

Ferdinand Forzinetti:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection of Alfred Dreyfus and the Dreyfus Affair at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Forzinetti, Ferdinand, 1839-1909
Title:	Collection of Alfred Dreyfus and the Dreyfus Affair
Dates:	1894-1947
Extent:	2 boxes (.84 linear feet), 1 oversize folder
Abstract:	This collection contains letters, documents, and photographs related to the Dreyfus Affair. Correspondents of note include George Clemenceau, Alfred Dreyfus, Ferdinand Labori, Auguste Mercier, Georges Picquart, and Joseph Reinach. Documents include the text of the "Bordereau"; Forzinetti's communications with the military command regarding the incarceration and treatment of Dreyfus; Emile Zola's article "J'Accuse"; a copy of Dreyfus's compilation of letters to his wife, <i>Lettres D'un Innocent</i> ; and correspondence of the subsequent generation. Photographic images include a police photograph of Dreyfus taken after his degradation ceremony, and portraits of Georges-Marie Picquart, Emile Zola, and Alfred Dreyfus.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-04949
Language:	Most material in English and French.
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

URL:	www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fa/forzinetti.hp.html
Acquisition:	Purchase, 2004 (Reg. 15273)
Processed by:	Alex Jasinski and Liz Murray, 2004
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Sources:

McGrath, Patrick J. and Glenn Horowitz. *The Forzinetti Archive and the Dreyfus Affair*. New York: Glenn Horowitz Bookseller, 2002.

Scope and Contents

In October 1894, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a French Army General Staff trainee of the 14th Artillery, was accused of high treason and subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island. Ferdinand Forzinetti, commandant of Cherche-Midi military prison where Dreyfus was first held, was convinced of Dreyfus's innocence from the beginning and is credited as the first Frenchman to protest his innocence. This collection of letters, documents, and photographs provides a unique vantage point for understanding the Dreyfus Affair, which became the vortex of French politics in the latter part of the 19th century.

This collection is arranged primarily in chronological order, following the descriptive catalogue *The Forzinetti Archive & The Dreyfus Affair*, by Patrick J. McGrath and Glenn Horowitz. A copy of the catalogue is available in the repository with the inventory. In a few instances, the date arrangement has been adjusted to facilitate the narrative. The collection items are in individual folders and are described individually in the following folder list. Folder numbers follow the catalogue's item numbers, and narrative headings from the catalogue also appear in the folder list. While the documents are present in the original French language, translations by Professor Julie Fette of the University of Maryland are provided in the catalogue, and dates have been anglicized.

Correspondents of note include George Clemenceau, Alfred Dreyfus, Ferdinand Labori, Auguste Mercier, Georges Picquart, and Joseph Reinach. There are over thirty letters from Dreyfus to Forzinetti during the eleven year period from 1899-1909, dating from Dreyfus's pardon to Forzinetti's death. Transcriptions of Forzinetti's letters to Dreyfus are also present. Authors and photographers of the letters, documents, and photographs are listed in the index at the end of the finding aid.

The documents include the text of the "Bordereau," written by Dreyfus at his second court martial in 1899; Forzinetti's communications with the military command regarding the incarceration and treatment of Dreyfus; Emile Zola's explosive article "J'Accuse" in the January 1898 issue of *L'Aurore*; and a copy of Dreyfus's compilation of letters to his wife, *Lettres D'un Innocent*, published in 1898. In all, the documents trace the narrative from its duplicitous beginnings, through the coverup, to exoneration, all with an overlay of anti-Semitism and political intrigue. The papers also reflect the price Forzinetti paid for his convictions, for he did not fair well at the hands of the authorities, as his military career faltered and finally ended in the early 1900s.

Photographic images include a police photograph of Dreyfus taken after the degradation ceremony on January 5, 1895; and portrait photographs of Georges-Marie Picquart, Emile Zola, and Alfred Dreyfus.

The papers also contain correspondence of the subsequent generation, through the sons of Dreyfus and Forzinetti. Forzinetti's son, Louis, annotated many of the documents and letters, adding dates and other pertinent information.

