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## **Finding aid of the Rom Landau Middle East Collection**

Processed by Don Walker

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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  
Stockton, California

Processed by:

Processed by Don Walker

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Shan Sutton

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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.

### Publication Rights

Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

### Preferred Citation

Rom Landau Middle East collection. MSS 068. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library.

### 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

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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

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### **Series I: Manuscript Materials**

#### **Box 1: Personal Papers (biographies, correspondence, etc.)**

**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 13: Moroccan Government Publications, Embassy in France, 1965-1967**

**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, Presidence du Conseil**

**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)**

**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**