



Walter Konrad Wilhelm Ising Collection, 1909-1950 (Personal Collection 93)

General Conference Archives
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20901
Original finding prepared by David Runnells II, Summer 2019.
Updated and revised by Ashlee Chism, April-May 2022

Scope and Content

This collection contains diaries, journals, spending logs, photographic negatives, photo album, and glass slides belonging to Walter Konrad Wilhelm Ising (1881-1950). These materials are related to Ising's work as a Seventh-day Adventist missionary and church administrator in Germany, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine, and the United States during the 1920s to the 1940s.

Arrangement and Quantity

This collection is 4 linear feet and is arranged in three series.

Custodial History and Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated to the Archives in 1987 by W. K. Ising's son, Konrad. Two additional items (a 1914 diary belonging to Arthur Grosvenor Daniells, Jr., and a manuscript by Liescheu Werner) were transferred out of this collection in 2022, as they were not related to the bulk of the collection.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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Preferred Citation

For the collection:

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Archives, Silver Spring, Maryland. Walter Konrad Wilhelm Ising Collection, 1909-1950. PC 93.

For a specific box in the collection:

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Archives, Silver Spring, Maryland. Walter Konrad Wilhelm Ising Collection, 1909-1950. [BOX NUMBER.]

Biographical Information

Walter Konrad Wilhem Ising was born 30 March 1881 in Danzig, Germany. In 1889, he and his sister traveled to the United States to attend school in Missouri. He returned to Germany in 1895. In 1903 he attended a Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting and met William A. Spicer, who at that time was secretary of the General Conference. In 1904, Ising was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Berlin, Germany, and he began studies at the Mission Seminary in Friedensau. That same year, he was drafted into military service, and Ising refused to serve on the seventh-day Sabbath and was eventually arrested for this. In the end, the German military discharged him as physically unfit for military service, and Ising went back into church work, taking up an appointment as L. R. Conradi's personal secretary.

From 1905 to 1908, Ising served as secretary of the German Union Conference. During this time, Walter married Frieda Schlegel (1884-1966), a nurse and Bible worker. He also began editing the German paper *Zions-Wächter*. He was ordained in March 1908 in Hamburg, Germany. During that year, Ising was appointed to lead the Church's newly established mission station in the Middle East as director of the Syro-Egyption Mission. He, Frieda, and their daughter Dorothea arrived in Beirut, Lebanon in April 1908, where he taught Bible classes and studied Arabic. After a short while, he began to be strategic about his work, which took him throughout the region, including to Syria, Palestine, Arabia, and Mesopotamia, where he often worked among existing Christian groups, especially ones of German descent.

In 1913, Ising became the superintendent (what today would be called director) of the mission in Lower Egypt. Once established there, he took a trip to Iraq, while Frieda and their daughter traveled to London where Frieda was to study midwifery. When World War I broke out, Walter was interned in Egypt throughout the war's duration on the island of Malta, and Frieda worked as a nurse in England. They were not reunited until 1919, when both returned to Germany. According to his obituary in the Review, Walter never fully recovered from the poor treatment he received on Malta.

In July 1920, Walter Ising was elected secretary of the European Division, living first in Denmark and then in Switzerland. During this time, he visited the Middle East, particularly Es-Salt, Transjordan (today, As-Salt, Jordan). While the Isings were living in Switzerland, their son, Konrad, was born. Walter also wrote a book, *Among the Arabs in Bible Lands* (1924), and undertook a German translation of George McCready Price's 1917 *Q.E.D., New Light on the Doctrine of Creation*.

In 1928, the Isings were called back to the Middle East, where Walter became the superintendent of the Arabic Union Mission. In 1937, the Isings returned to Europe, where Walter served briefly as the secretary of the Central European Division; in 1938, the Isings moved to the United States, as Walter took up a position as associate secretary (today, associate director) of the General Conference Sabbath School Department. From 1946 to 1950, Ising worked as a General Conference field secretary and was responsible for at least part of the work of the Displaced Persons Committee, helping to relocate Europeans displaced by World War II. Walter Ising retired in 1950 and died later that year in Takoma Park, Maryland, United States on 23 September 1950.

Description Control Element

Description based on DACS. Originally drafted by Ashlee Chism, February 2022. Sources for the biographical information include Ising's obituaries in the *Review and Herald* (October 26, 1950) and the *Columbia Union Visitor* (November 2, 1950) as well as the biographical article on him by Chigemezi Nnadozie Wogu in the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* (<https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/article?id=6H7Z>).

