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

Guide to the

Edith OEnone Somerville collection of papers

1886-1938

Berg Coll MSS Somerville

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Somerville, E. Œ. (Edith OEnone), 1858-1949

Title: Edith OEnone Somerville collection of papers

Date: 1886-1938

Size: 308 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, portraits, and pictorial works.

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

Edith OEnone Somerville was an Irish short-story writer, novelist, essayist, and illustrator.

Custodial History

Previous owners include Elizabeth Hudson and Violet Martin.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, portraits, and pictorial works. The manuscripts include stories, essays, portions and drafts of novels, and reviews by the author, as well as poems and novel plots by her cousin and collaborator Violet Florence Martin (a.k.a. Martin Ross). The correspondence includes letters from the author, dating from 1886 to 1938, to Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory, Violet Martin, Ethel Mary Smyth, the literary agency James B. Pinker and Son, and others, as well as letters relating to the author, dating from 1901 to 1951, between various correspondents, including Geraldine Cummins, Elizabeth Hudson, Violet Martin, Sir Horace Curzon Plunkett, Sir Owen Seaman, James B. Pinker and Son, and others. There are letters to Somerville from Violet Florence Martin dating from 1886 to 1912.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Somerville, E. OE. (Edith O'Enone), 1858-1949

Cummins, Geraldine, 1890-1969

Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932

Hudson, Elizabeth

Hudson, Elizabeth

Plunkett, Horace Curzon, Sir, 1854-1932

Ross, Martin, 1862-1915

Ross, Martin, 1862-1915

Seaman, Owen, 1861-1936

Smyth, Ethel, 1858-1944

James B. Pinker and Son

Container List

Manuscripts

Manuscripts by Somerville

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Manuscript box | [All on the Irish shore] An Irish problem. Holograph in Violet Florence Martin's hand n.d. (20 p) (20 p)
Signed by her for both authors |
| Manuscript box | [All on the Irish shore] A nineteenth century miracle. Holograph in Violet Florence Martin's hand n.d. (17 p) (17 p)
Signed by her for both authors. With James B. Pinker's label as agent |
| Oversize (+) | Happy days. 11 holograph essays n.d. (108 p) (108 p)
With five addressed envelopes laid in. Published with two additional essays, London, Longman's, 1946 |
| Cased | [Incorruptible Irishman; being an account of Chief Justice Charles Kendal Bushe] Holograph notes. Labelled: "C. K. B. First draft" n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Contains her: West Carbery. Chapters 6-9. Holograph "continued from page 55 in red marbled-cover M.S. book," Oct. 29, 1932. 63 p.; with this is shelved her: West Carbery. Holograph "continued from p. 9, black shiny ms. book," undated. 16 p. |
| Oversize (+) | Man that came to buy apples, The. Holograph 1905 Oct. 21, 1905 Oct. 31 (18 p) (18 p)
Signed. In case; with her: signed original pen-and-ink drawing "The man who came to sell apples." 29 x 22 cm. Published as Chapter 4 in her: Further experiences of an Irish R. M. London, Longmans, 1908. B. |
| Oversize (+) | Mount music. Early holograph draft 1918 Mar. 19 - 1919 Aug. 6 (2 v) (2 v)
Signed. Vol. 2 contains 76 pages of interpolations in text. Published after V. F. Martin's death as by E. A. Oe. Somerville and Martin Ross [pseud.] |
| Oversize (+) | Mount music. Later holograph draft n.d. (336 p) (336 p)
Signed. Published with variations, London, Longman, 1919 |
| Oversize (+) | Sarah's youth. Early holograph draft. Vol. 2 contains chapters 30-39, many in two drafts 1934 Jan. 3 - 1938 May 19 (2 v) (2 v)
Signed. Published after V. F. Martin's death as by E. A. Oe. Somerville and Martin Ross [pseud.]. B. |
| Oversize (+) | Sarah's youth. Chapters numbered 2-15. Later holograph draft 1936 July 28, 1936 Sept. 22 (156 p) (156 p)
Signed. B. |
| Oversize (+) | Sarah's youth. Chapters numbered 14, 17, 19, 23-30. Later holograph draft. Dated on label on cover: Aug. 1936. Complete, mutilated and fragmentary chapters 1938 Feb. 25 (82 p) (82 p)
Signed. B. |
| Oversize (+) | Sarah's youth. Final holograph draft n.d. (314 p) (314 p)
Signed. Also 7 holograph pages of unpublished portions of chapters 4-5. Published with variations by Longmans, London, 1938. B. |
| Cased | Smile and the tear, The. Chapters 1-9. Holograph 1932 Sept. - 1932 Dec (1 v) (1 v)
Signed |
| Cased | Smile and the tear, The. Chapters 9A-12. Holograph chapters n.d. (42 p) (42 p)
Two separately signed. 5 pages of preliminary material laid in |
| Manuscript box | [Some Irish yesterdays] An outpost of Ireland. Holograph in Violet Florence Martin's hand. Deleted title: The Aras of the sea. n.d. (15 p) (15 p)
Signed by Martin. With envelope addressed to E. A. O. Somerville, on which three manuscripts are listed in her hand |

