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Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and
American Literature

Guide to the

Oscar Wilde collection of papers

1880-1932

Berg Coll MSS Wilde [Text]

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900

Title: Oscar Wilde collection of papers

Date: 1880-1932

Size: 110 items

Source: This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, and two undated notebooks.

Physical Location: *Z-10355 [Microfilm]

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.

Preferred citation: [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

Creator History

Oscar Wilde was a British poet, playwright, novelist, and critic.

Custodial History

The bulk of the materials was formerly owned by W. T. H. Howe, Owen D. Young, and Henry W. and Albert A. Berg. Other materials were owned by Alfred S. Austrian, Frank Fletcher, Richard Le Gallienne,

John B. Stetson, Jr., and the American Play Company.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, a portrait photograph, and two undated notebooks. The manuscripts include holographs and holograph drafts of poems, notes on travel in Greece, portions of "The Picture of Dorian Gray," an emended manuscript of a play and other holograph materials. There is also an undated manuscript forgery of "Salome," believed to be in the hand of Fabian Lloyd. The manuscripts also include holographs by Max Beerbohm, one dated 1894, relating to the author. The legal documents include agreements between the author and the American Play Company. The correspondence includes letters, dating from 1880 to 1900, from the author to George Webb Appleton, Frank Harris, Arthur Humphreys, James Stanley Little, Aimee Lowther, E. W. Pratt, John Ruskin, James MacNeill Whistler, and others. There are also letters relating to the author, dating from [1881] to 1932, between various correspondents including Lord Alfred Bruce Douglas, Herman Finck, Theodore Watts-Dunton, Bernard Shaw, Cynthia Stockley, the literary agency James B. Pinker and son, and others. There are letters to Wilde from W. F. Morse, Marie Prescott, John Ruskin, and A. P. Watt and son, dating from 1882 to 1891.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Forgeries
Notebooks

Geographic Names

Greece -- Description and travel

Names

Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900
Appleton, G. Webb (George Webb), 1845-1909
Austrian, Alfred S
Austrian, Alfred S.
Beerbohm, Max, Sir, 1872-1956
Berg, Albert A., 1872-1950
Berg, Henry W., 1858-1938
Douglas, Alfred Bruce, 1870-1945
Finck, Herman, 1872-1939
Fletcher, Frank, 1870-1954
Harris, Frank, 1856-1931
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Humphreys, Arthur Lee, 1865-1946
Le Gallienne, Richard, 1866-1947
Little, James Stanley
Lowther, Aimee
Morse, W. F
Pratt, E. W
Prescott, Marie
Ruskin, John, 1819-1900
Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950

Stetson, John B. (John Batterson), 1884-1952
Stockley Cynthia, 1883-1936
Watts-Dunton, Theodore, 1832-1914
Whistler, James McNeill, 1834-1903
Young, Owen D., 1874-
A. P. Watt and Son
American Play Company
American Play Company
James B. Pinker and Son

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Wilde

Manuscript box. Removed from: Wilde, Oscar. The dole of the king's daughter. (Dublin university magazine. June, 1876. Vol. 87, no. 522, p. 682-683	[Dole of the king's daughter, The]. Holograph of earlier (?) version of the last 4 stanzas n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box. Removed from his: The portrait of Mr. W. H. Privately printed [1904?]	[Epigrams]. Holograph draft n.d. (1 p) (1 p) H.
Cased	Impression Japonais. Rose et iuoire. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Published with title: Le Panneau H.
Manuscript box	Impression du voyage. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) B.
Manuscript box	[Jardin des Tuileries, Le]. Proof no. 2. Holograph note on corrections made in the proof n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signed
Manuscript box	Lotus land. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signed "O.F. O'F. W.W." Y.
Cased	Notes and epigrams, Holograph n.d. (5 p) (5 p) H.
Cased	Notes on Fragments of Greek comic poets. Ed. by A. Meineke. [Holograph notebook with Greek and Latin exercises, vocabulary, etc. at end] n.d. (1 v) (1 v) H.
Manuscript box	Notes on travel in Greece, Holograph n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Oversize (+)	On the decay of lying. Incomplete holograph n.d. (20 p) (20 p) Richard Le Gallienne bookplate; H.
Manuscript box	Pan. Double Villanelle. Holograph poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p) Y.
Oversize (+)	[Picture of Dorian Gray, The]. Chapter 14 [ie. 15]. Holograph n.d. (17 p) (17 p) Library label of John B. Stetson, Jr. ; H.
Manuscript box	Presentation inscription and signed note to Nellie Sichert. Holograph. Written on fly leaves torn out (with frontispiece and title-page) of a copy of "The Emerson birthday-book, Boston, 1882." n.d. ([1 item]) ([1 item]) Signed Y.
Oversize (+)	Salome. [Forgery]. Believed to be in the hand of Fabian Lloyd, nephew of Constance Lloyd Wilde n.d. (65 p) (65 p) Signed "Oscar Wilde" in the hand of the forger

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Wilde (cont.)

