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

Guide to the

**Jack B. Yeats letter to John Quinn with mock patent of nobility**

1903 August 24

Berg Coll 24888

## Summary

**Creator:** Yeats, Jack B. (Jack Butler), 1871-1957

**Title:** Jack B. Yeats letter to John Quinn with mock patent of nobility

**Date:** 1903 August 24

**Size:** .1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Purchased from James Cummins Bookseller, 2019

**Abstract:** Jack Butler Yeats (1871-1957) was an Irish painter and illustrator. He was the younger brother of the poet William Butler Yeats. John Quinn (1870-1924) was a corporation lawyer in New York City, and a noted private collector and patron of the arts. The collection comprises a letter (1 page) from [Jack B. Yeats] to "My Well Beloved John Quinn," written in the person of King Edward VII at Windsor, 1903 August 24, with an enclosed mock patent of nobility (1 page, folio). Both items are executed entirely in black ink, with the signatures "Edward" written upside down. Drawn at the top of the letter is a mock coat of arms, showing a unicorn and a lion with a straight razor shaving a pint, and the motto "Shave qui peut." The writer advises Quinn where "the artist fellah with whom you passed through my Western Empires" (Yeats himself) can obtain a patent similar to the one enclosed. The mock patent, made from a legal indenture form printed in Dublin by Hely's, Limited, is partially covered with pasted paper bearing Yeats's humorous bestowal of a knighthood on John Quinn of Broadway. A red wax seal attached to a green ribbon is affixed to the document

**Preferred citation:** Jack B. Yeats letter to John Quinn with mock patent of nobility, Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library

## Custodial History

Ownership by descent from Julia Quinn Anderson, sister and heir of John Quinn.

## Key Terms

### Occupations

Artists  
Collectors  
Lawyers

**Subjects**

Artists -- Ireland -- Correspondence

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Cartoons (humorous images)  
Correspondence  
Letters patent

**Names**

Anderson, Julia Quinn  
Quinn, John, 1870-1924  
Yeats, Jack B. (Jack Butler), 1871-1957 -- Friends and associates.  
Yeats, Jack B. (Jack Butler), 1871-1957 -- Correspondence.