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Albert Morris Bagby Collection

Creator: Albert Morris Bagby (1859—1941) and Mrs. Ness
Dates: 1890s-1960s
Quantity: 1 linear foot, 2 boxes
Acquisition: Acquired by Colonel James N. Pritzker (ILARNG) Ret., 2007.
Identification: PMML Item# 320784, OCLC# 236876955, Call# PAPERS 00024
Citation: [Document Title]. The Albert Morris Bagby Collection, [Box #, Folder #]. Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
Language: English, German
Finding Aid: Rebecca Redinger, June 2008; Updated by Andrea Martinez, 2018

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Biographical Note

Albert Morris Bagby was born in Rushville, Illinois on April 29, 1859 to Mary Agnes Scripps of Jackson, Missouri and John Courts Bagby from Glasgow, Kentucky. After completing his primary education in the United States, Bagby traveled to Europe to study music. He first studied under Professor Scharwenka at the Berlin Conservatory and later with Franz Liszt in Weimar. Before Bagby died in 1941, he was considered one of the last links to Mr. Liszt. Though never a virtuoso performer himself, Bagby was an ardent admirer and pupil of the great pianist and so devoted his life to the patronage of music and performance. (*Time Magazine*, March 10, 1941)

After returning from Europe, Bagby was invited to give music lectures at various socialite clubs in New York. These lectures, often with piano accompaniment, turned into luxurious concerts. At first Bagby sought to call his recitals "Matinee Musicale," but at the urging of his friend, Miss Louise McAllister, the name was changed to "Musical Morning." (*The Unofficial palace of New York*, p. 99) The first official *Musical Morning* was held in 1891 at Bagby's own private studio at 152 W. 57th Street in New York. The concert series was so popular that a larger space was needed. (*Emanuel Feuerman*, p.89)

Bagby refused to rent public music halls, which he felt would destroy the personal and intimate nature of the performance. Fortunately, an ideal site for performance and private society presented itself when a new hotel opened its doors on 5th Avenue and 34th Street. The Waldorf-Astoria (on 34th Street, and then in 1929 its new location) became the new home of Bagby's *Musical Morning*, remaining so until its end in 1941. (*The Unofficial palace of New York*, p. 97,100)

Following each *Musical Morning* (which were attended by subscription only), Bagby would host a lunch for a few dozen of his most notable guests. Conversing easily with royalty, socialites and skilled musicians, Bagby became a popular figure in the social life of Europe and America. (*Time Magazine*, March 10, 1941) Offering performances by almost every distinguished artist in the United States, Bagby succeeded in both providing elite entertainment and funds for The Bagby Music Lovers' Foundation, Inc. The foundation, established at the 300th *Musical Morning* in January, 1925 was set up to give pensions to elderly musicians as a "reward for their unforgettable service to music." (*The Unofficial palace of New York*, p. 95, 101)

In addition to his life work with *Musical Morning*, Bagby also traveled to Europe quite extensively, attending performances at Richard Wagner's Bayreuth Festival and visiting friends. While living at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, Bagby received hundreds of letters and postcards from the European royal families who had attended his performances and seen him in Europe. Most of the letters thanked Bagby for his kindness and generous gifts. With most of Europe in turmoil after the Second World War, it was often difficult to purchase books and magazines in English. Bagby, being the generous individual that he was, acted almost as a courier service, sending books, encyclopedias, and subscriptions to *National Geographic* and *The Spur* to various European royal families. The missives also contained personal notes about the family's wellbeing, and a request that Bagby visit next time he was in Europe.

Besides being a musician, Bagby was also a writer. When he was younger he contributed to various periodicals, and in 1895 published his first novel, a musical romance entitled *Miss Traumerei*. In 1904 he wrote *Mamie Rosie*, a fictional account a young musician's journey to stardom. Later in life Bagby gave back to his home town by donating various volumes, statues and paintings to the Rushville Public Library.

