

Ameen Fares Rihani Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm98084177>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008061>

Prepared by T. Michael Womack
Revised and expanded by John R. Monagle

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2008
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Ameen Fares Rihani Papers

Span Dates: 1897-1940

ID No.: MSS84177

Creator: Rihani, Ameen Fares, 1876-1940

Extent: 1,250 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm98084177>

Summary: Arab-American author and poet. Photocopies of correspondence, biographical material, and drafts of essays, historical and political analyses, literary criticism, novels, short stories, plays, poetry, and travel literature reflecting Rihani's Arab-American heritage.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Case, Bertha--Correspondence.

Fontaine, Marie-Louise--Correspondence.

Monahan, Michael, 1865-1933--Correspondence.

Rihani, Ameen Fares, 1876-1940.

Teller, Charlotte, 1876- --Correspondence.

Von Wiegand, Charmion--Correspondence.

Subjects

American literature--Arab American authors.

American literature.

Arab Americans.

Art.

Civilization, Arab.

Civilization, Western.

Civilization.

Criticism.

Culture.

History.

Literary style.

Literature.

Love.

Performing arts.

Philosophy.

Political science.

Politics, Practical.

Religion.

Theater.

Places

America--Civilization.

America--Description and travel.

Europe--Civilization.

Europe--Description and travel.

Middle East--Civilization.
Middle East--Description and travel.
Western countries--Civilization.
Western countries--Description and travel.

Occupations

Authors.
Poets.

Provenance

The papers of Ameen Fares Rihani, Arab-American author and poet, were given to the Library of Congress in 1998 by the Albert Ferris Rihani family. An addition of two items was given by Ramzi Rihani in 1999.

Processing History

The papers of Ameen Fares Rihani were arranged and described in 1998. The collection was expanded and revised in 2000. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Ameen Fares Rihani in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress is controlled by the Albert Ferris Rihani family.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ameen Fares Rihani are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Ameen Fares Rihani Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ameen Fares Rihani (1876-1940) span the years 1897-1940 and focus on Rihani's work as an author and poet and his role as a pioneer in Arab-American literature. Written in English, the material consists of reproductions of originals housed in the Ameen Rihani Museum in Freike, Lebanon. The photocopied items include correspondence, biographical material, and drafts of Rihani's essays, historical and political analyses, literary criticism, novels, shorts stories, plays, poetry, and travel literature. A small addition to the collection includes reproductions of a photograph of Rihani and a drawing of him by William Oberhardt. Correspondents include Rihani's former wife, Bertha Case, Marie-Louise Fontaine, Michael Monahan, Charlotte Teller, and Charmion von Wiegand.

The correspondence relates to philosophy; writing styles; cultural and political matters; criticism in the fields of art, literature, and the performing arts; and discussions of business matters with publishers and of personal matters with writers, friends, and family members. Subjects of Rihani's writings include art, civilization, culture, history, literature, love, politics, religion, theater, and travel in both the Middle East and the West.

Arrangement of the Papers

The arrangement of the original material in Lebanon has been maintained.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1 | Letters and other documents |
| BOX 1 | Documents related to Rihani, 1915-1940 |
| BOX 1 | Special correspondence |
| BOX 1 | Case, Bertha, 1916-1939 (2 folders) |
| BOX 1 | Wiegand, Charmion von, (Habicht) 1922-1926 |
| BOX 1 | Monahan, Michael, 1910-1921 |
| BOX 1 | Teller, Charlotte, 1912 |
| BOX 1 | Fontaine, Marie-Louise, 1914-1916 |
| BOX 1 | General correspondence |
| BOX 1 | A, 1910-1939 |
| BOX 2 | B-H, 1911-1939 (7 folders) |
| BOX 3 | I-W, 1901-1939 (10 folders) |
| BOX 4 | X-Z, 1904-1937 |
| BOX 4 | Writings |
| BOX 4 | Essays |
| BOX 4 | "The White Way and the Desert," 1898-1939 |
| BOX 4 | Literary essays |
| BOX 4 | Political essays |
| BOX 4 | "Letters to Uncle Sam," parts I-IV, 1917-1919 |
| BOX 4 | "The Pan-Arab Movement," 1930 |
| BOX 4 | Historical and political analysis |
| BOX 4 | "Turkey and Islam in the War," 1915-1917 |
| BOX 4 | "Iraq during the Days of King Faisal the First," 1932 (1 folder) |
| BOX 5 | (2 folders) |
| BOX 5 | Literary criticism |
| BOX 5 | "Critiques in Art and Dancing," 1918-1921 (2 folders) |
| BOX 5 | "The Lore of the Arabian Nights," 1929 |
| BOX 5 | "Arabian Contribution to Civilization and the Poetry of Arabia," 1930 |
| BOX 5 | Novels, short stories, and plays |
| BOX 5 | "Wajdah," 1909 |
| BOX 5 | "The Green Flag," 1911-1921 |
| BOX 5 | "The Lily of al-Ghore," 1914 (1 folder) |
| BOX 6 | (1 folder) |
| BOX 6 | "Jahan," 1917 |
| BOX 6 | "Doctor Della Valle," 1918 (2 folders) |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 6 | Poetry |
| BOX 6 | "The Third Poetry Collection," 1897-1937 |
| BOX 6 | Travel literature |
| BOX 6 | "In the Land of the Mayas," 1918-1919 |
| BOX 6 | "Kurdistan," 1932 |
| BOX 6 | Addition |
| BOX 6 | Photographs, 1916-1921 |