Albert Morris Bagby Collection

Creator: Albert Morris Bagby (1859—1941) and Mrs. Ness  
Dates: 1890s-1960s  
Quantity: 1 linear foot, 2 boxes  
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

Archival collections are stored at a remote archival facility. Please contact the Museum & Library at least 48 hours in advance of your visit to view an archival collection.

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 Glasglow, 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

Users assume responsibility for following copyright laws as established by US Code Title 17.

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
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 25, ????
   June 8, 1930
Letter to Mr. Bagby—December 24, 1932
   May 7, 1940
   November 12, 1936
   October 6, 1930

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
Duchess Lorie—Eleanora of Belgium
[See also, Folders 9 and 11]
Card to Mr. Bagby—June 13, 1931
          October 23, ???
Typed letter—August, 1939

Princess Edda Furstein—von Wrede (Wied)
Letter to Mr. Bagby—May 26, 1940

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

Joachim Albrecht
Letter to Mr. Bagby—1925

Princess Fredericka (Marie Melita of Hohenlohe-Langenburg)
of Schlewig Holstein
Letter to Mr. Bagby—July 8 1933
          July 29, 1939

Professor Xaver Scharwenka--Director of Berlin Conservatory
Letter to Mr. Bagby—June 15, 1885
          October 12, 1926

Dr. Heusler—Director of the Museum of Dresden
Letter to Mr. Bagby—November 12, 1933
     2 photos of art

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

Ex-crown Princess of Germany
     1 photo

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

**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