Albert Morris Bagby died of pneumonia on February 27, 1941 at the age of 81, ending his five decade career as director of *Musical Morning*. (*Time Magazine*, March 10, 1941)

Scope and Content of the Collection

The collection contains letter and postcard correspondence between Albert Morris Bagby and various European royalty, nobility and diplomats. Also included are photographs, picture postcards, and calling cards. The bulk of the collection concerns the years 1915-1940, with a few news clippings collected in the 1950s and 60s.

For the most part, the correspondences thank Mr. Bagby for his hospitality in New York City and Bayreuth, Germany as well as his generous gifts that included subscriptions to *National Geographic* and *The Spur*, and copies of his books and others. They are cordial letters, often discussing the wellbeing of family members and expressing regret for not having seen Mr. Bagby during his last visit to Europe.

The collection also includes two copies of an inventory written by a Mrs. Ness, an essay entitled "The Wife of Anarchy," and news clippings concerning various European royal families.

Arrangement

The collection arrived with no discernable arrangement and was rearranged in a more efficient working order by PMML staff. The collection is contained within two archival boxes.

Rights

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Separations

Education of a Princess; a memoir
Marie, Grand Duchess of Russia
DK254 .M3 A32 1931

The Story of My Life
Marie, Queen, consort of Ferdinand I, King of Romania
DR262 .A2 A3 1934A

A King's Heritage
Petar II Karađorđević, King of Yugoslavia
DR369 .P4

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names

Alexandria Victoria, Princess of Schleswig-Holstein--1887-1957
Alice, Princess of Greece--1895-1969
Bagby, Albert Morris—1859-1941
Charlotte, Duchess of Mecklenburg--1868-1944
Eleanore, Duchess of Bayern--1880-1965
Elizabeth, Queen (Consort) of Belgium--1876-1965
Friedrich Franz, Grand Duke of Mecklenburg--1882-1945
Helen, Grand Duchess of Russia--1882-1957
Margaret, Landgravine of Hesse—Prussia--1872-1954
Ness, Nina
Nicholas, Prince of Greece--1872-1938
Sophie, Princess of Greece--1914-2001
Spencer-Churchill, Augusta (Lady Edward Spencer-Churchill)--1854-1941

Subjects

Europe -- History -- 20th century
Europe -- Kings and rulers
Europe -- Kings and rulers—Correspondence

Container List

Box#.Folder#

1.1 **Princess Alice of Greece**
Clipping: "Princess Alice's Life Mirrors Joys and Woes of Kings"
Chicago Tribune, April 14, 1968
Letter to Mr. Bagby—July 18, 1929
 March 26, 1926
 August 14, 1929
 January 11, 1929
 October 9, 1928
 January 11, 1928
 June 16, 1929
 June 28, 1926

September 26, 1927
Undated (Paris)
Undated (St. Cloud)

- 1.2 Princess Sophie of Greece**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—January 8, 1932
June 22, 1931
February 4, 1931
October 22, 1931
September 28, 1932
July 22, 1931
June 11, 1931
- 1.3 Princess Marie Louise of Hanover—Princess Max of Baden**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—December 9, 1932
- 1.4 Princess Alexandria Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—December 29, 1931
November 25, 1930—with autographed photo
1935—Christmas card
August 6, 1930
June 7, 1932
- 1.5 Duchess Marie Ann of Luxembourg**
[See Also, Folder 19: Grand Duchess Marie of Luxembourg]
Letter to Mr. Bagby—July 17, 1925
- 1.6 Le Grande duc Cirill de Russie**
Letter to Mr. Bagby and his calling card
- 1.7 Marie, Countess of Leesburg**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—October 28, 1937
- 1.8 Princess Victoria Metternich—Vienna**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—October 5, 1932 (?)
May 23, 1934
1932
1 card, 2 Notes—no dates
- 1.9 Duchess Lorie—Eleanore of Bayern**
[See also, Folders 11 and 17]
Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 28, 1931
- 1.10 Princess Olga of Hanover—Yugoslavia**

Letter to Mr. Bagby—June 5, 1935

May 12, 1939

April 10, 1934

March 1, 1932

1 card—no date

1 postcard—“Bayreuth—Kunstlerkneipe ‘Eule’”—August 9, 1937

1 postcard—Olga’s picture & autograph

1.11

Eleanore of Bayern

[See also, Folders 9 and 17]

2 postcards to Mr. Bagby—“Gildefterabend”
“Otto Pichler”

Christmas card with picture & signature—1936

Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 25, ????

