

Revitalising the Gustaf Dalman Institute: Enrichment and Access

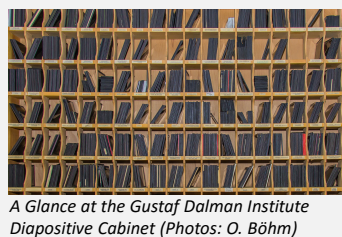
Stefan Beyerle, Christfried Böttlich, Daniel Stein Kokin, Karin Berkemann
University of Greifswald, Theology Faculty, Gustaf Dalman Institute

The Gustaf Dalman Collection



Portrait of Gustaf Dalman aged 80 years
(K. v. Kardorff, 1935) (Photo: Dalman Institute)

Founded in 1920 by its namesake, the archaeologist, Semitic philologist and professor of Hebrew Bible Gustaf Dalman (1855-1941), the Gustaf Dalman Institute is committed to the collection, preservation, and dissemination of materials relevant to the history of the Land of Israel/Palestine and of Hebrew printing. The Institute houses two collections of outstanding significance for Jewish Studies. Its Hebraica wing features a large



A Glance at the Gustaf Dalman Institute
Diapositive Cabinet (Photos: O. Böhm)

number of early printed Hebrew books (including first editions), while the Palestine wing boasts world-class collections of early Holy Land images (ca. 20,000 slides and photographs) and plant specimens (ca. 2,000). The Institute makes as many of its treasures as possible available online to the scholarly and general public, and also seeks collaborative partnerships with comparable institutes and collections world-wide.

Activities since 2013

A) Inventory of Collection Holdings

A uniform cataloguing system for the entire collection was introduced for the first time.

B) Digitalization of Collection Holdings

Additional objects from the collection continued to be photographed and scanned.

C) Consolidation of all Digital Data

All of the digital data has been secured in a "virtual" storage space at the university computer center. All of the data sets have been configured on the central site for research collections at the University of Greifswald.

D) Research of Collection Provenance

In the course of the project, much new information has emerged concerning the history and content of the images.

E) Curation of a Travelling Collection

"In Search of the Holy Land," the first-ever Dalman Institute travelling exhibition, debuted in 2015 in Greifswald and has since been shown in five additional locations.

F) Public Visibility of Institute and Collection

The annual Dalman Lecture and guided tours of the collection have regularly attracted a substantial audience. Beginning in 2014, the Institute has offered its own courses at the Theology Faculty. The website has been expanded, and is now also partially in English.

The Process of Digitalization



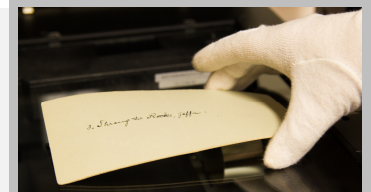
1) Identifying (e. g. by Function)



2) Categorizing



3) Measuring and Examining



4) Scanning or Photographing



5) Editing on Database (Photos: O. Böhm)



6) Double-checking online

Some Images



From left to right: Samach, Bedouins (V. Schwöbel, 1905); Nablus, Camels (G. Reyman, 1908); Jerusalem, Antonia Fortress (Bonfils/Photoglob, about 1900) (Photos: Dalman Institute)



Some Results

A) Online Data Sets

Since 2013 the quantity of online researchable data sets increased from 3,700 to approximately 5,500. To date, over 20% of the historical images and 15% of the entire collection can be researched online.

B) Hits on the Institute Website

In 2013, the institute website received 1,449 hits; in 2014, 4,078; in 2015, 6,892. As of June 13, about 4,500 hits have been registered thus far for 2016, suggesting that well about 8,500 will occur in the course of the year.

C) Visitors to the Travelling Exhibition

Since 2015 the travelling exhibition has been on display at six locations across Germany, with one more planned for 2016:

