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

Guide to the

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle collection of papers

1881-1944

Berg Coll MSS Doyle

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Doyle, Arthur Conan, 1859-1930

Title: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle collection of papers

Date: 1881-1944

Size: 1,208 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, typescripts, correspondence, an undated notebook, financial and legal documents, and a photographic portrait.

Access: Restricted access.

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

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was a British novelist, short-story writer, essayist, and playwright.

Custodial History

The bulk of the materials was formerly owned by Denis Conan Doyle, W. T. H. Howe, Vincent Starrett, Owen D. Young, the American Play Company, the literary agency A. P. Watt and Son, and Henry W.

and Albert A. Berg. The letters between A. P. Watt and Son and J. B. Pinker and Son relating to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle are a bequest of John D. Gordan.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, correspondence, an undated notebook, financial and legal documents, and a photographic portrait. The manuscripts and typescripts comprise plays, stories, chapters from novels, poems, essays, and drafts of a Sherlock Holmes play by W. H. Gillette. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dating from 1881 to 1930, to John Kendrick Bangs, his sons Denis and Malcolm (later Adrian) Doyle, his daughter Jean Doyle, Amy Ratcliff Hoare, Sir Wemyss Reid, Clement King Shorter, Greenhough Smith, the literary agency A. P. Watt & Son, and others. Also present are letters relating to the author and his works, dating from 1896 to 1944, between various correspondents, including Adrian Conan Doyle, Denis Conan Doyle, Jean Doyle, Louise Conan Doyle, M. F. Doyle, Leon M. Lion, Clement King Shorter, and the literary agency A. P. Watt & Son. There is also a 16-volume letter book of A. P. Watt and Son, dating from 1879-1891, with letters to Conan Doyle and others.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Notebooks

Names

Doyle, Arthur Conan, 1859-1930
Bangs, John Kendrick, 1862-1922
Berg, Albert A., 1872-1950
Berg, Henry W., 1858-1938
Doyle, Adrian Conan
Doyle, Denis Conan
Doyle, Denis Conan
Doyle, Jean Leckie, Lady
Doyle, Louise Conan
Doyle, Mary Foley
Gillette, William, 1853-1937
Gordan, John D., 1907-1968
Hoare, Amy Ratcliff
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Lion, Leon M., 1879-1947
Reid, T. Wemyss (Thomas Wemyss), 1842-1905
Shorter, Clement King, 1857-1926
Smith, Greenhough
Starrett, Vincent, 1886-1974
Young, Owen D., 1874-
A. P. Watt and Son
A. P. Watt and Son
American Play Company

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts

- Oversize (+) "Over the bar..." Holograph poem 1881 Sept. 17 (2 p) (2 p)
Signed Bound with his: 14 ALS to Amy Ratcliff Hoare. 1881-[Oct. 28, 1921]
- Oversize (+) "Squire he sits in his parlour snug", The. Holograph poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed with initials Bound with his: 14 ALS to Amy Ratcliff Hoare. 1881-[Oct. 28, 1921]
- Oversize (+) [Lost world, The] Holograph. Bound n.d (292 p) (292 p)
Adventure of the blanched soldier, The. Holograph 1926 Jan. (26 p) (26 p)
B.
Adventure of the devil's foot, The. Holograph n.d (58 p) (58 p)
Signed at "Windlesham, Crowborough" B.
- Manuscript box How Etienne Gerard joined the Hussars of Couplans. Holograph story n.d.
(23 p) (23 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box How the Brigadier saved an army. Holograph story n.d (48 p) (48 p)
- Oversize (+) Pensioner's tale, The. Holograph poem n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
With ANS. 1 p.; Bound with his: 14 ALS to Amy Ratcliff Hoare. 1881-[Oct. 28, 1921]
- (Clemens, S. L.) Pond, James Burton. Manuscript register. Record of bookings for lectures,
etc. of 20 clients including G. W. Cable, S. L. Clemens, A. C. Doyle, F.
Hopkinson Smith and Lew Wallace 1894 Oct. - 1895 Dec. 10 (1 v) (1 v)
Return of Sherlock Holmes, The: No. 2. The adventure of the Norwood
builder. Holograph n.d (50 p) (50 p)
Y.
- Oversize (+) Round with the Capstan Bar Sally. Holograph poem n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
Bound with his: 14 ALS to Amy Ratcliff Hoare. 1881-[Oct. 28, 1921]
- Oversize (+) Saucy Kate. Holograph poem 1885 May (2 p) (2 p)
Signed Bound with his: 14 ALS to Amy Ratcliff Hoare. 1881-[Oct. 28, 1921]
- Manuscript box Youngest of the sciences, The. Holograph. "Alternative title 'The
development of hypnotism.'" n.d. (22 p) (22 p)
Signed
- Oversize (+) [Hound of the Baskervilles, The] Chapter XI. The man on the tor.
Holograph draft with ms. Corrections n.d. (16 p) (16 p)
Removed from his: The hound of the Baskervilles. London: G. Newnes, 1902. Copy 1

Notebooks

- Manuscript box Swedenborg and sp[iritualism] notes. Holograph notebook n.d. (15 p) (15 p)

Typescripts

- Oversize (+) "Brigadier Gerard"; a military drama in four acts. Typescript n.d. (126 p) (126 p)
p)
From the files of the American Play Co., Inc., no. 268
- Oversize (+) Gillette, W. H. Sherlock Holmes. Wherein is set forth for the first time the
strange case of Alice Faulkner. Later version. Typescript (carbon).
Contains cast for 1901-2. On half-title for Act IV: "Last version corrected
and dictated October 26, 1901." n.d. (4 v) (4 v)
presentation inscription from the author to Vincent Starrett, May 1, 1916

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Typescripts (cont.)

- Oversize (+) Gillette, W. H. Sherlock Holmes. Wherein is set forth for the first time the strange case of Alice Faulkner. Later version. Typescript, edited by Vincent Starrett. "Last version, corrected October 26th, 1901" n.d. (194 p) (194 p)
Signed by Vincent Starrett Except for the ending, corresponds to the text as edited by V. Starrett and published by Doubleday, 1935
- Oversize (+)
Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., Inc., no. 340 Halves. Typescript n.d (109 p) (109 p)
- Oversize (+) Lord of the dark face, The; being a sequel to The Maracot deep. Clipping of The Maracot deep, with typescript cinema notes (14 p) (14 p)
From the files of the American Play Co., Inc., no. 308
- Oversize (+) Lord of the dark face, The; being a sequel to The Maracot deep. Typescript of story n.d. (79 p) (79 p)
From the files of the American Play Co., Inc., no. 307
- Oversize (+) Gillette, W. H. Sherlock Holmes. Wherein is set forth for the first time the strange case of Alice Faulkner. Ending only. Early typewritten (carbon) draft with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (6 p) (6 p)
Varies from the text as published in 1935
- Oversize (+) Gillette, W. H. Sherlock Holmes. Wherein is set forth for the first time the strange case of Alice Faulkner. Ending only. Final typewritten draft with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
As published in 1935
- Oversize (+) Gillette, W. H. Sherlock Holmes. Wherein is set forth for the first time the strange case of Alice Faulkner. Ending only. Typewritten draft with the author's ms. corrections. As performed in 1929-32. n.d (8 p) (8 p)
- Oversize (+) Gillette, W. H. Sherlock Holmes. Wherein is set forth for the first time the strange case of Alice Faulkner. Miscellaneous alterations. Three typescripts with the author's ms. corrections. Includes notes in an unknown hand. One dated 1923 Jan. (9 p) (9 p)
- Oversize (+) Gillette, W. H. Sherlock Holmes. Wherein is set forth for the first time the strange case of Alice Faulkner. Typescript of the play with the author's ms. corrections. "Written under an agreement with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Original text of 1899. n.d. (4 v) (4 v)
Marked no. 5 on front covers Starrett, Vincent; Berg

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Manuscript box [--?]. ALS to Jan. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Aldridge, Mrs. C. C. ALS to [1928] May 25 (1 item) (1 item)
H.
- Inserted in:
Bangs, J. K. The pursuit of the houseboat.
Holograph
Manuscript box Bangs, John Kendrick. ALS to 1897 June 27 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Caine, Sir Hall. Mimeographed letter to 1914 Feb. 5 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed. With: Shorter, Clement King. 2 ALS, TLS to Sir Hall Caine. July 7, 1916. 1 p.; April 19 and May 31, 1921. 3 p.; 1 p.