Undated

June 8, 1930—from Augusta von Bayern

1.12

Countess Victoria von Toerring

Letter to Mr. Bagby—December 12, 1939

July 6, 1940

1.13

Countess Sophie of Toerring—Duchess of Bavaria

Letter to Mr. Bagby—March 1, 1939

July 20, 1925

1935

1 postcard—colored flowers—December 22, 1938

1.14

Princess Margarethe of Hesse—Prussia

Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 10, 1932

1.15

Duchess Thyra of Cumberland

Letter to Mr. Bagby—November, 1932

5 photos—Marie Louie—granddaughter—Margarita

Marie Louise, Thyra, Olga

Four generations (with Marie Louise and Thyra)

2 postcards—“Blumerdorf—Bad Oldesloe-land”—no date

1 photo—Victorian interior—no date

1.16

Princess Theodora of Baden—Princess of Greece

Letter to Mr. Bagby—December 24, 1932

May 7, 1940

November 12, 1936

October 6, 1930

- 1.17 Duchess Lorie—Eleanora of Belgium**
[See also, Folders 9 and 11]
Card to Mr. Bagby—June 13, 1931
October 23, ????
Typed letter—August, 1939
- 1.18 Princess Edda Furstein—von Wrede (Wied)**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 26, 1940
- 1.19 Grand Duchess Marie of Luxemburg**
[See also, Folder 5: Duchess Marie Ann of Luxembourg]
Letter to Mr. Bagby—December 10, 1936
June 1938 (In French)
2 photos
- 1.20 Joachim Albrecht**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—1925
- 1.21 Princess Fredericka (Marie Melita of Hohenlohe-Langenburg)
of Schleswig Holstein**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—July 8 1933
July 29, 1939
- 1.22 Professor Xaver Scharwenka--Director of Berlin Conservatory**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—June 15, 1885
October 12, 1926
- 1.23 Dr. Heusler—Director of the Museum of Dresden**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—November 12, 1933
2 photos of art
- 1.24 Princess Elizabeth of Greece**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—June 19, 1934
June 4, 1935
2 photos—Theodora and family
Wedding of Elizabeth
News clipping—1956
- 1.25 Ex-crown Princess of Germany**
1 photo
- 1.26 Princess Lowenstein—Germany**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—March 19, 1939

- 1.27 **Wife of Count Johann Bernstorff—German Ambassador**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—February 27, 1939
- 1.28 **Princess Eleanor Pesse Viggo—Denmark**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—June 26, ????
 May 15, 1936
- 1.29 **Duchess Charlotte Mecklenburg**
Photo—Duchess with autograph—1936
Duke with autograph—1936
Letter to Mr. Bagby—January 4, 1926
 April 21, 1939
 January 11, 1936
 January 12, 1929
- 1.30 **Princess Beatrice of Spain**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—February 18, 1933
 September 20, 1932
- 1.31 **Marie Jose of Bavaria**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—January 22, 1924
- 1.32 **Marie Alexandra—Princess Wolfgang of Hess**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—December 6, 1932
- 1.33 **German Chancellor Bulow**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—July 21, 1895
- 1.34 **Dowager Grand Duchess—Marianne of Luxemburg**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—August 10, 1937
- 1.35 **Princess Cecilia of Hesse—Duchess of Mecklenburg**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 31, 1934
 July 1, 1932
 Obituary—1955
- 1.36 **Prince Christian of Hesse**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—November 18, 1926
- 1.37 **Countess Kautz (?)—Germany**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—February 12, 1925
 July 6, 1931

