



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Kurt Fisher Haitian collection (additions)

1810-1957

Sc MG 683

Summary

Creator: Fisher, Kurt A., 1908-

Title: Kurt Fisher Haitian collection (additions)

Date: 1810-1957

Size: 2.04 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Purchase from University Place Book Store, 1983, and Mrs. Kurt Fisher, August 2000.

Abstract: This collection contains additional Haitian historical documents from the collector Kurt Fisher, an archaeologist and scholar of Haitian history and culture.

Preferred citation: [Item], Kurt Fisher Haitian collection (additions), Sc MG 683, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: French Most of the material is in French.

Processing note: Accessioned by Andre Elizee, January 2001.

Separated Materials:

Jeanne Aline manumission document transferred to the Haiti miscellaneous collection, Sc MG 119, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Related Materials:

Eugene Maximilien Haitian collection, Sc Micro R-3702, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Kurt Fisher Haitian collection, Sc Micro R-2228, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

Kurt Fisher, an archaeologist and scholar of Haitian history and culture, was born in Vienna, in 1908, into a long-established family of art collectors and antique dealers. While a student, he became interested in West Indian history and wrote a thesis on Henry Christophe. In 1938, after completing his studies in archaeology at the University of Vienna, he emigrated to Haiti where he pursued his studies in Precolumbian archaeology. From 1941-1949, Fisher was the assistant director of the Bureau of Ethnology of Haiti. Married to a Haitian woman of social prominence, Fisher continued his lifelong interest in collecting, amassing a large and important set of military miniatures as well as source materials relating to Haiti, herein described.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains additional Haitian historical documents from Kurt Fisher. It complements the initial Kurt Fisher Haitian collection, also held in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division. This collection consists mostly of diplomatic correspondence, government papers, and the papers of General Francois St. Surin Manigat.

Arrangement: Arranged into 3 series: I. Diplomatic correspondence; II. Government papers; and III. St. Surin Manigat, Francois.

Key Terms

Subjects

Diplomats -- Haiti
Syrians -- Haiti

Geographic Names

Haiti -- Emigration and immigration -- 19th century
Haiti -- Foreign relations -- Dominican Republic
Haiti -- Foreign relations -- France
Haiti -- Foreign relations -- Germany
Haiti -- Foreign relations -- Great Britain
Haiti -- History -- American occupation, 1915-1934
Haiti -- Politics and government -- 1844-1934
Miragoâne (Haiti)

Names

Ardouin, B. (Beaubrun), 1796-1865
Bassett, Ebenezer D., 1833-1908
Fisher, Kurt A., 1908-
Henri Christophe, King of Haiti, 1767-1820
Janvier, Louis Joseph, 1855-1911
Madiou, Thomas, 1814-1884
Manigat, Francois
Preston, Stephen
Salomon, Louis Etienne Fe_licite_ Lysius, 1815-1888
Thoby, Perceval
Union patriotique (Haiti)

Container List

Diplomatic correspondence 1856-1956

The Diplomatic correspondence pertains to Haiti's relations with the Dominican Republic, the United States, France, and other countries. Correspondents include Ebenezer Bassett, Louis Joseph Janvier, Thomas Madiou, and Stephen Preston. Also included are materials related to the Maunder claim, by which England sought to seize the island of Tortuga from Haiti in the 1870s; complaints by the German representative about negative stories in the Haitian press about Germany in 1940; complaints and measures involving Syrian merchants illegally engaged in the retail trade; and various documents related to the immigration status of foreign nationals in Haiti, the trades in which they engaged, police actions against them, and the protestations of their governments.

- b. 1 f. 1 **General 1800s**
Includes James Redpath letter copybook, 1862-1863.
- b. 1 f. 2 **General 1900s**
- Countries**
 - b. 1 f. 3-4 **Dominican Republic 1800s-1900s**
 - b. 1 f. 5 **Cuba**
 - b. 1 f. 6 **England**
 - b. 1 f. 7 **France**
 - b. 1 f. 8 **Germany**
 - b. 1 f. 9 **Panama**
 - b. 1 f. 10 **United States**
 - b. 1 f. 11 **Other**
- Diplomats and Ministers**
 - b. 1 f. 12 **Bassett, Ebenezer**
 - b. 1 f. 13 **Box, Alfred**
 - b. 1 f. 14 **Firmin, Anténor**
 - b. 1 f. 15 **Janvier, Louis-Joseph**
 - b. 1 f. 16 **Lorquet, Polémon**
 - b. 1 f. 17 **Madiou, Thomas**
 - b. 1 f. 18 **Preston, Stephen**
- b. 1 f. 19 **Foreign nationals in Haiti**
- b. 2 f. 1 **Haitian Consulate in New York 1903-1905**
Includes letter copybook.

Government papers 1810-1957

The Government papers series comprises a file of autographed letters from Haitian heads of state ranging from 1810-1955; one 1816 financial ledger from the period of Henri Christophe's reign; a letter copybook from Haitian statesman Beaubrun Ardouin (1845-1846); legislative correspondence and a letter copybook from the Haitian Senate (1883-1884); and other government papers, including contracts and customs documents indicative of Haiti's import and export trade. The remainder of this series concerns various presidential administrations, including the "Ephemeral Governments" period of 1912-1915, and the U.S. occupation of Haiti in 1915-1934. Also included are documents of the Patriotic Union, an organization of Haitian intellectuals opposed to the U.S. occupation, and correspondence of its national coordinator, Perceval Thoby.

- b. 2 f. 2 **Financial ledger from Henry Christophe administration 1816**
- b. 2 f. 3 **Beaubrun Ardouin letter copybook 1845-1846**
- b. 3 f. 1 **Executive correspondence 1810-1944**

Government papers (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 2 Executive orders 1906-1957
- b. 3 f. 3 Senate letter copybook 1883-1884
- b. 3 f. 4 Legislative correspondence and documents
- b. 3 f. 5 General correspondence 1872-1939
- b. 3 f. 6 Contracts
- b. 3 f. 7 Customs
- b. 3 f. 8 City of Jacmel, receipts and expenses 1991
- b. 3 f. 9 Pétion, Boyer, Geffrard administrations
- b. 3 f. 10 Soulouque, Faustin
- b. 3 f. 11 Saget, Nissage
- b. 3 f. 12 Salomon, Louis Etienne Félicité Lysius
- b. 3 f. 13 "Gouvernements Ephémères" 1912-1915
- b. 3 f. 14 U.S. occupation 1915-1934
- b. 3 f. 15 Patriotic Union 1920-1930

St. Surin Manigat, Francois 1883-1898

General Francois St. Surin Manigat served under President Louis Etienne Felicite Lysius Salomon as Minister of Education and Agriculture, and as Delegate Extraordinary during the 1883-1884 siege of the city of Miragoane. He became the uncontested leader of the National Party after President Salomon's death.

This series consists of personal letters; correspondence related to the military campaign led by General Manigat against the Liberal insurrection of 1883; documents relating to Manigat's own insurgency against the Hyppolite government in 1892; and Manigat's diplomatic correspondence from 1897-1898.

- b. 4 f. 1 Against liberal insurrection 1883
- b. 4 f. 2 Private correspondence 1886-1888
- b. 4 f. 3 Kingston insurgency 1892-1895
- b. 4 f. 4-5 Diplomatic correspondence 1897-1898