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Oversize (+) Denis and Malcolm [later Adrian], his sons, and his daughter Jean, 73 ALS, 3 TL, 9 postcards to. Bound 1922 Aug. 22] - 1930 June 30 (2 v) (2 v)
Cover of vol. 1 has inset photograph of Denis Conan Doyle as a baby; accompanied by: Stratton, F. TLS to Denis Conan Doyle. Nov. 22, 1926. 1 p. Vol. 2, p. 42. His: Postcard to D W Wheeler. June 2 [1926] Vol. 2, p. 43; Denis Conan Doyle bookplates
- Inserted in his:
The memoirs of
Sherlock Holmes.
London, 1894.
Copy 1
Graves, Mr. ALS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Harding, Lyn. ALS to 1914 Feb. 17 (3 p) (3 p)
- Oversize (+) Hoare. 14 ALS to Amy Ratcliff Hoare, 7 ALS and 1 postcard to her husband Dr. Reginald Ratcliff Hoare, 1 ALS to their daughter Jocyn Ratcliff.
Bound 1881 - [1921 (1 v) (1 v)
Bound with these his: Saucy Kate. Holograph poem. May, 1885. 2 p.; The pensioner's tale. Holograph poem. 3 p. with ANS 1 p.; "Over the bar..." Holograph poem, Sept. 17, 1881. 2 p.; Round with the Capstan Bar Sally, [n.d.] 3 p.; "The squire..." [n.d.] 2 p
- Manuscript box Incorporated Society of Authors, Playwrights & Composers. TL (copy) to the secretary. Relate to Canadian piracies of works by Doyle and Rudyard Kipling 1908 June 4 (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by three TL, signed G. Herbert Thring, Incorporated society of authors, to A. P. Watt & son, and Watt's TL (copy) reply.
- Manuscript box Jones, Meyrick. ALS to. Mentions A. P. Watt & son Feb. 5 (1 p) (1 p)
- Inserted in: Doyle,
A. C. The
adventures of
Sherlock Holmes.
London, 1892.
Copy 1
Murray, Mr. ALS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Reid, [Sir Wemyss]. ALS to 1895 Sept. 18 (1 p) (1 p)
B.
- Manuscript box Reid, [Sir Wemyss]. ALS to 1897 Aug. 8 (2 p) (2 p)
B.
- Oversize (+) Robinson, [Fletcher]. ALS to 1902 Jan. 26 (1 p) (1 p)
With his: [The hound of the Baskervilles] Chapter XI. The man on the tor. Holograph draft with corrections, [n.d.] 16 p.
- Manuscript box Shorter, Clement King. 24 ALS, 1 postcard to 1897 Jan. 17 - [1916?] Aug. 24 (25 items in 5 folders) (25 items in 5 folders)
- Manuscript box Smith, Greenhough. ALS to 1912 Jan. 19 (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box Smith, Greenhough. ALS to 1912 after Jan. 19? (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Smith, Greenhough. ALS to 1912? ca. Feb. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Smith, Greenhough. ALS to 1912 Feb. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Watt, A. P., & Son. 6 ALS, 3 ANS (1 mutilated), 3 letters to 1893 Oct.] - 1922 Feb. 24 (12 items in 3 folders) (12 items in 3 folders)
Three letters: signed for Doyle. With ALS from Doyle's secretary Charles Terry to Watt, June 25 [1900] 1 p.; and four U.S. Copyright office renewal forms for Doyle's books, 1924
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Watt, A. P., & Son. 3 ALS to. Relate to Classic comics edition of Sir A. C. Doyle's The hound of the Baskervilles 1944 Apr. 27, 1944 May 12 (3 items) (3 items)
With 3 TL (carbon) replies; two TL, signed Arthur L. Kantor, from Gilberton corp. to Watt, and TL (carbon) reply
- Oversize (+) Wheeler, D W. Postcard to [1926] June 2 (1 item) (1 item)
With his: 73 ALS, 3 TL, 9 postcards to his sons Denis and Malcolm and his daughter Mary. 1922-1930. Vol. 2, p. 43

Correspondence (cont.)

