

Arab American National Museum Archives
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126



Title: Rosemary Hakim Collection
Creator: Hakim, Rosemary
Inclusive dates: 1954-1990
Bulk dates: 1950s
Extent: 1.5 linear feet; 1 banker's box and one archives box
Accession number: 2011.07.00

Language: Bulk of the material is in English. Some material in Arabic, very small amount in French.

Acquisition: Donation from Lyla and William Saigh, April 2011.

Accruals: Additions to the collection not expected.

Access: No restrictions.

Photographs: Yes

A-V Material: None.

Digital Materials: Many items available on [AANM Collections Online](#)
Photographs available on Flickr

Copyright: Copyright has been transferred to the Arab American National Museum.

Processed: January 2014 by Elizabeth Skene and Elyssa Bisoski

Arrangement: Materials are arranged into series by subject and medium. Arrangement within series is chronological when possible.

Preferred citation: [item], Folder [#], Box [#], Rosemary Hakim Collection, Arab American National Museum

Biography

The Rosemary Hakim reigned as the first “Miss Lebanon-America” in 1954, a pageant that continues to this day. Ms. Hakim’s title earned her a months-long trip to Lebanon as an official guest of the Lebanese government, serving as a cultural ambassador from the Arab American community. Her unpublished memoir details her journey to her homeland and the copious amounts of press coverage she received there. Her visibility and comfort in the spotlight, as well her ethnic background, landed her a vital role in the Arab States Delegation Office at the United Nations in the 1950s. Through her position as a clerk, she was privy to and worked diligently on some of the most important developments in the Arab world in the twentieth century, including the Algerian revolution, the Yemeni struggle against British colonialism, and the Suez crisis. In her personal life, she was briefly involved romantically with Prince Fahad al-Sudairi of the Saudi royal family, and their relationship is documented in photographs and letters. She chronicled her life through written notes, journals, her unfinished memoir, and photo albums. After her tenure at the United Nations, she returned to Michigan where she would live the remainder of her life.

Scope and Content Note

- Letters from Lebanese government officials to Rosemary Hakim, detailing her state sponsored trip to Lebanon
- English, Arabic and French language newspapers detailing her trip to Lebanon
- Photographs and letters detailing Ms. Hakim’s relationship with Prince Fahad al-Sudairi of the Saudi royal family in the 1950s
- Internal memos of the Arab States Delegations Office at the U.N.
- Personal notes and an Algerian flag given to Ms. Hakim by Mohammad Yazid, a leading figure in the Algerian revolution
- Written notes, journals, her unfinished memoir, and photo albums.

Subjects

- Beauty contests
- Lebanese Americans
- Travel
- United Nations

Genre terms

- Books
- Correspondence
- Newspapers
- Photographs
- Printed ephemera

Series

1) *Miss Lebanon-America Pageant and Trip to Lebanon*

This series mainly contains documentation relating Rosemary Hakim's trip to Lebanon as a prize for winning the 1955 Miss Lebanon-America pageant. Items include travel documents, correspondence, photographs, and English, Arabic and French language newspapers

2) *Life and work post-Lebanon trip*

Following her trip to Lebanon, Rosemary Hakim lived in New York and worked for the U.N. for a few years. During this time she worked closely with many Arab and Arab American diplomats and dignitaries, and became involved with Prince Fahad al-Sudairi of the Saudi royal family. Much of this series contains items from these years, including correspondence, photographs, and English and Arabic newspapers. There are also a smaller number of items from later in her life after she moved back to Detroit.

3) *Memoirs*

Written later in her life, these memoirs recount her experiences in Lebanon and New York. The memoirs are unfinished.

4) *Scrapbooks*

Seven scrapbooks that contain mementos of her life, including photographs, invitations, cards, memorabilia and stamps. The scrapbook pages were removed from the original scrapbooks but remain in their original order in folders.

5) *Books*

This series contains several books about the Arab World collected by Rosemary Hakim. Many of the books also contained cards, clippings and other ephemera stored within their pages. These items have been removed and placed in folders according to the book they came out of. Each folder contains a list of items and notes what page each item was found on, as many correspond to the information in the book.

Contents

Box 1

Series 1: Miss Lebanon-America pageant and trip to Lebanon

Folder 1: Ephemera from Miss Lebanon-America trip to Lebanon, 1955
Pamphlets, travel documents, correspondence

Folder 2: Photographs from Miss Lebanon-America trip to Lebanon, 1955

Folder 3: English and dual language newspapers featuring the Miss Lebanon-America trip to Lebanon, 1954-1955

Clippings

Lebanese American Journal (New York City), 09/1954

Detroit Free Press, 11/23/54

The Lebanese Gazette (Detroit), 1/13/1955

The Daily Star (Beirut), June 16, 1955

The Daily Star (Beirut), 7/17/55

The Caravan (Brooklyn), 9/8/1955

The Lebanese Gazette (Detroit), October 21, 1955

Folder 4: Arabic and French language newspapers and magazines featuring the Miss Lebanon-America trip to Lebanon, 1955

Clippings

Palestine Arabic Daily Paper, 7/12/1955

Palestine Arabic Daily Paper, 7/13/1955

Al-Hayat (Beirut), 7/17/1955

Al-Hayat (Beirut), 7/22/1955

The Morning Tribune (Detroit), 8/25/1955

Arabic titles (8)

Series 2: Life and work post-Lebanon trip

Folder 1: Correspondence, 1956-1990 (bulk 1956-1960)
Items of note: letter from Gamal Abdel Nasser, 1960

Folder 2: Photographs, 1956-1958, n.d.

Folder 3: Algerian Revolution items, 1955-1957

Folder 4: Miscellaneous items, n.d.
Maps, family trees, pamphlets, personal notes

Folder 5: English and dual language newspapers related to Arab Americans and the Arab World, 1956-1958

Clippings

The Lebanese Gazette (Detroit), 9/28/1956

The Toledo Blade, 5/4/1956

The Lebanese Gazette (Detroit), 10/12/1956

The Detroit News, 11/10/1957

The Egyptian Gazette, 12/26/1957

The New York Times, 1/28/1958

Folder 6: Arabic and French language newspapers related to Arab Americans and the Arab World, 1956-1962

El Moudjahid (Algeria), 12/1/1957

El Moudjahid (Algeria), 2/15/1958

Arabic titles (5)

Box 2

Series 3: Memoirs

Folder 1: Memoirs, 1955-1959

Series 4: Scrapbooks

Folder 1: Scrapbook, 1955

Folder 2: Scrapbook, 1955-1957

Folder 3: Scrapbook, 1957

Folder 4: Scrapbook, 1957-1958

Folder 5: Scrapbook, 1958-1959

Folder 6: Scrapbook, 1961-1962

Folder 7: Unfinished scrapbook, 1962

Series 5: Books, and the items stored in books

Folder 1: Items pulled from *The Arab of the Desert*

Folder 2: Items pulled from *Arabian Highlands*

Folder 3: Items pulled from *Saudi Arabia*

Folder 4: Items pulled from *Kuwait and Her Neighbors*

The Arab of the Desert by H.R.P. Dickson, 1951

Arabian Highlands by H. St. J. B. Philby, 1952

Saudi Arabia by K.S. Twitchell, 1953

Kuwait and Her Neighbors by H.R.P. Dickson, 1956

Arabian Destiny by Jacques Benoist-Mechin, 1957