Related Archival Materials

RG 11, Incoming Presidential Correspondence
 RG 21, Incoming Secretariat Correspondence
 RG 21, Displaced Persons Committee Records
 RG 33, Sustentation File for Frieda Ising

Collection Series

Series 1: Diaries and Notebooks

These materials were compiled or created by W. K. Ising during his career. The personal appointment diaries are mostly in shorthand and/or German; none have been deciphered, translated, or transcribed.

Box Number	Title
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1920
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1925
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1927
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1928
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1929
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1930
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1932
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1933
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1934
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1935
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1936
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1937
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1938
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1939
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1940
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1941
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1942
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1943
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1944

D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1945
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1946
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1947
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1948
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1949
D 13 39 A	Personal appointment diary, 1950
D 13 39 B	Account book, 1924
D 13 39 B	Travel expense book, 1909-1931
D 13 39 B	Daybook, 1931
D 13 39 B	Meeting book, 1928-1946
D 13 39 B	Ledger, 1934-1939
D 13 39 B	Book of quotations, sermons, notes
D 13 39 B	Ministerial reading course certificate, 1918

Series 2: Photographic Negatives and Photo Album

The negatives, while described, are not digitized. The photo album is from the 1920s-1930s and documents life in the Adventist mission stations in the Middle East, including travel, meetings, and landmarks.

Box Number	Title	Description
D 13 39 C	Negative 1	Family-style photo with 5 unidentified figures: 3 women, 1 man, and 1 child.
D 13 39 C	Negative 2	Unidentified man in coat, slacks, vest, and tie standing near a window.
D 13 39 C	Negative 3	Dock scene with a large ship dominating the picture that has two stars on its exhaust pipes.
D 13 39 C	Negative 4	City street scene with a water channel instead of a road. There is a bridge crossing the channel in the distance.
D 13 39 C	Negative 5	Brick houses, cone-shaped houses, and triangle shaped houses near a large body of water with boats in the distance.
D 13 39 C	Negative 6	Similar image to number 5.
D 13 39 C	Negative 7	Eight unidentified standing figures: 7 women, 1 man.
D 13 39 C	Negative 8	Two tents with men, women, and children in front of them.
D 13 39 C	Negative 9	A group of 19 unidentified men posing in front of an open doorway (10 sitting, 9 standing).
D 13 39 C	Negative 10	Fourteen unidentified people, including 5 children and 9 adults standing in front of a door.
D 13 39 C	Negative 11	Six homemade rafts on the edge of a body of water with several people nearby.

D 13 39 C	Negative 12	View of ruins with people riding animals in the distance.
D 13 39 C	Negative 13	Mound of rubble (some of it smoking).
D 13 39 C	Negative 14	Six people standing next to a car.
D 13 39 C	Negative 15	A building behind a stone wall that looks like a house surrounded by brush.
D 13 39 C	Negative 16	Three people: 2 men, 1 woman, standing.
D 13 39 C	Negative 17	Large cone-shaped, layered unidentified structure
D 13 39 C	Negative 18	City scene on the edge of a body of water.
D 13 39 C	Negative 19	A car in what looks like a desert.
D 13 39 C	Negative 20	Seven people (3 children, 4 adults) in front of an open door.
D 13 39 C	Negative 21	A couple posing behind a fence in front of a brick house that is surrounded by trees and shrubs.
D 13 39 C	Negative 22	Four people unloading a car in what looks to be a desert.
D 13 39 C	Negative 23	An overview of a cluster of small houses intermingled with trees. In the background, the desert stretches to the horizon.
D 13 39 C	Negative 24	A wide shot of a city.
D 13 39 C	Negative 25	Similar image to number 20.
D 13 39 C	Negative 26	Six men standing in front of some type of wall. The man on the left seems to be standing further away from the other 5 men, who are standing close together
D 13 39 C	Negative 27	Three men standing in front of a brick building. The two men on the left and right have circular hats, while the man in the middle has no hat.
D 13 39 C	Negative 28	Two men standing in front of a window with its blinds closed.
D 13 39 C	Negative 29	A group of people in or around two cars near a stone gate.
D 13 39 C	Negative 30	Similar to number 22.
D 13 39 C	Negative 31	A car with 1 driver in a desert, steering. Two other people are behind the car pushing.
D 13 39 C	Negative 32	Similar to number 29.
D 13 39 C	Negative 33	Four men in Western dress are flanked by two men in Middle Eastern dress. Behind the Western men is a car.
D 13 39 C	Negative 34	A courtyard right inside the gates of a city wall. It contains a mass of mule-drawn carriages and carts.
D 13 39 C	Negative 35	Wide shot of a city with a small plume of smoke in the distance.
D 13 39 C	Negative 36	Wide shot of a city.
D 13 39 C	Negative 37	Wide shot of a city.

