Finding Aid for the Raphael Fabian Bennett's The shelter of the cloth, [1950]

Cataloged by Citlali Sosa-Riddell, with assistance from Laurel McPhee; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Raphael Fabian Bennett's *The shelter of the cloth*

**Date (inclusive):** [1950]

**Collection number:** 170/395

**Creator:** Bennett, Raphael Fabian.

**Extent:** 395 leaves : paper ; 28 x 22.5 cm.

**Abstract:** Typescript draft of an unpublished novel set in Mexico around 1871. The narrative is primarily a tragic drama with political intrigue, religious turmoil, class conflict, and sexual content, but also describes the clashes between liberal reformers and the Catholic Church in Mexico City and the surrounding countryside.

**Language:** Finding aid is written in English.

**Repository:** University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

**Physical location:** Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

**Restrictions on Access**

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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**Provenance/Source of Acquisition**


**Processing Note**

Cataloged by Citlali Sosa-Riddell, with assistance from Laurel McPhee, in the Center For Primary Research and Training (CFPRT).

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Raphael Fabian Bennett *The shelter of the cloth* (Collection 170/395). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

**UCLA Catalog Record ID**

UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4230403

**Biography**

Raphael Fabian Bennett was born March 21, 1895 in Portland Oregon. He spent his youth in San Francisco, became an actor, and moved to Los Angeles. His mother was a drama critic and writer, and her work kept him closely connected with members of the acting profession. He began his career as a stunt man and then moved into Westerns, working in a total of 83 films. He was most famous for his role as a crooked lawyer in "Heaven Only Knows" and as Johnson in "Canyon City." He later worked as a director and producer. He died at the age of 62 of a heart attack.

**Scope and Content**

The novel takes place at the end of Benito Juarez's presidency, around 1871. The main character, Emilio Berceda, is known as the Militant Priest and a strong supporter of Benito Juarez's liberal reforms. Berceda kills a rival politician, who is also the father of a romantic rival. Porfirio Diaz's forces pursue Berceda through various affairs and escapades. After Juarez's death in 1871, Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada assumes the presidency, and continues to push for the capture of Berceda. The hero is ultimately betrayed by members of his circle, and succumbs to Diaz's men in the final scene. Although Berceda comes close to escaping to the United States, he dies.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Mexican War, 1846-1848--Fiction.

**Genres and Forms of Material**

Manuscripts.
Related Material

Bound Manuscripts Collection (Collection 170). Available at the UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

Removed or Separated Material

Assorted loose leaves, tracings, and printed material, including full page illustrations of Mexico City from Harper's Weekly (1858).