

ZORYAN INSTITUTE ARCHIVES

Resource

Name of resource: Zabelle C. Boyajian [ZCB] papers

Type of resource: personal papers

Description or biography of primary subject:

Boyajian was born in Diarbekir in 1873. Her father was an Armenian clergyman who served as British vice-consul in Diarbekir and her mother was English. During the Hamidian massacres, Boyajian was sent to Cyprus by a relief committee to help organize an industrial home for Armenian widows and orphans and nurse the wounded and sick. In 1896, she traveled to England and enrolled at the Slade School where she studied art. She loved language as well; she was fluent in Armenian, English, Italian, Greek, Turkish, French, Russian, and German. She became an accomplished writer, artist, and poet. She is probably most remembered for Armenian Legends and Poems, an anthology she compiled, translated, and illustrated. She rated Gilgamesh: A Dream of Eternal Quest as her best literary work. Her art work was exhibited in galleries around the world. Boyajian died in 1957.

Period: b. 1873 - d. 1957

Area: mostly England and Diarbekir

Contents:

correspondence, published and unpublished creative writings, water colors and drawings, reviews of her work, Armenian newspapers and magazines, nineteenth century British consular papers from Diarbekir, and photographs.

Size: five archival boxes and art work

Language: English (primary), Armenian (secondary), a little German and other European languages