Finding aid of the Rom Landau Middle East Collection

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Finding aid of the Rom Landau Middle East Collection

Collection number: MSS 068

Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University of the Pacific Library
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Rom Landau Middle East collection
Dates: ca. 1920-1970
Collection number: MSS 068
Creator: Landau, Rom, 1899-
Collection Size: 67 linear feet
Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Dept. of Special Collections
Stockton, California 95211
Abstract: The Landau Collection consists chiefly of Rom Landau's personal library and other materials, notably clippings, periodicals and government documents that he used in teaching coursework in Islamic Studies at the University of the Pacific. The primary focus of these materials is Morocco.
Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: EnglishArabicFrench
Access
Collection open for research.

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Biography / Administrative History
Rom Landau (1899-1974), author and professor of Islamic Studies, was born in England of Polish-German parents. He studied philosophy, art, and religion at various European schools and universities--notably in Germany--taking no degrees and spending his early years traveling and working as a sculptor. During the late 1920s and early 1930s Landau established a minor reputation in Europe as a writer. His themes were art history, Polish biography, and comparative religion. Landau's best known book from these years bears the title God is my adventure (Knopf, 1935). He was a co-founder of the World Congress of Faiths, London (1936).
Rom Landau first visited Morocco in 1924. From that time he became a student of Islamic civilization. Landau taught himself Arabic and spent as much time as he could afford living and traveling in North Africa and the Middle East. In 1937 he visited King Ibn Saud, King Abdallah of Jordan, and other secular and religious leaders of the Middle East. Landau subsequently published a book, Arm the Apostles (1938), about this trip in which he advocates arming the Arabs so that they might aid the British and French in the coming war with Nazi Germany.
Landau served in the Royal Air Force (1939-41) and was a member of the Arab Committee of the Intelligence Department of the British Foreign Office (1941-45) during World War II. During this period he published (with A.J. Arberry) the standard
work Islam Today (Cambridge, 1943). Following the War, Landau returned to North Africa where he established close personal ties with Sultan of Morocco and other Arab leaders of liberation movements. Landau discreetly supported these groups although his interest in the cause of Arab independence would seem to have been motivated more by a traditionalist's wish to slow the modernization and Europeanization of the region than to improve the living standards of the common people.

Beginning in 1948 Rom Landau devoted his writing skills exclusively to Morocco and Moroccan affairs. Over the subsequent five year period Landau published Invitation to Morocco (1950); Moroccan Journal (1951); The Beauty of Morocco (1951); The Sultan of Morocco (1952); Morocco (for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1952); Portrait of Tangier (1953); and France and the Arabs (1953). Later he would publish a study of Moroccan drama (1956), biographies of King Mohammed V (1957) and Hassan II (1962), as well as a History of Morocco in the Twentieth Century (1963). Landau also wrote numerous essays and book reviews for The Reporter, The New Statesman, The Spectator, and other British and American periodicals of the day.

Following a lecture tour to the United States (1952-53) Landau settled in San Francisco where he was employed by Alan Watts' American Academy of Asian Studies. The Academy soon affiliated with the University of the Pacific, Stockton (1954), and Landau subsequently became a professor of Islamic Studies at the University (1956-68). In 1962-63 he supervised the Peace Corps training program that prepared volunteers for service in Morocco. Following his retirement (1968), Landau settled in Marrakesh, where he lived until his death.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Landau Collection consists chiefly of Rom Landau's personal library and other materials, notably clippings, periodicals and government documents that he used in teaching coursework in Islamic Studies at the University of the Pacific. As might be expected, the primary focus of these materials is Morocco. However, the collection also contains considerable material on the other nations of French North Africa, Algeria and Tunisia, and, a smaller body of books, pamphlets, and documents on other Islamic nations and on Israel/Palestine. The time period of greatest emphasis is the twenty-five years immediately following World War II (1945-1970).

Arrangement
Collection is arranged in four series: I. Manuscript Materials; IIA. Printed Matter on Morocco; IIB. Printed Matter on Muslim Lands; and III. Materials Unrelated to Islam or the Middle East.