- Berg Coll MSS + Wilde 1890 The soul of man under socialism. Manuscript in the author's holograph with his substantial textual emendations and deletions in ink and pencil, throughout. Paginated by the author 1A and 1B-40, 42-50, 56-65. Bound. 1890 (59 p. (34 cm.)) (59 p. (34 cm.))
Originally owned by John B. Stetson, Jr. with his bookplate, and later by Alfred S. Austrian with his bookplate.
- Cased [Vera; or, The nihilists]. Holograph corrections and additions to the play, apparently made for the performance of Vera in New York in 1883 1883 (31 p) (31 p)
H.
- Cased Ye shall be gods. Holograph poem. Bound n.d. (6 p) (6 p)
On p. [10-11, 14-17, 19-20]: Wilde, Jane Francesca (Elgee). Notes. Holograph aphorisms and comments on her readings, undated. 8 p.

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Wilde

- Manuscript box (Wilde) American play company. Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Oscar Wilde n.d. (14) (14)
From the files of the American play company
- Manuscript box Beerbohm, Max. "'Dorian Gray,' an examination paper." Holograph 1894 (2 p) (2 p)
H.
- Cased Beerbohm, Max. Holograph notebook. Consists of preliminary notes for essays on the author's contemporaries. Includes Oscar Wilde and others n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Signed
- Oversize (+) Beerbohm, Max. A peep into the past. Holograph n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Frank Fletcher bookplate
- Manuscript box Douglas, Lord Alfred Bruce. To Olive [Stanzas I, II]. Holograph sonnets 1906 May 4, [n.d (1 p. each) (1 p. each)]
Signed. On verso of Stanza II are manuscript quotations from O. Wilde's Dorian Gray and other misc. authors in the hand of Lady Olive Eleanor Custance Douglas

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Manuscript box Appleton, George Webb. ALS to 1884 Feb. 7] or [1884 Feb. 14 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Cased Carte, [R. O. D'Oyly]. ALS to 1882? (3 p) (3 p)
With: Wilde, Oscar. [Vera; or, The Nihilists] Holograph corrections and additions to the play
- Manuscript box Harris, Frank. ALS to. Relates to the dedication copy of An ideal husband 1899 July (3 p) (3 p)
- Inserted in: Wilde, O. Intentions. London, 1891. Copy 1 Heinemann, [William]. ALS to 1892 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Inserted in: Wilde, O. A woman of no importance. London, 1894. Copy 1 Howe, Mrs. ALS to n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
- Manuscript box Humphreys, [Arthur]. ALS to 1898 or 1899 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Y.
- Inserted in: Wilde, O. Salome. London and Boston, 1894 Kains-Jackson, C. ANS to 1893? Nov. 10 (1 p) (1 p)

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box	Lathbury, Mrs. ALS to n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Manuscript box	Little, James Stanley. 5 ALS to 1887 Apr. 29] - [1891 Mar. 21 (5 letters in 5 folders) (5 letters in 5 folders)
Manuscript box	Lowther, Aimee. 4 ALS to 1894 Feb. 1] - [1899 Aug (2 leaves; 2 leaves; 2 leaves; 1 p) (2 leaves; 2 leaves; 2 leaves; 1 p)
Cased	[Morris?], [Clara]. ALS to 1881? (2 leaves) (2 leaves) H.
Inserted in: Wilde, O. Wilde v Whistler. London, 1906	Morse, Colonel W. F. ALS to n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
Removed from: Wilde's The ballad of Reading gaol. London, 1898. Copy 1	Nelson, Major J. O. ALS to 1897 May (4 leaves) (4 leaves)
Inserted in: Wilde, O. The picture of Dorian Gray. London, New York & Melbourne [1891] Copy 2	Pratt, E. W. ALS to 1892 Aug. 15 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Inserted in: Wilde, O. The happy prince. London, 1888. Copy 2	Ruskin, [John]. ALS to n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Manuscript box	Scott, Clement William. ALS to 1880 (2 leaves) (2 leaves) Y.
Manuscript box	Smithers, Leonard. ALS to 1898 Mar. 17 (2 leaves) (2 leaves) H.
Manuscript box	Symons, [Arthur]. ALS to 1890 Oct. 22 (2 leaves) (2 leaves) With accompanying envelope. H.
Manuscript box	[Whistler], [James MacNeill]. ALS to "Butterfly" 1885 Feb. (1 p) (1 p) H.
Manuscript box	[--?]. ALS to 1880? (2 leaves) (2 leaves) H.
Manuscript box	[--?], Madam. ALS to. As editor of Woman's World, invites contributors. Not in Hart-Davis' edition of Wilde letters 1887 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Cased	unknown correspondent. ALS to an. Regarding "Lady Windemere's fan" 1893 Feb. (2 leaves) (2 leaves) H.

