

George Alexander Emanuele Minetty

CMS.112

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Migration Studies
Creator	Minetty, George Alexander Emanuele, 1869-1940
Title	George Alexander Emanuele Minetty Papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1898-1903
Date [inclusive]	Bulk, 1898-1903 1808-1981
Extent	1.0 document box
General Physical Description note	The book itself is in very fragile condition and should be stored flat.
Location note	Since 2012 CMS.112 has been housed at 307 E. 60th Street, New York, New York 10022
Language	Italian
Abstract	CMS.112 consists of two items: a handwritten Italian-language history of the Spanish-American War and the pacification of the Philippines by an Italian-born member of the U.S. Army, and a small collection of photocopies of documents and photographs illuminating the biography of its author, George Alexander Emanuele Minetty.

Preferred Citation note

Center for Migration Studies of New York; Collection Name (112); Box; Folder

Biographical/Historical note

George Alexander Emanuele Minetti changed the spelling of his last name to Minetty in order to help Americans correctly pronounce it. Minetti was born 13 January 1869 in San Giorgio Canavese, due north of Turnin the Piedmont region of Italy, to Maria Conti Minetti and Pietro Minetti. Minetty served in the Italian army in what he called in his writings the 1887 Battle of Abyssinia. He then migrated to the United States and joined the U.S. Army in time for the 1898 Spanish-American War, during which he participated in the Battle of San Juan Hill. He then shipped out to the Pacific Rim and served in the Philippines during the pacification of those islands (1899-1902). He also saw action during the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900. Later, he returned to the United States and served in the American Southwest in the last days of the frontier. He ended his service managing U.S. Army weapons caches at the Rock Island Arsenal in Iowa.

In 1909, having returned to civilizan life, Minetty married the widowed Genevra Maria Lunardi Nicoletti and became a stepfather to her two boys, Tulio (1907-1986) and Mario (1911-?), sons of her first husband, Rafael. He and Maria had one daughter, Maria Genevra. The Minetty family settled at 512 East Sixth Street in Davenport, Iowa, living in an unusual, octagonal, house.

In civilian life, Georg Minetty worked for the Ordnance Steel Foundry Company in Bettendorf, Iowa. He also had his own business selling steamship tickets on commission. He held a patent for his invention of a railroad car specially designed to dump loads of coal or other material efficiently. He was an integral part of his community, a member of the Sons of Italy and of National Society-Army of the Philippines, a veterans' society for those who served in that country. He also found time to write, not only the history of the Spanish-American War preserved in CMS.110, but another 750 long-hand history of the Philippines and a novel with a love story at its center. He died at home October 20, 1940. By then his children had grown up and his daughter Maria had become Mrs. Dick Hartman, and started a family of her own. Maria Minetty Hartman's daughter Layna inherited the Spanish-Ameican War history at the heart of CMS.112.

Scope and Contents note

CMS.112 consists of two items. The main item is George Alexander Emanuele Minetty's "Storia della Guerra," a history of the Spansh-American War handwritten in Italian in a repurposed ledger book. A table of contents written on pages 1-2 and again on page 699, provide a guide as to the contents. The manuscript covers a period from just before the begining of the Spanish-American War in 1898 (the sinking of the Maine does not look as large in Minetty's history as it does in others) to the American conquest of the Philippines in 1902.

Supplementing the book is a folder of photocopies of documents and photographs (one original photograph) of family papers that add information about Minetty's biography. Donor Layna Portugal deposited these items.

Arrangement note

CMS.112 consists of one document box with two items therein. One is a repurposed ledger in which George Alexander Emanuele Minetty penned his history of the Spanish-American War. The other is a folder of documents, arranged chronologically, related to Minetty's history.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Migration Studies 16 October 2015

Conditions Governing Access note

Open to researchers by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright is owned by the Center for Migration Studies. Permission to publish must be requested before use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The Center for Migration Studies acquired CMS.112 from Layna Portugal, whose mother was Minetty's daughter.

Existence and Location of Originals note

The original copies of the documents, exclusive of the book on the Spanish-American War, remain with Minetty's granddaughter, Lanya Portugal.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Spanish-American War, 1898.

Collection Inventory

Papers 1808-1981

Storia della guerra 1930s