (Fr. Kilroy entered the Society in 1896 and was ordained in 1911)	1946 or 1961	6	2
Poetry, 1950s-1980s, clean, typed copies	1970s-1980s	6	3
Poetry, 1950s-1980s, edited, typed copies	1970s-1980s	6	4
Poetry, handwritten	1920s, 1980s	6	5
Muse'gs (Musings)	1965-1971	6	6

Archives of the Society of Jesus of New England

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<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
<b>Photograph Albums, Stored with RG 12 MS Scrapbooks</b>		<b>1-2.5" box</b>	
Scrapbook II – Syria, ruins and ancient sites, photos circa 1940, captions written circa 1970. The contents of this photo album have been scanned and are stored at M:\DinandLibrary\COMMON\LIB_ARCHIVES\SJprovArch\Scanned Images\Scrapbooks\MS Scrapbooks-PhotoAlbums\Doherty, JG--photo albums			1
Scrapbook III – India and Philippines, photos circa 1940, children circa 1950s, captions written circa 1970. The contents of this photo album have been scanned and are stored at M:\DinandLibrary\COMMON\LIB_ARCHIVES\SJprovArch\Scanned Images\Scrapbooks\MS Scrapbooks-PhotoAlbums\Doherty, JG--photo albums			2
Loose pages of typed captions written circa 1970 with photos, circa 1940, identified at archives – Lebanon, Byblos excavation, Ksâr 'Akil excavation			3
<b>Photographs and postcards, stored with RG 12 MS Photographs</b>		<b>1-5" box</b>	
Joseph G. Doherty	1935-1985		1a
England	1930s		1b
Ancient artifacts – postcards with typed descriptions	1940, circa		1c
Byblos, Lebanon, Syria – ruins and excavation of burial jars	1938-1940		2
Ksâr 'Akil, Lebanon, Syria – excavation, Egbert skeleton	1938		3
Lebanon, Syria – views of Ksâr 'Akil area	1940		4
Lebanon, Syria – celebration	1947		5
Syria – ruins, ancient and crusader	1940		6
Island of Ruad, Syria	1940		7
Mid-east – ruins, various unidentified	1940, circa		8
India, possibly	1940, circa		9
Mountain Provinces, Philippines – photos with identification	1940, circa		10
Mountain Provinces, Philippines – photos without identification	1940, circa		11

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Folder Title	Dates	Box	Folder
<b>Photographs and postcards, stored with RG 12 MS Photographs</b>			<b>1-5" box</b>
Mountain Provinces, Philippines – postcards from a numbered series	1940, circa		12
Mountain Provinces, Philippines – postcards	1940, circa		13
People	1920s-1940s		14
People on shipboard	1940, circa		15
Ships and boats	1940, circa		16
Rhode Island – Our Lady of Peace Retreat House Group Photos	1954-1956		17
Miscellaneous identified photos and postcards	1923-1950		18
Miscellaneous unidentified photos	1930s-1950		19