Summary

Creator: Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894

Title: Robert Louis Stevenson collection of papers

Date: 1873-[1944 [bulk 1881-1917]

Size: 201 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 and typescripts, correspondence, undated notebooks, financial and legal documents, portraits, and pictorial works.

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.


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

Creator History
Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish novelist, essayist, dramatist, and poet.

Custodial History
The bulk of the materials is from W. T. H. Howe and Owen D. Young. Also present are materials from Thomas Cabel, Arthur Lee, Sidney Moody, and from the files of the American Play Co.

Scope and Content Note
This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, undated notebooks, financial and legal documents, portraits, and pictorial works. The manuscripts include a number of holograph poems and incomplete or unfinished holographs of stories and novels. Also present are manuscripts and emended typescripts by Fredson Bowers, Clayton Meeker Hamilton, John Steuart, and Vladimir Nabokov. The correspondence includes letters, dating from 1874 to 1894 from the author to J. M. Barrie, Edmund Gosse, Clement King Shorter, Stevenson’s mother Margaret Balfour Stevenson, and others. There are also letters relating to the author, dating from [1873] to 1944, between various correspondents including W. K. Bixby, Sidney Colvin, Edmund Gosse, Charles John Guthrie, Clayton Meeker Hamilton, George Moore, Christopher D. Morley, and others. There are letters to Stevenson from George Meredith and from A. P. Watt & Son., dating from 1878 to 1894.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Correspondence
Notebooks

Names
Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894
Barrie, J. M. (James Matthew), 1860-1937
Bixby, William K. (William Keeney), 1857-1931
Bowers, Fredson
Cabel, Thomas
Colvin, Sidney, 1845-1927
Gosse, Edmund, 1849-1928
Guthrie, Charles John Guthrie, Lord, 1849-1920
Hamilton, Clayton Meeker, 1881-1946
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Lee, Arthur Hamilton Lee, viscount, 1868-1947
Meredith, George, 1828-1909
Moody, Sidney
Moore, George, 1852-1933
Morley, Christopher, 1890-1957
Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich, 1899-1977
Shorter, Clement King, 1857-1926
Steuart, John A. (John Alexander), 1861-1932
Stevenson, M. I. (Margaret Isabella), 1829-1897
Young, Owen D., 1874-
A. P. Watt and Son
American Play Company
## Container List

**Manuscripts and Typescripts**

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Stevenson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cased</th>
<th>&quot;And from before my window&quot; and &quot;The disordered (?) time of the streets.&quot; Rough holograph drafts of 2 poems n.d. (1 p) (1 p)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize (+)</td>
<td>[Autolycus in service]. 4 portions of holograph draft: the first with characters P and Kate, the second and fourth with characters Ernst and Kate, the third with characters Carnicles and Artemidora n.d. (3 p.; 1 p.; 2 p.; 2 leaves) (3 p.; 1 p.; 2 p.; 2 leaves) Bound with title-page and cover and entitled: Original autograph manuscript notes for the play &quot;Autolycus in service.&quot;; B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize (+)</td>
<td>Great North road, The. Unfinished holograph (Bound) 1884? (1 v) (1 v) Bound with covers of Cosmopolitan magazine, Dec. 1895 and Jan. 1896 and pp. [147]-157, [289]-300, 1 illustration and 2 portraits. B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inserted in his:</td>
<td>&quot;I hear, O city of my birth&quot;. Incomplete holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasure Island.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London, 1883.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize (+)</td>
<td>[In the South Seas: chapters LI, LII, XLIX, XIX-XXIV (ie Part 2, chapters 2-6; part 3, chapters 2, 4, 5 of the 1900 edition)]. Incomplete holograph. Including passages not in the published work n.d. (55 p) (55 p)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cased</td>
<td>&quot;Light foot and tight foot.&quot; Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) With his: &quot;And from before my windows.&quot; Rough holograph draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cased</td>
<td>Looking-glass river and Armies in the fire. 2 holograph poems [may not be in Stevenson's hand] n.d. (2 p) (2 p) With his: &quot;And from before my windows.&quot; Rough holograph draft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Manuscript box**

My treasures, from A Child's Garden of Verses. Photostat copy of a draft of his holograph and a couplet entitled "Happy thought". First two lines of My treasures, missing n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

| Inserted in: | Note relating to his book, Father Damien. Holograph. n.d. (1 p) (1 p) |
| Stevenson, R. L. |                                                                 |
| Father Damien. |                                                                 |
| London, 1890. |                                                                 |
| Copy 1 |                                                                 |
Notes beginning: 1) The thing I really love about Pemara... 2) Damn rocking chairs!... 3) I really must Dumbletonise I think... n.d. (3 p) (3 p)

Praise and prayer. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Robin and Ben, or The pirate and the apothecary. Holograph poem n.d. (9 p)

Summer night, A. To Charles Baxter. Holograph. On picture frame:
Presented by Sir Arthur Lee and Lady Lee 1875 May 26 (2 p) (2 p)