- 1.38 Grand Duke Friedrich Franz of Mecklenburg**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 1, 1939
April 8, 1940
Photo—Theodora & family
Two Photos—signed and dated—1932, 1933
- 1.39 Countess Marie--Germany**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—November 6, 1933
1939 (x2)
1940
- 1.40 Annie Viscountess Cowdray**
Christmas card with photo
- 1.41 Emich—Prince of Leiningen**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—September 19, 1935
- 1.42 Princess Eugenie of Greece**
Letter to Mr. Bagby—No date
No date—2 photos and calling card
January 23, 1935
No date
- 1.43 Duchess of Coburg**
Letter to Bagby—1933—included signed photo
- 1.44 Stephanie—Countess of de Lonyay—Belgium**
Letter to Mr. Penfield—July 10, 1916
- 1.45 Princess Sophie of Wrede (Wied)—Princess of Albania**
Christmas card to Mr. Bagby—1938
Letter to Mr. Bagby—September 13, 1929
September 3, 1939
November 21, 1932
2 photos
1 photo—signed and dated –1932
2 postcards—1933 and 1934
- 2.46 Prince Nicholas of Greece & Grand Duchess Helen of Russia**
Signed photo
2 postcards—Napoleon's Tomb
Island scene
Letter to Mr. Bagby—August 5, 1931

No date
July 6, 1935
April 27, 1931

No date
No date
August 26, 1937
February 17, 1927

Printed sympathy note from Princess Nicholas—1938
Christmas card—1936
2 calling cards

2.47 Landgravine Margaret of Hesse—Prussia

Letter to Mr. Bagby—No date
November 30, 1933
October 22, 1936
December 20, 1932
July 3, 1932
August 2, 1934
October 6, 1937
March 7, 1937
September 15, 1933

2.48 Princess Eulalie of Spain

2 Letters to her from Courerie B'de Garwendia (?)
Letter to Mr. Bagby—1931

2.49 Archduchess Marie Therese

Letter to Mr. Bagby—1937
Christmas card with signed photograph

2.50 Princess Anna of Hohenlohe-Langenburg

Letter to Mr. Bagby—April 28, 1940
April 27, 1934
April 27, 1937
April 11, 1931
July 8, 1937

2.51 Augusta Spencer-Churchill

Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 24, 1936
December 21, 1935
December 30, 1934
No date
November 2, 1935
October 23, 1933

December 10, 1933

Christmas card—1935

Christmas card with signed picture—no date

3 news clippings—*Chicago Tribune*—Churchill family

2.52 Marquis of Villalobar

Christmas note—no date—Spain

2.53 Duke of Kent

Letter to Mr. Bagby—October 12, 1934

2.54 Prince de Lonyay—Hungary

Letter to Mr. Bagby—October 24, 1934

2.55 Elizabeth, Queen (Consort) of Belgium

Newspaper clippings—obituary

Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 5, 1927

June 1, 1927—includes postcard of Wagner

Festspielhaus

December 3, ????

