Preliminary Guide to the James H. Gildea Middle East Railroad Collection

Preliminary arrangement and description by D. Tambo
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Preliminary Guide to the James H. Gildea Middle East Railroad Collection, ca. 1940s-1970s [bulk early 1950s]

Collection number: Bernath Mss 219

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Descriptive Summary
Title: James H. Gildea Middle East Railroad Collection
Dates: ca. 1940s-1970s
Bulk Dates: early 1950s
Collection number: Bernath Mss 219
Collection Size: 1.1 linear feet (2 document boxes and 1 oversize box).
Creator: Gildea, James H.
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Dept. of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Abstract: The collection contains documents and photos, mainly about James H. Gildea's involvement in the early 1950s, as engineer and manager in charge of the construction of the Saudi Government Railway, running through the Arabian desert from the Persian Gulf to the capital city of Riyadh.

Physical location: Del Norte (boxes 1-2); Annex 2 (box 3); Del Sur Map Cabinets (Map Cabinet 20-5).
Languages: English

Access Restrictions
None. Collection is partially stored off-site; advance notice required for retrieval.

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Preferred Citation
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Acquisition Information

Scope and Content of Collection
The collection contains documents and photos, mainly about James H. Gildea's involvement in the early 1950s, as engineer and manager in charge of the construction of the Saudi Government Railway, running through the Arabian desert from the Persian Gulf to the capital city of Riyadh. The project came about as a result of a 1947 agreement between King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud and the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco). The cost was financed primarily from Saudi oil revenues, with engineering and construction under the guidance of Aramco and the Bechtel Construction Company. Gildea, formerly with Union Pacific, was chosen to head the project because of his experience in World War II as an operating manager for the Iranian railroad. Gildea later lived in Santa Barbara and was married to Madame Gildea.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Gildea, James H.
Railroads--Saudi Arabia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: 1</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia and railroads: Documents and correspondence re railway work, 1945-1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1: 2-4</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia - Photographs</td>
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</tbody>
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Personal
- Box 1: 6 Identification, etc. - Passports, business cards, photographs, etc.
- Box 1: 7 Photographs
- Box 1: 8 Correspondence, etc. (mostly Santa Barbara), 1961-1979

Oversize
- Box 3: 1 Award - American Institute of Architects re Jim Gildea Resource Center Santa Barbara, 1988
- Box 3: 1 Framed art - hand-lettered quote
- Box 3: 1 Large photograph album and loose photos
- Map Cabinet 20-5 Clippings, c. 1953-1967
- Map Cabinet 20-5 Saudi Government Railroad timetable
- Map Cabinet 20-5 Map - Persian Gulf