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.

Access: Restricted access.

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.


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-Denton, 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
### Container List

**Manuscripts and Typescripts**

**Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Wilde**

- **[Dole of the king's daughter, The]. Holograph of earlier (?) version of the last 4 stanzas** n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

- **[Epigrams]. Holograph draft** n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

- **Impression Japonais. Rose et iuoire. Holograph poem** Published with title: Le Panneau H. n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

- **Impression du voyage. Holograph poem** B. n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

- **[Jardin des Tuileries, Le]. Proof no. 2. Holograph note on corrections made in the proof** Signed n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

- **Lotus land. Holograph poem** Signed “O.F. O’F. W.W.” Y. n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

- **Notes and epigrams, Holograph** Signed “O.F. O’F. W.W.” Y. n.d. (5 p) (5 p)

- **Notes on travel in Greece, Holograph** n.d. (2 p) (2 p)

- **On the decay of lying. Incomplete holograph** Richard Le Gallienne bookplate; H. n.d. (20 p) (20 p)


- **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.”** Signed Y. n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

- **Salome. [ Forgery]. Believed to be in the hand of Fabian Lloyd, nephew of Constance Lloyd Wilde** Signed “Oscar Wilde” in the hand of the forger n.d. (65 p) (65 p)
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.

[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.


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

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

Beerbohm, Max. "Dorian Gray; an examination paper." Holograph 1894 (2 p) (2 p)

H.

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

Beerbohm, Max. A peep into the past. Holograph n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Frank Fletcher bookplate

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

Appleton, George Webb. ALS to 1884 Feb. 7) or [1884 Feb. 14 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

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

Harris, Frank. ALS to. Relates to the dedication copy of An ideal husband 1899 July (3 p) (3 p)

Heinemann, [William]. ALS to 1892 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Howe, Mrs. ALS to n.d. (7 p) (7 p)

Humphreys, [Arthur]. ALS to 1898 or 1899 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Y.

Kains-Jackson, C. ANS to 1893? Nov. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Lathbury, Mrs. ALS to n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Little, James Stanley. 5 ALS to 1887 Apr. 29] - [1891 Mar. 21 (5 letters in 5 folders) (5 letters in 5 folders)

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)

[Morris?], [Clara]. ALS to 1881? (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Morse, Colonel W. F. ALS to n.d. (3 p) (3 p)

Nelson, Major J. O. ALS to 1897 May (4 leaves) (4 leaves)

Pratt, E. W. ALS to 1892 Aug. 15 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Ruskin, [John]. ALS to n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Scott, Clement William. ALS to 1880 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Smithers, Leonard. ALS to 1898 Mar. 17 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Symons, [Arthur]. ALS to 1890 Oct. 22 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

[Whistler], [James MacNeill]. ALS to "Butterfly" 1885 Feb. (1 p) (1 p)

[--?]. ALS to 1880? (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

[--?], Madam. ALS to. As editor of Woman's World, invites contributors. Not in Hart-Davis' edition of Wilde letters 1887 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

unknown correspondent. ALS to an. Regarding "Lady Windemere's fan" 1893 Feb. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Incoming Correspondence

Morse, W[--?] F[--?] ALS to Wilde 1882 Apr. 5 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

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

Partial description and list of correspondents laid in vol. [1]

Related Correspondence

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)

Douglas, Lord Alfred Bruce. ALS to Violet Wyndham. Relates to Ada Lever and mentions Oscar Wilde 1932 Nov. 21 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Fawcett, Edgar. ALS to [William Henry] Bishop relating to Oscar Wilde [1883?] Nov. 18 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

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)

Hichens, Robert Smythe. ALS to Martin Secker. Mentions Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas 1932 Sept. 29 (2 p) (2 p)

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)

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])

Martin, Theodore. ALS to [Robert Ross]. Relates to Oscar Wilde 1909 Nov. 10 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Shaw, Bernard. ALS to David J. O'Donoghue. Relates to Oscar Wilde 1889 May 9 (3 p) (3 p)

Stockley, Cynthia. LS, ALS, etc. to James B. Pinker and son. Relates to Oscar Wilde 1904 - 1932 (10 letters) (10 letters)

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)

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