November 6, 1932

August 18, 1937

August 15, 1938

July 30, 1927

May 10, 1930—includes photograph

February 6, 1934—includes postcard of her and Albert

Letter from Alice to Mr. Bagby—April 11, 1929

Letter from Secretary de la Reine—October 2, 1933

Card invitation to Albert's memorial service—New York—February 24, 1934

2 postcards from Caraman-Chimay

Letter and calling card from Caraman-Chimay—May 12, 1934

Photo Postcard—Leopold—June, 1934

Letter from Secretary to Queen—April 7, 1939

December 2, 1930

June 24, 1933

February 6, 1933

2.56 Prince Albert of Monaco

Letter to Mr. Bagby and transcribed copy—November 22, 1916

News clippings about family

5 picture postcards of Monaco

2.57 Photo Postcards (identified by subject)

H.M. King Edward VII (x2)
 Unsere Kaiserin
 Ernst _____ zu Hohenlohe
 Princess Victoria Luise von Preussen
 Alexandra—Princess zu Hohenlohe-Langenburg (young woman)
 Alexandra—Princess zu Hohenlohe-Langenburg (child)
 Prince Gottfried—Prince zu Hohenlohe-Langenburg (child)
 Princess Maria—Princess zu Hohenlohe-Langenburg (child)
 Grossherzog Friedrich von Baden
 Princess Alexandra Victoria von Schleswig-Holstein
 Kaiser Wilhelm II (drawing of a child)
 Princess Alexandra von Hohenlohe-Langenburg (young woman and child)
 Prinz August Wilhelm nebst Braut
 Wilhelmina, Queen of Holland
 Queen Victoria's Statue—Kensington Place
 Benito Mussolini
 H.M. de Koningin
 President Fallieres
 H.M. de Koningin Wilhelmina
 H.K.H. Princess Juliana (name on reverse)
 Sr. Hoheit First Peter
 Albert von Sachsen
 De Koninklyke Family (father, mother, daughter)
 Kaiserin Elizabeth
 Armand Fallieres—president of the republic, 1906
 S.M. La Regina D' Italia
 Prince Imperial (Napoleon-Eugene-Louis-Jean-Joseph)
 Marie Antoinette
 Madame Royale (Marie-Therese-Charlotte-daughter of Louis XIII)
 Jane Grey
 Il Conte Camillo Benso di Cavour
 H.M. Queen of Siam
 H.M. de Koningin
 Buenos Aires—Teatro Colon
 S.S. M.M. D. Alfonso XIII y.d. Victoria Eugenia—Spain
 S.M. Don Alfonso XIII—Spain

2.58

Benedicta de Braganca (Maria José of Portugal)—Duchess of Bavaria

Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 16, 1936
 August 10, 1937
 May 28, 1937

2.59

Queen Marie of Roumania—Princess of Edinburgh

Letter to Mr. Bagby—September 29, 1937—Heidelberg

December 17, 1928 (with typed translations)

Letter to Mrs. Ness from Secretary to Princess Ileana of Romania—
1959

News clipping—Russian Revolution—*South Bend Tribune*-1964

2.60

Photo postcards, calling cards, etc. (identified by subject)

Monte Carlo (5)

Princess Marie Louise (3) and news clippings

Queen Louise

Unsere Kaiser Familie (2)

Kaiser

Prinz Oscar von Preussen

S.M. Le Roi des Hellenes

Rocca di Papa

Bethlehem woman/Bethlehemites

J.K.H. Crown Princess Maria von Roumania

Queen Marie

Signature of Queen Marie

S.M. La Regina Margherita

King Carol of Romania

Ida J. Cook

Marie and Julia Lippmann

Marion Bohnheim

Hrv. Pjevacko Drustvo "Kolo" u Zagrebu

Chattenrib zum Dfterfpaziergang

Munchen, Konigsplate

Santonini, Greece

Hochar Ibrahim

Octave Boyer

Mme. S.A. Newton

Ulbert Fiebiger—"Grup Gott!"

Egern am Tegernsee mit Wallberg und Setzberg

Conte Biancamano

Princess "Tyhilla"

"Angiolo dett. Annunciazione"

Cote d'Azur—Oranger

"Mairie de Sommepy"

Interno della Sala del Maggior Consiglio

Rembrandt—self-portrait

The Duchess of Devonshire

Ileana and Anton of Austria with children

Phillip's sister, husband and baby

La Contesse G. de Lichtervelde
Spires of Milan Cathedral
Francis Joseph

- 2.61 Miscellaneous Photo postcards—Subjects unknown**
- 2.62 Miscellaneous Correspondence with Mr. Bagby**
- 2.63 Miscellaneous News clippings—Royal Families**
- 2.64 “The Wife of Anarchy”—essay**
- 2.65 Inventory of collection by Mrs. Ness**
- 2.66 Pritzker Military Library Staff Research Notes**