D 13 39 C	Negative 38	A group shot of 26 (or 27) people. To the left stands a camel, and behind them are several mounds.
D 13 39 C	Negative 39	Wide shot of a city with a rather large, flat open area in the middle of the city.
D 13 39 C	Negative 40	Wide shot of hilly terrain speckled with small shrubs.
D 13 39 C	Negative 41	Same image as number 40.
D 13 39 C	Negative 42	Narrow cobblestone road flanked by buildings on either side. There are people on the road in the distance.
D 13 39 C	Negative 43	Animals in a courtyard.
D 13 39 C	Negative 44	Wide shot of a man in Western dress. Behind him there are a large group of unidentified structures.
D 13 39 C	Negative 45	Wide shot of a forest speckled with houses.
D 13 39 C	Negative 46	Picture of a coastal area with walls and fortifications.
D 13 39 C	Negative 47	Picture of a river with a brick bridge over it and two nearby water wheels.
D 13 39 C	Negative 48	Picture of a hill covered in buildings.
D 13 39 C	Negative 49	Picture of a coastal city with trees in the foreground and water in the background.
D 13 39 C	Negative 50	Wide shot of a large plain with people and buildings around it.
D 13 39 C	Negative 51	Wide shot of a city around a bay. Mountains tower in the background.
D 13 39 C	Negative 52	Two men in Western formal dress posing beside a large building.
D 13 39 C	Negative 53	A large port with beautiful decorations, arches, and columns. The courtyard contains people.
D 13 39 C	Negative 54	Large, decorated building with arches and columns.
D 13 39 C	Photo album, 1920s-1930s	

Series 3: Glass Slides

These glass slides are primarily of the Middle East, 1920s-1930s, and have not yet been digitized. (Question marks in the transcribed labels indicate uncertainty as to what the word or words are, as indicated by the original processor.)

Box Number	Title	Description
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 1	Wrapped in paper that has Grand Piano Jerusalem written on it. Photo appears to be a newspaper clipping of a man carrying a grand piano. Captioned.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 2	Wrapped in paper that has "Herod's Temple" written on it in manuscript and cursive writing. The slide depicts a model of Herod's Temple and the date 30 BC under it.

D 13 39 D	Glass slide 3	Unwrapped slide that depicts a page from a book with characters that look like Arabic letters and an illustration.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 4	Unwrapped slide that is labeled "general view of Nazareth" by tape on the side. The caption on the left side of the slide reads, "C. Raad, Photographer, Jerusalem. View of the Holy Land. On the right side it reads "views of the Holy Land".
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 5	Unwrapped slide that depicts a person in a hospital bed being attended to by what looks like a doctor. Caption says it is from Jerusalem, Palestine.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 6	Unwrapped slide that shows a standing group of people.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 7	Unwrapped slide that depicts a man in a suit posing next to ruins or an archaeological site.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 8	An unwrapped slide that contains a picture of two large trees.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 9	Unwrapped slide that contains a drawing of a city.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 10	Unwrapped slide that depicts several carriages and a car in what appears to be a Middle Eastern city
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 11	Unwrapped slide that shows a Middle Eastern city on a hill.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 12	Unwrapped slide that shows a wide shot of a Middle Eastern city.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 13	Unwrapped slide that shows a man wrapping another man in cloth.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 14	Unwrapped slide that shows three people standing by a door.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 15	Unwrapped slide that depicts a church building and a courtyard.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 16	Unwrapped slide that depicts a group of children examining maps of different continents.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 17	Unwrapped slide that seems to be a duplicate of glass slide 4.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 18	Unwrapped slide that contains a picture of a group of uniformed children standing beside a piano while a child plays under the watch of an instructor.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 19	Unwrapped slide that shows a broad view of a walled city.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 20	Unwrapped slide that shows ruins.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 21	Unwrapped slide that shows a picture of a monument carved into the side of a rocky hill.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 22	Unwrapped slide that, according to the caption, shows the Mosque of Omar with soldiers guarding it.