Much of the material is fragile and has been housed in mylar sleeves. Care should be taken in handling these papers.

Additional material by and about Alfred Dreyfus and the Dreyfus Affair can be found in the Ransom Center's Ernest William Smith and Carlton Lake Collections. These materials include books, newspapers and magazines, a number of letters and postcards, and two original drawings of courtroom events (one by Paul Renouard), as well as items concerning the British film *The Dreyfus Case* (1931).

The Bordereau, 1899

Dreyfus, Alfred. Text of the "Bordereau," n.d. [Rennes, Aug.-Sept. 1899]

Box 1
Folder
1

Dreyfus's Arrest, Interrogation and Trial, 1894- 1895

Transcription of three Oct. 14, 1894 orders from Gen. Auguste Mercier to Forzinetti	Box 1 Folder 2
[Mercier, Auguste]. Recommendations speciales pour M. le Commandant Forzinetti, Paris, Oct. 15, 1894	Folder 3
Transcription of Forzinetti's letter to Gen. Saussier, Oct. 27, 1894	Folder 4
Gribelin, Felix. Transcription of report by Dr. Defos du Rau on health of Dreyfus, Oct. 28, 1894	Folder 5
Handwritten letter from F. Gribelin to Forzinetti, [Oct. 1894]	Folder 6
Certified copy of letter from Auguste Mercier to Gen. Saussier, Dec. 12, 1894 (certified by S. Tisseyre)	Folder 7
Handwritten letter signed "Michel" to Gen. Saussier, Dec. 13, 1894, with transcription	Folder 8
Bertillon, Alphonse. Police photograph of Dreyfus taken after the degradation ceremony, Jan. 5, 1895	Folder 9
Transcription of letter from Gen. Tisseyre to Gen. Saussier, Dec. 14, 1894	Folder 10
Handwritten letters from S. Tisseyre to Forzinetti, Jan. 2, 1894 [1895]	Box 1 Folder 11
Jan. 4, 1895	Folder 12

Dreyfus on Devil's Island, 1898

Dreyfus, Alfred. Lettre D'un Innocent, Paris: P-V. Stock, 1898, signed by Dreyfus

Box 1
Folder
13

Forzinetti and the Beginning of the Revision Campaign, 1895-1897

Letter from A. Mercier to Deputy Rouvier, Jan. 26, 1895, handwritten in secretarial hand	Box 1 Folder 14
Handwritten document in secretarial hand, signed Tisseyre, Feb. 16, 1895, certified copy; Certified copy of letter from Minister of War Emile Zurlinden to Gen. Saussier, transcription	Folder 15
Typed letter from Forzinetti to the Minister of War, Feb. 19, 1895	Folder 16
Handwritten letter from "Rouvier" to Forzinetti, Mar. 2, 1895	Folder 17
Letter from Gen. Saussier to Forzinetti, Mar. 5, 1895, in secretarial hand	Folder 18
"Lettre de Service" appointing Forzinetti Battalion Chief, Mar. 22, 1895 [removed to oversize folder]	Folder 19
Handwritten letter [unknown correspondent, Société Généralé letterhead] to Forzinetti, Mar. 28, 1895	Folder 20
Transcription of Forzinetti's Mar. 30, 1895 letter to the Land and Mortgage Bank	Folder 21
Handwritten letter, signed "Lambert," to Forzinetti, May 13, 1895, in secretarial hand	Folder 22
Handwritten letter, signed "Ribot," to Senator Cirman, June 17, 1895, in secretarial hand	Folder 23
Handwritten letter, signed "Cirman," to Forzinetti, June 19, 1895	Folder 24
Order of Convocation (Army Corps letterhead), June 23, 1895	Folder 25

Handwritten letter, signed "S. Tisseyre," to Forzinetti, Nov. 23, 1896	Folder 26
Handwritten letter, signed "Meynaud," to Forzinetti, Feb. 5, 1897	Folder 27
Printed "Ordre de Convocation" (7th Army Corps letterhead) to Forzinetti, May 26, 1897	Folder 28
Document signed for the Minister of War to Forzinetti, July 1, 1897	Folder 29
Handwritten letter from Albert d'Aboville to Forzinetti, July 5, 1897	Folder 30

