

# **William H. Shehadi Collection of Kahlil Gibran**

**C1178**

---

Last updated on , , Apri.

Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

2007

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Administrative Information.....	5
Controlled Access Headings.....	5
Collection Inventory.....	7
Series 1: Manuscripts.....	7
Series 2: Photographs.....	10
Series 3: Miscellaneous Material.....	11

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	Princeton University. Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections Manuscripts Division One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA  Gibran, Kahlil, 1883-1931.
<b>Title</b>	William H. Shehadi Collection of Kahlil Gibran
<b>Call number</b>	C1178
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1918-1991
<b>Date [bulk]</b>	1918-1931
<b>Extent</b>	4 linear feet (2 archival boxes, 1 oversize flat box)
<b>Location</b>	mss
<b>Location</b>	hsvm
<b>Location</b>	Box 1 of this collection is stored in special vault facilities. See Access for details.
<b>Language</b>	EnglishArabicFrench
<b>Abstract</b>	Consists of manuscripts, photographs, and ephemera by and about the Lebanese-American philosophical essayist, novelist, mystical poet, and artist Kahlil Gibran, who, by fusing elements of Eastern and Western mysticism, achieved lasting fame with such poetic works as <i>The Prophet</i>

(1923) and *Jesus, the Son of Man* (1928). This material was collected by William H. Shehadi.

## Biography/History

Kahlil Gibran -- Jubran Khalil Jubran (in Arabic)-- was a Lebanese-American philosophical essayist, novelist, poet, and artist. He was born in Bsharri, Lebanon, but spent much of his productive life in the United States. Due to his family's poverty, Gibran did not receive any formal schooling during his youth in Lebanon. However, priests visited him regularly and taught him about the Bible as well as the Syriac and Arabic languages. During these early days, he began developing ideas that would later form some of his major works. Gibran immigrated with his parents to America in 1895. The family settled in Boston's South End, which had a large Lebanese-American community. It was there that school officials placed Gibran in a special class for immigrants to learn English. One of his English teachers being unfamiliar with the Arabic language suggested that Gibran Anglicize the spelling of his name in order to make it more acceptable to American society; since then he became known as Kahlil Gibran.

In his early teens, the artistry of Gibran's drawings caught the eye of his teachers, and in 1898 his drawings were used for book covers. He held his first art exhibition in 1904 in Boston, and it was there that he met Mary Haskell, who was to be his benefactor all his life. In 1908, he went to study art with Auguste Rodin in Paris; and in 1912, he settled in New York City at the West Tenth Street Studio for Artists in Greenwich Village. There he devoted himself to writing literary essays and short stories, both in Arabic and in English, and to painting. While most of Gibran's early writings were in Syriac and Arabic, most of his work published after 1918 was in English.

Gibran's literary and artistic work is highly romantic and was influenced by the Bible, Friedrich Nietzsche, and William Blake. His writings in both languages, which deal with such themes as love, death, nature, and a longing for his homeland, are full of lyrical outpourings and are expressive of his deeply religious and mystic nature. His best-known work is *The Prophet*, a book composed of twenty-six poetic essays. During the 1960s, the book became especially popular with the American counterculture and New Age movements, and it remains popular to this day, having been translated into more than 20 languages. Gibran died in New York City, but his wish was to be buried in Lebanon. Mary Haskell and his sister, Mariana, fulfilled this wish by purchasing the Mar Sarkis Monastery in Bsharri, Lebanon, where he was buried. Kahlil Gibran remains the most popular Lebanese-American writer.

William Shehadi, M.D., was born in Providence, R.I., of Lebanese parents. He graduated from the School of Medicine of the American University of Beirut and was an emeritus professor of New York Medical College.

## Administrative Information

---

Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

2007

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

### Form/Genre(s)

- Manuscripts, American -- 20th century.
- Photographs -- 20th century.
- Poems -- 20th century.
- Posters.
- Stamps.

### Geographic Name(s)

- Lebanon -- Photographs.

### Personal Name(s)

- Gibran, Khalil, 1883-1931-- Manuscripts.
- Shehadi, Albert -- former owner.
- Shehadi, William -- former owner.

### Subject(s)

- American literature -- Lebanese American authors.
- Lebanese American authors -- Manuscripts.
- Lebanese Americans -- Drawings.

- Lebanese Americans -- Poetry.
- Mysticism and literature -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
- Middle East

Series 1: Manuscripts

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### **Series 1: Manuscripts, 1918-1931. 1 box.**

#### **Scope and Content**

This first series represents both published and unpublished Gibran material.

#### **Arrangement**

Folders are arranged by title in the order that they appear in Shehadi's book.

### **Subseries 1A: Fragments, 1918-1931. 4 folders.**

#### **Arrangement**

No apparent arrangement scheme.

