



# ArchivesSpace

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## William Shaw letters4079329

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Shaw, William
<b>Creator:</b>	Shaw, P. E. (Plato Ernest), 1883-1947
<b>Title:</b>	William Shaw letters
<b>ID:</b>	4079329
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1153
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1860-1904
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 boxes 5 boxes (497 items)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English , Turkish , Greek, Modern (1453-) .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William Shaw letters; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Shaw was an English "commercial merchant" from about 1860 to 1904. He was agent for a number of English companies in Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey, notably the Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Co., later known as Vickers Sons. The director of Maxim Nordenfelt was Basil Zaharoff, often called "the mystery man of Europe." One of the richest men in the world and a major international figure in munitions and finance during and after World War I, Zaharoff's origins have been shrouded in mystery.

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## Summary

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Business and personal correspondence of Shaw. There are letters from Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Co. to Shaw in the 1890s concerning the sale of arms and munitions to the Greek government, and letters from Basil Zaharoff, director of Maxim Nordenfelt and personal friend of Mr. Shaw; personal letters from Plato Draculis, Greek emigré to England, a writer and some-time professor of Modern Greek at Oxford; letters from Stephen Skouloudis, Greek Prime Minister during World War I; and letters from various members of Shaw's family, friends, and business associates, written in Greek and Turkish. Of major interest in this collection is the material concerning Basil Zaharoff. This correspondence reveals much about his early career. Part of the collection also has a bearing on the international situation of Greece in a critical period. Also, transcripts of and typed quotations from various letters with other notes assembled by Plato E. Shaw for his father's biography.

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## Arrangement

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Cataloged.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located on-site.

### **Restrictions on Access**

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Shaw, Plato E. Method of acquisition--Bequest; Date of acquisition--1950. Accession number--M-50.

### **Processing Information**

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 09/--/89.

### **Alternate Form Available**

Microfilm available of letters from Basil Zaharoff, Maxin Nordenfelt Co., and Stephen Skouloudis. MN#11920.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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- Finance
- World War, 1914-1918
- Military weapons
- Military weapons -- Greece
- Prime ministers -- Greece
- Greek immigrants
- Greece -- Politics and government

- Greece -- Commerce
- Cyprus -- Commerce
- Turkey -- Commerce
- Merchants
- Zaharoff, Basil, Sir, 1850-1936
- Draculis, Plato
- Skouloudis, Stephen
- University of Oxford -- : Faculty
- Maxim Nordenfelt Guns and Ammunition Co