Picquart, The Petit Bleu and the Esterhazy Trial, 1897-1908

Photographic portrait by A. Gerschel of Georges- Marie Picquart, n.d.	Box 1 Folder 31
Typed letter from Marie Charles Esterhazy to "a gentleman," Feb. 2 1908	Folder 32
Transcriptions of letters from Forzinetti to Count K��ratry, Oct. 31, 1897	Box 1 Folder 33
Nov. 1, 1897, with K��ratry's reply, Nov. 19, 1897	Folder 34
Handwritten letter from Forzinetti to K��ratry, Nov. 1, 1897	Folder 35
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Gen. Saussier, Nov. 2, 1897	Folder 36
Handwritten documents dismissing Forzinetti from his post, Nov. 18, 1897, signed by Gen. Saussier	Box 1 Folder 37
Nov. 18, 1897, from Minister of War, signed by "Aranches"	Folder 38
Transcription of Forzinetti's letter to K��ratry, Nov. 19, 1897	Folder 39
Transcription of Forzinetti's letter to Henri Rochefort, Nov. 20, 1897	Folder 40
Transcription of Forzinetti's "Ordre du Prison," Nov. 20, 1897	Folder 41
Handwritten letter from "Langlade" to Forzinetti, Nov. 27, 1897	Folder 42

Typed and printed documents [oversize material removed to oversize folder]

Folder
43

Zola and J'Accuse: The Affair at Fever Pitch, 1898-1899

Zola, Emile. "J'Accuse!" in <i>L'Aurore</i> , Jan. 3, 1898 [removed to oversize folder]	Box 1 Folder 44
Portrait photograph of Emile Zola, inscribed	Folder 45
Court of Appeals summons directing Forzinetti to appear on Jan. 27, 1899	Folder 46
Handwritten letter from Georges-Marie Picquart to Forzinetti, May 30, 1899	Folder 47

The Rennes Trial, 1899

Telegram from Lucie Dreyfus to Forzinetti, June 3, 1899	Box 1 Folder 48
Telegram from Paul Valabrègue to Forzinetti, June 4, 1899	Folder 49
Draft of telegram from Forzinetti to Dreyfus [ca. June-July, 1899]	Folder 50
Handwritten note to the Paris Prefect of Police, July 26, 1899	Folder 51
Summons directing Forzinetti to appear and testify on Aug. 7, 1899	Folder 52
Telegrams from "Sauphar[d]" to Forzinetti,	
Aug. 18, 1899	Box 1 Folder 53
Sept. 11, 1899	Folder 54
Handwritten note from Georges Clemenceau to Forzinetti, [ca. late Oct., 1899], and handwritten document from Jean Pecorari to Forzinetti, Oct. 26, 1899	Folder 55

Forzinetti-Dreyfus Correspondence, 1899-1906?

Photographic portrait of Alfred Dreyfus, n.d., inscribed	Box 1 Folder 56
Handwritten letter from Alfred and Lucie Dreyfus to Forzinetti, Oct. 13, 1899	Folder 57
Handwritten letters from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti,	
Dec. 18, 1899	Box 1 Folder 58
Dec. 23, 1899	Folder 59
[ca. Jan., 1900]	Folder 60
Jan. 17, 1900	Folder 61
[ca. 1900]	Folder 62
May 3, 1900	Folder 63
June 28, 1900	Folder 64
Aug. 7, 1900	Folder 65
Sept. 17, 1900	Folder 66
[ca. 1900]	Folder 67
[ca. Fall, 1900]	Folder 68
Dec. 27, 1900	Folder 69
Handwritten letter from Ferdinand Labori to Forzinetti, Mar. 19, 1901	Folder 70
Handwritten letters from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti,	
Dec. 16, 1901	Box 1 Folder 71
April 2, n.y.	Folder 72
May 1, [1901]	Folder 73
[1902]	Folder 74

