

Lettre de Marion S. Rinaldy à Madame Émile Zola non datée, mais qui a dû être envoyée vers février 1898

Auteur(s) : Rinaldy, Marion S.

Transcription

Texte de la lettre

Madame Emille Zola (sic)

Enclosed you will find an abstract from the « Libre » of February 24th 1898.

It so expresses the thoughts of many Americans, that I have ventured to send it to you. If your brave husband is really sent to prison, he has the satisfaction of knowing that he, almost alone, raised his voice in defense of one whom few Americans even thought guilty.

Accept the sympathy of one woman's warm heart and tell Monsieur Zola that his unbounded courage and honesty were admirable, especially at such a cost Madame Dreyfus has the sympathy also of thousands of American who have never doubted her husband's innocence.

These Jew words from one so far away may confort you a little in your hour of trial and sorrow.

That is my sincere wish.

Believe me, Madam.

Sincerely,

Marine S. Rinaldy

Ilathust

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Les folios

En passant la souris sur une vignette, le titre de l'image apparaît.

Relations

Ce document n'a pas de relation indiquée avec un autre document du projet.□

Citer cette page

Rinaldy, Marion S, Lettre de Marion S. Rinaldy à Madame Émile Zola non datée, mais qui a dû être envoyée vers février 1898, 1898-02-SD

Centre d'Étude sur Zola et le Naturalisme & Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle).

Consulté le 12/01/2026 sur la plate-forme EMAN :

<https://eman-archives.org/CorrespondanceZola/items/show/6733>

Présentation

Genre Correspondance

Date d'envoi [1898-02-SD](#)

Adresse Ilathush, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Description & Analyse

Description Soutien pour l'épouse d'Émile Zola, sympathie du monde, envoi d'une coupure de journal.

Notes coupure du « Livre » du 24 février 1898.

Information générales

Langue [Anglais](#)

Cote AME 1898_02_SD LEA.38.Rinaldy.ND021898.NY

Éléments codicologiques Lettre originale sans enveloppe, une feuille pliée en deux dont trois pages sont utilisées.

Source

- Américains
- Collection famille Émile-Zola
- Dreyfus
- innocent
- juif

Informations éditoriales

Éditeur de la fiche Centre d'Étude sur Zola et le Naturalisme & Institut des textes et manuscrits modernes, CNRS-ENS ; projet EMAN (CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne Nouvelle).

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Contributeur(s) Cantiran, Élise

Notice créée par [Richard Walter](#) Notice créée le 21/12/2018 Dernière modification le 21/08/2020

to Adam Camille Zola,
Enclosed, you will find
an extract from the "L'Ami"
of February 24th 1898.

It so expresses the thoughts
of many Americans, that
I have ventured to send it
to you. If your brave husband
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Accept the sympathy of
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and tell Monsieur Zola
that his unbounded courage
and honesty were admirable,
especially at such a cost.

Madame Dreyfus has
the sympathy also of
thousands of Americans who
have never doubted her
husband's innocence.

These few words from one
so far away may comfort
you a little in your
hours of trial and sorrow.

That is my sincere wish.

Behave me, Madam
sincerely
Harriet S. F. malley
Flatbush, B. Y.
Brooklyn. B. Y.

Meaning of the Zola Case.

The culprits really convicted at the Zola trial are the army officers of rank who served as the Ministry's consenting instruments in condemning an innocent man in order to shield the guilty. The facts are simple: Agreeably to a practice universal among the military nations, one of them—perhaps Russia, but the identity here is quite beside the purpose—had bought some French military secrets. It is probable that the person bribed, or of the two that may have been bribed, at least one was in the War Office itself. If there were two, the second may well have been ESTERHAZY. In order to shield these persons, it was imperative to have a scapegoat. Accordingly a gentleman without powerful influence, French by birth, Jewish by blood, and bearing a German patronymic, was selected. He was tried by a board of officers of high rank, condemned, stripped of his insignia before his regiment, and shipped to an island, where it was hoped and believed he would have died before this.

This story has for many months been familiar to such French public opinion as saw fit to inform itself. The rank corruption of public life in France, infecting all from the Minister in his armchair to the porter at his door, is matter of notoriety and has long been universally allowed. The Zola trial has done no more in this direction than sweep away any shreds of moral doubt that might seem to veil ministerial guilt. The judicial storm has cleared the air, and the infamy of the men who plotted and contrived DREYFUS's conviction lifts its nakedness to the gaze of mankind. But thus far, nothing really new and important appears; convictions already generally entertained have been confirmed. If this were all, the Zola trial might be neglected as one of those incidents of misgovernment that concern only its victims. But this is not all.

A doubt had existed whether the army officers who convicted DREYFUS might not have done so in good faith, might not themselves have been imposed upon. The trial has resolved that doubt, and herein lies the whole of its importance for the outside world. It has been made plain that DREYFUS's trial board acted in bad faith; it is plain that when condemning him to be disgraced and exiled they knew him to be innocent; it is plain that they confederated with their guilty masters to avert from the east a political peril at the expense of their military oath and honor. Thus the Zola trial has laid bare the important fact that the corruption of French public life has reached and tainted the army. Actuated by self-interest, its officers have learned to throw to the winds official responsibilities and the obligations of gentlemen. This is important because, the sense of honor once lost—as we see that it is in fact already lost—the loyalty of the army to the debauched masters who have debauched itself cannot be depended upon. The dog that will fetch a bone will carry a bone.

In the progressive decay and degradation that overtakes all peoples, the military arm is that part of the body politic that holds out longest against the blood poison. When, however, this member too has become infected, no example can, we think, be cited of the patient's recovery. The revelation of a debasement on the part of French army officers rivalling that of the meanest peculating *pekin* cheating in forage, is a portent that involves the whole future of

France. Lest we deceive ourselves, we must be exactly just, and justice requires us to observe that among the younger men the best traditions of the army are still cherished and are strong. But, as we discover from the Dreyfus court-martial, after men have advanced in rank, when their career has come to depend on ministerial favor, the military virtues evaporate and the universal miasm of corruption thickens their blood as well. Faithless in one thing, faithless in all things—it will be against the course of history and of nature if this very military arm which a rotten political system has inoculated with its own virus should not yet be the instrument by whose means the plain people will put an end to a government whose existence is a scandal to the century and a reproach to mankind.