

Charles W. Hack Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81058750>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010072>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Charles W. Hack Papers

Span Dates: circa 1800-1926

ID No.: MSS58750

Creator: Hack, Charles W.

Extent: 15 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English Arabic and Maranao in Arabic script

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81058750>

Summary: Army officer and surgeon. Mainly a journal of Hack's medical service in the United States Army in the Philippines, 1901-1903, two manuscripts, portions of the Koran, in Arabic, and one Arabic-script manuscript in Maranao, a native Philippine language from Mindanao, an excerpt from the epic "Darangen."

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

Gottheil, Richard J. H. (Richard James Horatio), 1862-1936.

Hack, Charles W.

Kelekian, Dikran G., 1868-1951.

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948.

Organizations

American Museum of Natural History.

United States. Army--Medical care.

Subjects

Epic poetry, Maranao.

Material culture--Philippines.

Philippine literature.

Public health--Philippines.

Places

Luzon (Philippines)--Description and travel.

Manila (Philippines)--Description and travel.

Mindanao Island (Philippines)--Description and travel.

Philippines--Description and travel.

Philippines--History--1898-1946.

Philippines--History--Philippine American War, 1899-1902.

Philippines--Social life and customs.

United States--Armed Forces--Philippines.

Titles

Qur'an.

Occupations

Army officers.

Surgeons.

Provenance

The papers of Charles W. Hack, army officer and physician, were given to the Library of Congress by Carl Jackson of the Acquisitions Department of the University of Minnesota in 1961.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles W. Hack is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles W. Hack 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, Charles W. Hack Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--|
| 1890, Feb. 18 | Born, Wathena, Kans. |
| 1897 | M.D., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 1898-1899 | Demonstrator in anatomy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. |
| 1899-1901 | Assistant surgeon, U.S. Army |
| 1901-1903 | Captain and assistant surgeon, U.S. Army |
| 1903 | District medical inspector, Bureau of Health for the Philippines |
| 1905 | Married Gwendolyn D. Kelley |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles W. Hack (born 1870) span the years circa 1800-1926 and consist primarily of journals by Hack, two manuscripts in Arabic, and one in Maranao, a Philippine language from Mindanao, in Arabic script. Hack was a surgeon with the United States Army in the Philippines, 1901-1903, whose typewritten transcripts of a journal describe his impressions and experiences as a medical officer on the island of Luzon, including Manila, and especially at Camp Vicars in the interior of the island of Mindanao, in 1902, under the command of Major John J. Pershing. Mindanao is the traditional homeland for Islamic ethnic groups native to the Philippines, often referred to as “Moro” even though they are comprised of many ethnic groups with different languages. The journal describes social customs, the difficult and often violent interactions of the U.S. Army with the local population, and public health problems.

The manuscripts in the collection include portions of the Koran in Arabic dating, it is estimated, from circa nineteenth century. The two Koranic manuscripts are in black ink with red ink headings, roundels, and other markings. A third item in Arabic script is in Maranao, a Philippine language from Mindanao. It is an excerpt (20 pages) of the “Darangen,” a Maranao oral literary epic. The cover, in English and probably added later, gives the title as “Book of Moro Songs.” Also in the papers is a listing of “Moro” artifacts that Hack sent to his wife that were exhibited in the Museum of Natural History in New York in the 1920s. An assessment of the manuscripts was made in 1926 by Richard J. H. Gottheil, chair of Semitic languages and rabbinical literature at Columbia University. A summary of his comments is included in the collection.

The summary incorporates additional comments by “Kelekian,” probably Dikran G. Kelekian, an art dealer and collector specializing in Islamic art.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1 | Arabic and Arabic-script manuscripts |
| BOX 1 | Assessment of manuscripts by Richard J. H. Gottheil and [Diran G.?] Kelekian, 1926 |
| BOX 1 | “Darangen,” partial text, in Maranao, circa mid-nineteenth century |
| BOX 1 | Koran, in Arabic |
| BOX 1 | Partial text, fifteen lines per page (8 1/2" x 12"), circa nineteenth century |
| BOX 1 | Partial text, nine lines per page (6" x 8"), circa nineteenth century |
| BOX 1 | Journal, typewritten |
| BOX 1 | 1901, 25 July-1902, Oct. 23 1903, 15 Jan.-28 July |
| BOX 1 | <i>Junior Plattsburgh Military Training Camp, Summer of 1918</i> , 1918 |
| BOX 1 | Lists of “Moro” artifacts and background information about items loaned for exhibit or sold by Gwendolyn Kelley Hack to the Museum of Natural History, New York, N.Y. 1919-1926 |