



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Spanish Swindle letters**

1923, 1950, 1952

MssCol 4627

**Summary**

**Creator:** Spanish Swindle.

**Title:** Spanish Swindle letters

**Date:** 1923, 1950, 1952

**Size:** .1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Abstract:** A Spanish Swindle, also called a Spanish prisoner swindle, was a confidence scheme which involved sending letters to prospective marks announcing that a wealthy man was being held in a Spanish prison under false pretenses and needed to raise money to secure his release. The mark is instructed to put up money toward this ransom, with the promise of a large reward once the prisoner is released. Collection includes swindle letters mailed to prospective victims from Mexico (1950, 1952) and Spain (1923). Also includes correspondence and clippings concerning the swindle

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