June 27, 1902	Folder 75
Sept. 3, 1902	Folder 76
Postmarked Nov. 28, 1902	Folder 77
n.d. [ca. 1901-1902]	Folder 78
[ca. 1902]	Box 2 Folder 79
Dec. 27, 1902	Folder 80
Handwritten letter from Mathieu Dreyfus to Forzinetti, Dec. 27, 1903	Folder 81
Handwritten letters from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti	
Postmarked May, 1903	Box 2 Folder 82
Dec. 10, [1903?]	Folder 83
Handwritten letter from Mathieu Dreyfus to Forzinetti, Dec. 28, 1903	Folder 84
Handwritten letter from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti [Jan. 1904]	Folder 85
Handwritten note signed by Forzinetti, n.d.	Folder 86
Transcription of letter from Mathieu Dreyfus to Forzinetti, Dec. 3, 1904	Folder 87
Handwritten letter from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti, n.d. [ca. Dec. 1904]	Folder 88
Handwritten letter from Louise Cahn to Forzinetti, Oct. 27, 1904, and June 27th, [1904?]	Folder 89
Handwritten note from Alfred Dreyfus on his calling card, n.d. [ca. 1904-1906?]	Folder 90

Handwritten letter from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti, Sept. 9 [1904?]

Folder
91

Revision at Last, 1906-1907

Telegram from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti, July 12, 1906	Box 2 Folder 92
Transcription of telegram from Forzinetti to Dreyfus, July 13, 1906	Folder 93
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Dreyfus, July 14, 1906	Folder 94
Transcription of letters from Forzinetti to Louise Hadamard and Joseph Reinach, July 14, 1906	Folder 95
Handwritten letters from Alfred Dreyfus to Forzinetti, Postmarked Oct. 10, 1906	Box 2 Folder 96
Postmarked Oct. 19, 1906	Folder 97
Handwritten letter from Forzinetti to Col. Picquart, n.d. [ca. 1906?]	Folder 98
Handwritten notes in Forzinetti's hand n.d. [ca. 1906-1907?]	Box 2 Folder 99
Directed to "Your Highness," n.d. [ca. 1906- 1907?]	Folder 100

Forzinetti-Reinach Letters, 1899-1909

Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Joseph Reinach, May 5, 1899	Box 2 Folder 101
Typed and handwritten transcriptions of Forzinetti's letter to Reinach, June 12, 1900 [handwritten transcription removed to oversize folder]	Folder 102
Handwritten letters from Reinach to Forzinetti, n.d. [ca. 1900-1902?]	Box 2 Folder 103-112
Dec. 28, 1903	Folder 113
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Reinach, Sept. 29, 1906	Folder 114
Handwritten letter from Reinach to Forzinetti, n.d. [Oct. 26, 1906?]	Folder 115
Transcription of letter from Du Paty de Clam to Gil Blas, Nov. 20, 1906, together with a note by Forzinett	Folder 116
Handwritten letter from Reinach to Forzinetti, n.d. [Dec. 18, 1906?], with note by Forzinetti	Folder 117
Transcription of letters from Forzinetti to Reinach, Dec. 20, 1906	Box 2 Folder 118
Dec. 21, 1906	Folder 119
Handwritten letter from Reinach to Forzinetti, Dec. 27, 1906	Folder 120
Handwritten letter from Mathieu Dreyfus to Forzinetti, Dec. 28, 1906	Folder 121
Transcription of letters from Forzinetti to Reinach,	

Dec. 29, 1906	Box 2 Folder 122
Jan. 18, 1907	Folder 123
Handwritten letter from Reinach to Forzinetti, [Jan. 20, 1907]	Folder 124
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Reinach, Feb. 8, 1907	Folder 125
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to the Prince of Monaco, Mar. 20, 1907	Folder 126
Transcription of Forzinetti's Mar. 20, 1907 letter to "Roger" (same text as Item 126)	Folder 127
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to the Prince of Monaco, Mar. 26, 1907	Folder 128
Handwritten letter from "Roger" to Forzinetti, May 4, 1907	Folder 129
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Reinach, May 8, 1907	Folder 130
Handwritten letter from Reinach to Forzinetti, [May 9, 1907]	Folder 131
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Attorney Gabriel Herbin, May 17, 1907	Folder 132
Typed letter from the Chief of Cabinet, Monaco, to Forzinetti, May 18, 1907	Folder 133
Handwritten letter from Gabriel Herbin to Forzinetti, n.d.	Folder 134

