

# The Jack G. Shaheen Collection on Arabs in U.S. Film and Television

The Jack G. Shaheen Collection on Arabs in U.S. Film and Television is housed in multiple repositories at New York University. To access the contents of the collection, please contact the appropriate repository.

In some cases, materials are stored off-site, so research visits must be scheduled in advance. The collection is open to the public, but all researchers must register with photo identification when arriving for their appointment.

If you have any questions, please email [apa.archives@nyu.edu](mailto:apa.archives@nyu.edu).

## The Jack G. Shaheen Papers (TAM.535) (VIDEOS.15) at The NYU Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives

The Jack G. Shaheen Papers date from 1943 to 2012 and document Dr. Shaheen's scholarly and popular writing and research in media analysis; his media accountability activism through the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC); and his consultation work on legal cases as well as the entertainment industry. The collection includes printed and born-digital draft and revised writings, speeches, notes, research and subject files, reports, correspondence, and sound and video recordings of Shaheen's speeches. The collection also contains material collected by Shaheen, including comic books; editorial cartoons; recordings of movies, television shows, and cartoons; magazines; posters; advertisements; toys; games; and other ephemera, which depict Arabs and Muslims in American popular culture and mass media from the late nineteenth to the twenty-first century.

One series in the collection contains commercial video recordings and films collected by Shaheen, all of which contain depictions of Arabs and Muslims. The series contains VHS cassettes, DVDs, and 16mm film reels of movies (feature length and shorts), cartoons, music videos, television series, and a television commercial. The titles span from *She* (1911) to *Disney: Treasure Buddies* (2012) and include American and foreign films, Disney and Warner Brothers cartoons, pro-wrestling videos, and music videos. The feature films cover almost every genre of film, with romance, comedies, action/adventure, sci-fi, horror, and children/family being the best represented. The most prominent stereotypes in this series are depictions of Arabs as sheikhs and terrorists, with movies featuring tales of Sinbad, Aladdin, and mummies also well represented. Most of these titles were included in Shaheen's writings, in particular *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*.

The NYU Special Collections Center is located on the second floor of the New York University's Elmer Holmes Bobst Library at 70 Washington Square South. To access The Jack G. Shaheen

Papers, please review [the collection's finding aid](#) and contact [special.collections@nyu.edu](mailto:special.collections@nyu.edu) or (212) 998-2596 to schedule an appointment.

## The Jack G. Shaheen Book Collection

Books from Jack Shaheen's personal papers were accessioned into the stacks at NYU Bobst Library. To see a full list of titles, search "[Jack G. Shaheen 1935- former owner](#)" in the Bobst search bar. Each book is marked with a book plate indicating it is part of the Jack G. Shaheen Collection.

## The Jack G. Shaheen Digital Media Archive at the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at NYU

The Jack G. Shaheen Digital Media Archive provides valuable documentation of the representations of Arabs and Muslims in US popular culture and mass media. The majority of 2,057 tapes in the collection are VHS, but other formats include DVD, CD-R, U-matic, Betamax, Betacam, and DVCAM. Most content was recorded directly from television broadcasts and contains both the intended content (movies, television programs, documentaries, news programs, and cartoons) and commercials. The majority of these moving images contain negative portrayals of Arabs and Muslims and comprise the bulk of the archive.

A selection (321 VHS tapes) has been digitized and is available for researchers at the A/P/A Institute at NYU (20 Cooper Square, third floor). To make an appointment to view the digitized materials and/or browse the inventory of non-digitized tapes, please fill out our [Archives Inquiry Form](#).