Manuscripts (cont.)

Manuscripts by Somerville (cont.)

Oversize (+) In
her: West Carbery
hounds.
Holograph stories,
p. [75-83 and 128-
137]

[Strayaways] Chapters 17 and 24. Holograph chapters n.d. (18 p) (18 p)

Oversize (+) In
her: West Carbery
hounds.
Holograph stories,
p. [29-45 and 85-
99]

[Sweet cry of hounds, The] Chapters 10 and 9. Holograph chapters n.d. (30 p) (30 p)

Manuscript box

[Sweet cry of hounds, The] Some thoughts about hunting. Chapters 1-6. Holograph n.d. (48 p) (48 p)

Signed

Shelved with her:
[An incorruptible
Irishman]
Holograph notes

West Carbery. Holograph "continued from p. 9, black shiny ms. book" n.d. (1 v) (1 v)

In her: [An
incorruptible
Irishman]
Holograph notes

West Carbery. Chapters 6-9. Holograph "continued from page 55 in red marbled-cover M. S. book" 1932 Oct. 29 (63 p) (63 p)

Oversize (+)

West Carbery hounds. Holograph stories, essays, reviews and lists of correspondence. Labelled: "V. F. M., Drishane, May 1906" Contains West Carbery hounds, p. 1-55 [103] 1916 Nov. 29 - 1919 Oct. 4 (1 v) (1 v)

Signed. Includes her: [The sweet cry of hounds] Chapters 10, [p. 29-45] and 9, [p. 85-99] Holograph chapters, Feb. 19-28, 1918. [Strayaways. Chapters 17 and 24] [p. 75-83] and [p. 128-137] Holograph chapters. Feb. 6, 1918 and July 8-Oct. 1, 1919

Manuscripts relating to Somerville

Manuscript box
(Martin, V. F.)

Hawk, The. Manuscript copy by Violet Florence Martin of a note by an unidentified writer on the authorship of an Irish cousin 1889 Oct. 1 (2 p) (2 p)

Came with Martin's correspondence with Edith Anna Oenone Somerville

Manuscript box

Martin, Violet Florence. In summer once, I plucked a rose. Holograph poem. First line of poem used as title n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

With Edith Anna Oenone Somerville's ms. note: Sent to me in August '88. Came with their correspondence

Manuscript box

Martin, Violet Florence. Lavelle and his mistake] Holograph plot for a novel 1895 - 1896? (3 leaves) (3 leaves)

Sent to Edith Anna Oenone Somerville

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Manuscript box

Gregory, Lady [Isabella Augusta Persse]. ALS to. Relates to Sir Hugh Lane's picture gallery in Dublin 1905 Jan. 1 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box