Incoming Correspondence

Watt, A. P. and Son. Letter books. Letters (copies) to various authors and publishers, etc. Volumes numbered on spines through XXV. Lacking vols. I, V-VI, XII, XIV, XX-XXIV. Each vol. indexed at front by correspondent. Includes letters to Doyle, etc. 1879 Oct. - 1891 June (16 v) (16 v)

Related Correspondence

- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Doyle, Adrian Conan. 3 ALS to A. P. Watt & son. Relate to Classic comics edition of Sir A. C. Doyle's The hound of the Baskervilles. 1943 Oct. 30 - 1944 May 12 (3 items) (3 items)
With 3 TL (carbon) replies; two TL, signed Arthur L. Kantor, from Gilberton corp. to Watt, and TL (carbon) reply
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Doyle, Denis Conan. 2 ALS to A. P. Watt & son. Relate to National Broadcasting Co.'s use of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories 1931 Mar. 13, 1931 Mar. 16 (2 items) (2 items)
With 6 TL (carbon) replies
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Doyle, Jean (Leckie), Lady. 10 TLS, 4 TNS to A. P. Watt & son. Relate to use of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories by Leon M. Lion and the National Broadcasting Co. 1930 Sept. 27 - 1933 Jan. 30 (14 items in 3 folders) (14 items in 3 folders)
With 28 TL (carbon) replies
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Doyle, Louise Conan. ALS to Clement King Shorter n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Doyle, M. F. ALS to [--?] 1913 June 29 (7 p) (7 p)
H.
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Doyle, M. F. ALS to [--?] Relates to her son Arthur Conan Doyle [1913] July 2 (1 item) (1 item)
H.
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Doyle, M. F. ALS to [--?] Relates to her son Arthur Conan Doyle [1913] July 8 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Field, Roscoe & co., London. 17 TL and 2 TN to A. P. Watt & son. Relate to use of Sir A. C. Doyle's stories by Leon M. Lion and the National Broadcasting Co. 1921 Feb. 14 - 1933 Feb. 7 (19 items in 4 folders) (19 items in 4 folders)
With seven TL (carbon) replies
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Letters, ALS, TLS, etc., from various publishers, etc. to the firm of A. P. Watt & son as literary agent for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 1896 - 1914 (4 items) (4 items)
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Lion, Leon M. 6 TL (copies) to Lady Jean Leckie Doyle. Relate to play based on Sir A. C. Doyle's Sherlock Holmes. 1932 Aug. 24 - 1932 Dec. 29 (6 items) (6 items)
Enclosed in: Holland, Constance. 4 TNS to A. P. Watt & son. Letter of Jan. 13, 1933
- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) Paget literary agency, New York. 14 TL, 10 telegrams, 1 telegram (copy) to A. P. Watt & son. Relate to use of Sir A. C. Doyle's stories by the National Broadcasting Co. 1930 Aug. 20 - 1932 Mar. 17 (25 items in 6 folders) (25 items in 6 folders)
With 6 TL (carbon), 7 telegram (copy) replies
- Manuscript box (Conrad) Watt, A. P. and son. 4 TLS to J. B. Pinker and son. Relate to Joseph Conrad and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 1923 Jan. 29 - 1928 May 15 (4 items) (4 items)
John D. Gordan bequest

Financial and Legal Documents

Financial and Legal Documents (cont.)

- Manuscript box (Doyle, A. C.) **Royalty statements (1020) for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 1892 - 1916** (1,020 items in 20 folders) (1,020 items in 20 folders)
From the files of A. P. Watt & son
- Manuscript box (Doyle) **Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** (1 folder) (1 folder)
From the files of the American Play Co.

Portraits

- Oversize (+) **Photograph of Arthur Conan Doyle. 10 x 15 cm. n.d.** (1 item) (1 item)
With his: [The hound of the Baskervilles] Chapter XI. The man on the tor. Holograph draft, with ms. corrections, undated. 16 p.