Handwritten letters from Ferdinand Labori to Forzinetti,

June 19, 1907

Box 2 Folder 135

June 26, 1907

Folder 136

Handwritten letter from "Roger" to Forzinetti, Oct. 8, 1907

**Folder
137**

Transcriptions of letters from Forzinetti to the Prince of Monaco, Nov. 20, 1907, and to Bernich, Nov. 25, 1907

**Folder
138**

Handwritten notes in Forzinetti's hand, Dec. 28, 1907

Folder 139

Handwritten letter from "Palmaro" to Forzinetti, Jan. 10, 1908

**Folder
140**

Typed letter to Forzinetti, Jan. 14, 1908, from the Chief of Cabinet, Monaco

**Folder
141**

Handwritten letter from François Roussel to Forzinetti, Feb. 16, 1908

**Folder
142**

Typed letter from Roussel to Forzinetti, Feb. 17, 1908

Folder 143

Handwritten letter from Roussel to Forzinetti, Feb. 19, 1908

**Folder
144**

Transcription of Forzinetti's "Report to the Secretary General," Feb. 19, 1908

**Folder
145**

Handwritten letter from the Chief of Cabinet to Forzinetti, Feb. 24, 1908

**Folder
146**

Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Roussel, Feb. 26, 1908

**Folder
147**

Handwritten letter from Roussel to Forzinetti, Feb. 29, 1908	Folder 148
Handwritten letter from the Private Secretary of HSH the Prince of Monaco to Forzinetti, Feb. 29, 1908	Folder 149
Handwritten letter from Roussel to Forzinetti, Mar. 4, 1908	Folder 150
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to the Prince of Monaco, Mar. 4, 1908	Folder 151
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Reinach, Mar. 6, 1908	Folder 152
Handwritten letter in secretarial hand from Roussel to Forzinetti, Mar. 7, 1908	Folder 153
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Reinach, Mar. 18, 1908	Folder 154
Typed letter from "Roger," the General Governor, to Forzinetti, July 4, 1908	Folder 155
Handwritten letter from Reinach to Forzinetti, Nov. 4, 1908	Folder 156
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Reinach, Dec. 24, 1908	Folder 157
Transcription of letter from Forzinetti to Mr. C. Blanc, Jan. 9, 1909	Folder 158
Handwritten letter from A. Blanchy to Forzinetti, March 12, 1909	Folder 159

Telegram from Mathieu Dreyfus to the family of Commandant Forzinetti, May 7, 1909 **Folder**
160

Handwritten letter from Ferdinand Labori to Louis Forzinetti, June 4, 1909 **Folder**
161

Two typed letters from Georges-Marie Picquart to Louis Forzinetti, June 12 & 19, 1909 **Folder**
162

The Legacies of the Affair, 1909-1947

Handwritten letter from Alfred Dreyfus to Louis Forzinetti, Nov. 1, 1909	Box 2 Folder 163
Printed death notice for Léon Dreyfus	Folder 164
Handwritten letter from Pierre Dreyfus to Louis Forzinetti, Jan. 12, 1946	Folder 165
Handwritten letter from Suzanne Dreyfus to Louis Forzinetti, Jan. 29, 1947	Folder 166
Typed letters from Paul Valabrègue to Louis Forzinetti,	
May 14, 1947	Box 2 Folder 167
May 6, 1947	Folder 168
Sept. 8, 1947	Folder 169
Oct. 6, 1947	Folder 170
Handwritten letter from Ernest Mercier to Louis Forzinetti, May 13, 1947	Folder 171
Miscellaneous items	
Unidentified correspondent to "Sir," on "Chambre des Deputes" letterhead [May, 8, n.y.];	Box 2 Folder 172
Envelope addressed to Lieut. Col. [Louis] Forzinetti, postmarked Oct. 18, 1939	