#### **Scope and Content**

Consists of fragments of manuscripts for "Lullaby," "The Last Guest," and "Poverty and Sundry Aphorisms."

### **"Lullaby", undated. 1 folder.**

#### **Scope and Content**

A one-page fragment headed "A lullaby sung by a mother to her dead child."

**Subseries 1B: The Madman**

---

**"The Last Guest", undated. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

These lines (8 pp.), according to Shehadi, may have been intended for but not included in the next fragment.

**"Untitled", undated. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Two pages.

**"Poverty and Sundry Aphorisms", undated. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Three pages.

**Subseries 1B: *The Madman*, 1918. 11 folders.**

**Arrangement**

Organized alphabetically by name.

**Scope and Content**

Consists of manuscripts for *The Madman* with corrections and notes.



**Subseries 1C: The Forerunner**

---

**Subseries 1B: *The Madman*, undated. 11 folders.**

**Scope and Content**

Incomplete manuscript (20 pp.) with corrections and annotations, and notes in Arabic, which correspond to eleven of the thirty-four poems of the published work.

**Subseries 1C: *The Forerunner*, 1920. 7 folders.**

**Arrangement**

Organized alphabetically by name.

**Scope and Content**

Consists of manuscripts for *The Forerunner* with corrections and notes.

**Subseries 1C: *The Forerunner*, undated. 7 folders.**

**Scope and Content**

Incomplete manuscript (12 pp.) with corrections and annotations, which correspond to seven of the twenty-four parables and poems of the published work.

**Subseries 1D: *The Prophet*, 1923. 4 folders.**

**Arrangement**

Organized alphabetically by name.

**Scope and Content**

Consists of manuscripts for *The Prophet* with corrections and notes.

**Subseries 1E: The Earth Gods**

---

**Subseries 1D: *The Prophet*, undated. 4 folders.**

**Scope and Content**

Incomplete manuscript with corrections and annotations, made up of four separate books or parts. These include a title page, an incomplete table of contents, a Prologue, and nineteen of the twenty-six sermons, some in more than one draft; and finally the epilogue/farewell.

**Subseries 1E: *The Earth Gods*, 1931. 1 folder.**

**Arrangement**

Organized alphabetically by name.

**Scope and Content**

Consists of manuscripts for *The Earth Gods* with corrections and notes.

**Subseries 1E: *The Earth Gods*, undated. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Incomplete manuscript, consisting of a notebook with twenty five-written pages with many corrections and annotations. They correspond to pp. 1- 27 (or about two thirds) of the Knopf printed version.

---

**Series 2: Photographs, 1918-1991. 2 folders.**

**Scope and Content**

These include Gibran's studio on West 10th street in New York, his desk at the studio; photos of his grave, the Cedars of Lebanon; and photos of pages from the manuscript *The Prophet*. Also includes a copy of photograph of Gibran, his bedroom as a child in Lebanon, and a copy of a photograph of

**Series 3: Miscellaneous Material**

---

Gibran's bedroom which was transported from his New York City Studio apartment to the Museum in Bsharri, Lebanon. Many of the photographs are inscribed on the verso by Shehadi.

**Arrangement**

Folders are arranged first by original photographs, followed in the second folder by photograph copies.

Series 2: Photographs, undated. 2 folders.

---

**Series 3: Miscellaneous Material, 1918-1991. 7 folders (1 poster box).**

**Scope and Content**

Includes cards and postcards, copies of artwork, postage stamps, pamphlets, envelopes and folders, newspaper clippings, posters, and a copy of William Shehadi's book about Gibran's work.

**Arrangement**

Folders are arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

**Shehadi, William, *Kahlil Gibran, a Prophet in the Making*, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

One volume.

**Cards and Postcards, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Includes blank cards depicting Gibran's artwork.

**Series 3: Miscellaneous Material**

---

**Copies of Artwork, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Contains copies of Gibran's artwork and a CD-ROM with photographs of Gibran's art collection.

**Envelopes and Folders, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Contains the original enclosures which housed the manuscripts; most of which are inscribed by William Shehadi.

**Newspaper Clippings, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Contains clippings of articles about Gibran, in English and in Arabic.

**Pamphlets, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Includes pamphlets in English, Arabic, and French for seminars or dedications about Gibran.

**Copies of Artwork, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Includes a CD-Rom and copies of Gibran's artwork.

**Series 3: Miscellaneous Material**

---

**Posters, dates not examined. 1 box.**

**Scope and Content**

Consists of eleven posters, in English and Arabic, of Gibran's artwork or of commemorative occasions about him.

**Stamps, dates not examined. 1 folder.**

**Scope and Content**

Contains commemorative Lebanese postage stamps of Gibran.