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

Muhammad V, King of Morocco, 1909-1961
Hassan II, King of Morocco, 1929-
Bourguiba, Habib, 1903-
Nasser, Gamal Abdel, 1918-1970
Islam
Art, Islamic
Israel-Arab conflicts
Algeria - History - Revolution, 1954-1962
Morocco - Description and travel
Morocco - History
Morocco |- Kings and rulers
Tunisia - Description and travel
Tunisia - History - 1956-
Middle East - Politics and government
Middle East - Economic conditions - 1945-
Africa, French-speaking West - Politics and government - 1960-
Egypt - History - 1952-
Pakistan - Description and travel

Series I: Manuscript Materials

Box 1: Personal Papers (biographies, correspondence, etc.)
Series I: Manuscript Materials

Box 2: Writings
Box 3: Book Drafts
Box 4: Morocco (clippings, notes, government papers, etc.)
Box 4A: Morocco newspaper clippings (1951-1962)
Box 5: Muslim countries materials (clippings, notes, government papers, etc.)
Box 6: Maps

Series IIA: Printed Matter on Morocco

Box 1: 19th Century Books
Box 2: Morocco, Description and Travel, A-L
Box 3, Morocco, Description and Travel, M-Z
Box 4: Morocco, Fine Arts
Box 5: Morocco, History, A-L
Box 6: Morocco, History, M-Z
Box 7: Morocco, Politics and Government
Box 8: Morocco, Other Topics
Box 9: Moroccan Periodicals
Box 10: Moroccan Government Publications, French Protectorate
Box 11: Moroccan Government Publications, Royal Decrees, etc.
Box 12: Moroccan Government Publications, Embassy in France, 1962-64
Box 14: Moroccan Government Publications, Embassy in Washington D.C.
Box 15: Moroccan Government Publications, Ministere de l’Information
Box 16: Moroccan Government Publications, Ministere de l’Information, Maroc Documents
Box 17: Moroccan Government Publications, Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres
Box 18: Moroccan Government Publications, Presidency of the Council
Box 19: Moroccan Government Publications, Ministries
Box 20: Moroccan Government Publications, Bibliographie Nationale du Maroc
Box 21: al-Istiqlal (newspaper)
Box 22: Moroccan Publications in Arabic

Series IIB: Printed Matter on Muslim Lands

Box 1: 19th Century Books
Box 2: Islam, A-L
Box 3: Islam, M-Z
Box 4: Middle East General Topics, A-L
Box 5: Middle East General Topics, M-Z
Box 6: North Africa
Box 7: Sub-Saharan Africa
Box 8: Islamic Art
Box 9: T.E. Lawrence (“Lawrence of Arabia”)
Box 10: Arab Countries, Algeria
Box 11: Arab Countries, Egypt
Box 12: Arab Countries, Tunisia
Box 13: Arab Countries, including Aden, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen
Box 14: Non-Arab Countries, Iran
Box 15: Non-Arab Countries, Israel/Palestine
Box 16: Non-Arab Countries, Turkey
Box 17: Non-Arab Countries, including Kashmir, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan
Box 18: Europe and American Periodicals on the Muslim World
Box 19: European and American Periodicals on the Muslim World, Realities
Box 20: Arab Periodicals in European Languages
Box 21: Arab Periodicals in European Languages
Box 22: el Moujahid, 1956-1962 (Algerian newspaper)
Box 23: Resistance Algerienne, 1956-1957
Box 24: el-Amal, 1966-Mar 1967 (Tunisian newspaper)
Series IIB: Printed Matter on Muslim Lands

Box 25: el-Amal, April-June 1967
Box 26: el-Amal, July-September 1967
Box 27: el-Amal, October-December 1967
Box 28: Miscellaneous Muslim Periodicals in Arabic
Box 29: Tunisian Periodicals in Arabic

Series III: Materials Unrelated to Islam or the Middle East

Box 1: Philosophy, Psychology and Religion
Box 2: Other Topics