Ferdinand Forzinetti Collection of Alfred Dreyfus and the Dreyfus Affair-- Index of Correspondents and Photographers

- Aboville, Albert d', (5th Army Corps letterhead)--Item 30
- Aranches, _____, (Ministry of War letterhead)--Item 38
- Bertillon, Alphonse, photographer--Item 9
- Blanchy, A _____ (Monaco Palace, Cabinet of the Prince letterhead)--Item 159
- Cahn, Louise--Item 89
- Cirman, _____ (Senate letterhead)--Item 24
- Clemenceau, Georges, 1841-1929--Item 55
- Court of Appeals--Item 46
- Court Martial at Rennes--Item 52
- Dreyfus, Alfred, 1859-1935--Items 1; 13; 57-69; 71-80; 82-83; 85; 88; 90-92; 96-97; 163
- Dreyfus, Lucie--Items 48; 57
- Dreyfus, Mathieu, 1857-1930--Items 81; 84; 87; 121; 160
- Dreyfus, Pierre, d. 1946--Item 165
- Dreyfus, Suzanne--Item 166
- Du Paty de Clam--Item 116
- Esterhazy, Ferdinand Walsin, 1847-1923--Item 32
- Esterhazy, Marie Charles--see Esterhazy, Ferdinand Walsin
- Forzinetti, Ferdinand, 1839-1909 (*Principality of Monaco letterhead)--Items 4 (Military Governor of Paris letterhead); 16; 21; 33-36; 39-41; 50-51; 86; 93-95; 98-102; 114; 117-119; 122*; 123; 125-126; 127-128*; 130; 132; 138-139; 145*; 147*; 151*; 152; 154*; 157-158
- France. Ministry of War--Item 29
- Gerschel, A., photographer--Items 31; 56
- Gribelin, Felix--Items 5-6
- Herbin, Gabriel--Item 134
- Kératry, E. de (Emile), comte, 1832-1904--Item 34
- Labori, Ferdinand (*Chamber of Deputies letterhead)--Items 70; 135- 136*; 161
- Lambert, _____ (Dufayel department store letterhead)--Item 22
- Langlade, _____ (Commandant of the Military Prisons of Paris letterhead)--Item 42
- London Stereoscopic Company, photographer--Item 45
- Mercier, Auguste--Items 2-3; 7; 14 (Ministry of War letterhead)
- Mercier, Ernest--Item 171
- Meynaud, _____ (Société Française d'Etudes letterhead)--Item 27
- Michel, _____ (Military Governor of Paris letterhead)--Item 8
- Monaco (Chief of Cabinet)--Items 133; 141; 146
- Palmaro, _____ (Principality of Monaco letterhead)--Item 140
- Pecorari, Jean--Item 55
- Picquart, Georges--Items 47; 162 (Ministry of War letterhead)
- Prince of Monaco (Private Secretary)--Item 149
- Reinach, Joseph, 1856-1921 (*Chamber of Deputies letterhead)--Items 103-113; 115*; 117*; 120*; 124*; 131*; 156
- Ribot, _____ (Ministry of Finances letterhead)--Item 23
- Roger, _____ (Principality of Monaco letterhead)--Items 129; 137; 155
- Roussel, François (Principality of Monaco letterhead)--Items 142-144; 148; 150; 153
- Rouvier, _____ (Chamber of Deputies letterhead)--Item 17
- Sauphar or Sauphard, _____--Item 53
- Saussier, Félix-Gaston (Military Governor of Paris letterhead)--Items 18; 37
- Tisseyre or Teisseyre, S., General (*Military Governor of Paris letterhead)--Items 10; 11-12*; 15*; 26*

- Valabrègue, Paul--Items 49; 167; 168 (Emmanuel Valabrègue & Company letterhead); 169; 170
- Zola, Emile, 1840-1902--Item 44
- Zurlinden, Emile Auguste, 1837-1929--Item 15