D 13 39 D	Glass slide 23	Unwrapped slide that shows what looks like a minaret surrounded by a city.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 24	Unwrapped slide that is a wide shot of an unidentified city.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 25	Unwrapped slide that shows a stone structure that looks ancient.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 26	Unwrapped slide that contains the image of an unidentified structure, possibly a mosque.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 27	Unwrapped slide that depicts a river flowing through a valley surrounded by hills.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 28	Unwrapped slide with an image of a map of the Arabic Union Mission.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 29	Unwrapped slide that shows a group of men with red hats.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 30	Unwrapped slide that shows a man standing next to what look like the ruins of a large building.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 31	Unwrapped slide that shows a graveyard. One of the gravesites is readable. It belongs to 18-year-old missionary, Hermann Fleckenstein.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 32	Unwrapped slide that is a copy of glass slide 14.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 33	Unwrapped slide depicting a city on the edge of a body of water.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 34	Unwrapped slide that shows ruins.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 35	Wrapped, labeled slide. Inside is an artist's drawing of the Tabernacle, along with a date: 1487 BC.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 36	Wrapped slide that is labeled "Tempel" in cursive and "(Moslem) Tempel 20th c. Jerusalem" in smaller handwriting. Inside is a diagram of a mosque with the label Haram Es-Cherif.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 37	Wrapped Slide that reads "a Top View Cedars (?)"
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 38	Wrapped pair of slides labeled "(2) Cedars with their Radthe (?)". Slides depict two large trees. Includes an unreadable memo that may or may not be related.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 39	Wrapped slide labeled "W.K.I Front of Shade Beirut 1913?" Slide depicts a seated man, likely W. K. Ising.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 40	Wrapped slide labeled "W.K.I. grey ornis(?) 1913" Slide shows two men standing next to a door.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 41	Wrapped slide labeled "Thea v. Helmunz". Slide contains images of two children posing outdoors in a standing position
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 42	Wrapped slide labeled "Frida with Flowers". Slide features image of a woman (probably Frieda Ising) posing near a vase of flowers.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 43	Wrapped pair of slides labeled "On board ship Mrs Ising, , Mrs gregorius (2) 1913" Slides depict a man,

		two women, three children, and an infant posing for a picture on a ship.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 44	Wrapped slide labeled "Beit (?) Mary Story of Bear". Slides depict three seated children and one standing child along with one seated woman and one standing woman in front of a house
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 45	Wrapped slide labeled "Elias Cave (2) Carmel". Slide depicts a couple of buildings perched on the side of a mountain.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 46	Wrapped slide labeled "Abraham's Oak Hebron". Slide depicts 3 large trees.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 47	Wrapped slide labeled "Bull Babylon". Slide depicts an artistic bull figure on what looks like an ancient building. Underneath the caption reads "Stier in Siegelrelief (?)".
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 48	Wrapped slide labeled "Jaffa". Slide shows an image of Jaffa "from Hotel du Park" according to the caption.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 49	Wrapped slide labeled "Aleppo Citadel". Slide shows a large city with fortifications on a large hill in the middle of the city. Caption confirms it as Aleppo.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 50	Wrapped slide labeled "Beehive". Slide shows trees and cone shaped structures in the distance.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 51	Wrapped slide labeled "Syrian (?)". Slide depicts a mythical figure with an elongated neck. Includes German caption that attributes the artwork to the Ishtar Gate in Babylon and calls the creature a "Lîr-ruššû." Photo credits mentions H.S. Hermann from Berlin.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 52	Wrapped slide labeled "Mosque of Omar". Inside is a slide that looks remarkably similar to glass slide 22.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 53	Wrapped slide that is labeled "Muther (?) Fordor (Maybe Frida?) Thea Beruit". Slide features 2 woman and one young girl sitting and what appears to be knitting. This is likely Ising's mother; Frieda Ising; and Dorothea Ising.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 54	Wrapped slide labeled "Tiberius". Slide shows a view (may be drawn) of a city next to a body of water (Sea of Galliee). Caption reads "No. 249. General view of Tiberias looking from the fortress, Palestine".
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 55	Wrapped slide labeled "Caravan to Mosul". Slide depicts 5 horse-drawn carriages with a group of travelers.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 56	Wrapped slide labeled "garden Bagdad". Slide shows a field of palm trees.

D 13 39 D	Glass slide 57	Wrapped slide labeled "Tent Haifa". Slide depicts a large circular tent with three standing men one standing woman, two seated women, and one seated infant.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 58	Wrapped slide labeled Othra (?) Patitneir (?) Slide shows a page of text in Arabic or Paleo-Hebrew
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 59	Wrapped slide labeled "Taufe (?) Raih (?) Krith (?)" in cursive and "baptism" in print. Slide shows two people in a river wearing robes, presumably a pastor and someone being baptized. Two other people watch near the bank.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 60	Wrapped slide labeled "gominide Jaffa (?) Haifles (?) efi (?)". Slide depicts 13 seated people (6 children and 7 adults).
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 61	Wrapped slide labeled "Ising Beruit zaez (?) Hans (?)". Slide depicts a man seated outside at a desk.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 62	Wrapped slide labeled "group historians" Slide shows a group of people posing for the photograph.
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 63	Wrapped slide labeled "Solomon's Temple". Slide shows artist's representation of Solomon's Temple, with the caption "Solomon's Temple 1000 BC".
D 13 39 D	Glass slide 64	Wrapped slide labeled "group nostir-rains (?)". Slide depicts a group of 8 men and boys, 3 sitting and 5 standing, some wearing turbans.