Incoming Correspondence

In: Wilde, Oscar. [Vera, or, The nihilists] Holograph corrections and additions to the play	Morse, W[--?] F[--?]. ALS to Wilde 1882 Apr. 5 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
In: Wilde, Oscar. [Vera, or, The nihilists] Holograph corrections and additions to the play	Prescott, Marie. 5 ALS to Wilde 1882 Nov. 9 - 1883 May 1 (5 letters) (5 letters) Also 13 p. of incomplete letters to Wilde (2 dated Feb. 11 and Feb. 26, 1883), and copies of 3 additional letters relating to the copyright of Vera

Correspondence (cont.)

Incoming Correspondence (cont.)

Inserted in: Wilde, Oscar. The happy prince, and other tales. London, 1888. Copy 1

Ruskin, John. ALS to Wilde n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Cased

Watt, A. P., and son. Letter books. Letters (copies) to various authors and publishers, etc. Includes letters addressed to Oscar Wilde, etc. Each. Volume indexed separately. Vols numbered on spines through XXV. Lacking vols. I, V-VI, XII, XIV, XX-XXIV. 1879 Oct. - 1891 June (16 v) (16 v)
Partial description and list of correspondents laid in vol. [1]

Related Correspondence

- | | |
|--|---|
| Manuscript box | Douglas, Lord Alfred Bruce. 3 ALS to Herman Finck. Refers to The life of Oscar Wilde by Frank Harris 1925 Aug. 4 - 1925 Sept. 2 (3 p.; 4 leaves; 1 leaf) (3 p.; 4 leaves; 1 leaf) |
| Manuscript box | Douglas, Lord Alfred Bruce. ALS to Violet Wyndham. Relates to Ada Leverson and mentions Oscar Wilde 1932 Nov. 21 (2 leaves) (2 leaves) |
| Manuscript box | Fawcett, Edgar. ALS to [William Henry] Bishop relating to Oscar Wilde [1883?] Nov. 18 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
B. |
| Manuscript box | Harris, Frank. TLS to Vyvyan Beresford Holland. Correspondent is the son of Oscar Wilde. Letter relates to Harris' Life of Oscar Wilde and Lord A. B. Douglas 1926 Mar. 25 (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box | Hichens, Robert Smythe. ALS to Martin Secker. Mentions Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas 1932 Sept. 29 (2 p) (2 p) |
| Manuscript box | Houghton, Richard Monckton Milnes, 1st baron. ALS to Theodore Watts-Dunton. Relates to the meeting between Algernon Charles Swinburne and Oscar Wilde 1881 July 9 (1 p) (1 p) |
| Manuscript box
(Pinker, J. B., firm) | James B. Pinker and son. Letters, ALS, telegrams, etc. from various publishers to the firm of James B. Pinker and son as literary agents for Oscar Wilde n.d. ([2 letters]) ([2 letters]) |
| Laid in: Wilde, O.
Children in prison,
and other cruelties
of prison life.
London [1898]
Copy 1 | Martin, Theodore. ALS to [Robert Ross]. Relates to Oscar Wilde 1909 Nov. 10 (2 leaves) (2 leaves) |
| Manuscript box | Shaw, Bernard. ALS to David J. O'Donoghue. Relates to Oscar Wilde 1889 May 9 (3 p) (3 p) |
| Manuscript box | Stockley, Cynthia. LS, ALS, etc. to James B. Pinker and son. Relates to Oscar Wilde 1904 - 1932 (10 letters) (10 letters)
B. |
| Manuscript box
(Wilde, O.) | Wilde, Constance (?) Note, in the third person, to Mr. & Mrs. Felix Moscheles. Invitation from the wife of Oscar Wilde 1887 Apr. 24 (1 p) (1 p) |

Portraits

+++ (Wilde)

Sarony, Napoleon. Full-length portrait photograph of Oscar Wilde, matted and framed 1882 (1 item) (1 item)