Gregory, Lady [Isabella Augusta Persse]. ALS to. Mentions death of Violet Martin 1916 Apr. 25 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Manuscript box

Gregory, Lady [Isabella Augusta Persse]. ALS to. Relates to William Robert Gregory 1922 July 12 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Manuscript box

Gregory, Lady [Isabella Augusta Persse]. ALS to. Relates to William Robert Gregory 1922 July 18 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Manuscript box

Gregory, Lady [Isabella Augusta Persse]. ALS to 1923 Oct. 18 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Manuscript box

Gregory, Lady [Isabella Augusta Persse]. Postcard to 1923 Oct. 19 (1 card) (1 card)

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Martin, Violet Florence. 51 ALS, 47 AL to. Sixty-one letters incomplete, some mutilated, some with passages obliterated. Twelve letters decorated with original pen-and-ink or pencil sketches 1886 Dec. 29 - 1912 Mar. 23 (98 letters in 98 folders) (98 letters in 98 folders)
- Manuscript box Pinker and son, James B. LS, ALS, etc. to 1899 - 1922 (7 letters) (7 letters) B.
- Manuscript box Smyth, Ethel Mary. ALS to. Mentions Virginia Woolf 1938 Oct. 21 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box [--?], Olive. 5 ALS, 1 letter to 1928 Feb. 26 - 1934 Jan. 4 (6 letters) (6 letters)

Incoming Correspondence

- Manuscript box Martin, Violet Florence. 147 ALS (86 incomplete) to Somerville. Several letters mutilated, some passages obliterated 1886 Mar. 28 - 1912 Mar. 20 (147 letters in 134 folders) (147 letters in 134 folders)

Related Correspondence

- Manuscript box (Somerville) Cummins, Geraldine. 3 ALS to Elizabeth Hudson 1950 Dec. 26 - 1951 Oct. 6 (1 leaf; 1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 leaf; 1 p)
- Manuscript box Martin, Violet Florence. ALS (draft) to Harold Begbie 1912 Feb. 12 (4 leaves) (4 leaves)
With accompanying note by E. A. O'E. Somerville, 1 p.; Published in Somerville and Ross, Wheel-tracks, London, Longmans, Green, 1923, p. 217-222
- Manuscript box Martin, Violet Florence. 3 ALS to Sir Horace Curzon Plunkett. Mention E. A. Somerville 1913 Sept. 1 - 1915 July 9 (4 leaves; 1 leaf; 1 leaf) (4 leaves; 1 leaf; 1 leaf)
- Manuscript box (Martin, V. F.) Plunkett, Sir Horace Curzon. 2 TLS to Violet Florence Martin. Mention E. A. Somerville 1914 Mar. 2, 1914 July 6 (1 p.; 2 p) (1 p.; 2 p)
- Manuscript box Seaman, Sir Owen. ALS to James B. Pinker and son. Relates to Edith Anna Somerville 1901 Nov. 28 (1 p) (1 p)

Portraits and Pictorial Works

Portraits

- Manuscript box Photograph, with Elizabeth Hudson and dogs. 12 x 16 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Signed with initials. Inscribed with note on verso referring to her The States through Irish eyes, chapter 17

Pictorial Works

- Oversize (+) Man who came to sell apples, The. Original pen-and-ink drawing. 29 x 22 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Signed. With her: The man that came to buy apples. Holograph
- Manuscript box [Portrait of Martin Ross on her deathbed] Reproduction of drawing. Original dated Dec. 18, 1915. 20 x 14 cm. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Inscribed on verso by the artist for Elizabeth Hudson, "July 17, 1935"
- Manuscript box All on the Irish shore. Further experiences of an Irish R. M. Some Irish yesterdays. 3 original water color drawings and 1 pencil draft for covers. 13 x 20 cm. or smaller n.d. (4 items) (4 items)