To Doctor John Brown. Holograph poem n.d. (3 p) (3 p)

To Mrs. E. F. Strickland. Holograph poem. Removed from: Stevenson, R. L.
New poems and variant readings. London, 1918 1886 Apr. 2 (1 p) (1 p)

Travels with a donkey in the French Highlands. I. Le Monastier. Incomplete holograph draft. Apparently the first essay but differs from the published text of the first essay n.d. (2 p) (2 p)

"Wandering Willie," "The lea-rig," "When the kye came hame," and "I love nae a caddie." Holograph music score. 1 l. consisting of 16 lines n.d. (1 v) (1 v)

American play company. Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning R. L. Stevenson n.d. (2 folders)
(2 folders)

Field, Isobel (Osbourne) Strong. Memorandum headed "Of vital importance; these must come out." With ms. corrections in an unknown hand. Relates to Calyton M. Hamilton's On the trail of Stevenson. 1915 (6 p)
(6 p)
Enclosed in: Morley, C. D. ALS to C. M. Hamilton, N.Y., Nov. 6 [1915]

Hamilton, Clayton Meeker. [I can remember Robert Louis Stevenson].
Holograph review. Page 1, 2 and 4 wanting n.d. (5 p) (5 p)

Laid in: Leaf of holograph notes headed: "Specially important new letters"; B.
| --- | --- |
Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)
Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Stevenson (cont.)

Nabokov, Valdimir Vladimirovich. "The strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Typescript of lecture (xerox copy), edited by Fredson Bowers with his corrections n.d. (34 p) (34 p)
Published in his Lectures on literature, edited by Fredson Bowers, p. 179-205. Juliar: A51.1

Inserted in:

Osbourne, Lloyd. Holograph version of his introductory note of acknowledgement for A letter to Mr. Stevenson’s friends [Apia] 1894; with an added note in an unidentified hand 1894 Dec. 24 (1 p) (1 p)
The published version dated Dec. 17, 1894

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Angus, Wm. Craibe. ALS to 1891 Nov. (1 p) (1 p)

Barrie, J. M. ALS to 1892 Nov. 1 (5 p) (5 p)

Boodle, Adelaide. ALS to 1890 Sept. 1 (11 p) (11 p)

Boodle, Adelaide. ALS to 1894 July 14 (7 p) (7 p)

Cassell and co. ALS to the editor 1883 Sept. 2 (2 p) (2 p)

Messrs. Chatto and Windus. ALS to 1882 Feb.? (2 p) (2 p)

Chatto and Windus. ALS to 1884? (1 p) (1 p)

Evans, F. H. ALS to 1890 Feb. (1 p) (1 p)

Evans, F. H. ALS to. Typewritten copy marked "Special" in ms. 1890 Feb. (1 p) (1 p)

Gosse, Edmund. ALS to 1884 Mar. 28 (3 p) (3 p)

With envelope postmarked March (?) 28, 1884; Y.

Henley, [W. E.]. ALS to n.d. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Ingram, John H. ALS to. Mentions his criticism of Edgar Allan Poe 1874? (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

In his: The merry men. Proof sheets of p. [1]-32. On half-title and its verso

James, [Henry]. AL to 1888 Jan. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Signed "Robert Ramsay Fergusson Stevenson"

Japp, Alexander H. ALS to 1881 Aug. 7 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Guide to the
Robert Louis Stevenson collection of papers

Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Payn, James. ALS to 1889 June 13 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.

[Rodin], [Auguste]. 2 ALS to 188- (2 leaves; 1 leaf) (2 leaves; 1 leaf) Y.
Shorter, Clement K. 4 ALS to 1892 Oct. 7 - 1893 Jan. 18 (4 letters) (4 letters)

Simpson, Sir Walter. ALS to 1888? (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

[Stevenson], [Margaret Balfour]. ALS to his mother 1874 Apr. 19 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Stevenson, Margaret Balfour. ALS to his mother. Date altered in ms. in another hand to Sept. 8 1878 July (1 p) (1 p)
H.

[Stevenson], [Margaret Balfour]. ALS to his mother 1883 Jan. 10 (3 p) (3 p)

Stevenson, Margaret Balfour. ALS to his mother 1883 Mar. 3 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

[Stevenson], [Margaret Balfour]. ALS to his mother 1890 Mar. 5 (3 p) (3 p)

Stevenson, R. A. M. [Robert Alan Mowbray], and family Margaret, Louisa and Bob. ALS to [1883] Dec. 31 (3 p) (3 p)

[Stevenson], [Robert A. M.]. ALS to 1887 Oct. (3 leaves) (3 leaves)

[Stevenson], [Mr. & Mrs. Thomas]. ALS to "My dear people" 1881 May 12 (2 p) (2 p)
H.

Incoming Correspondence

Meredith, George. ALS to Stevenson 1878 Jan. 14 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Meredith, George. LS to Stevenson. Written in the hand of his daughter, Marie Parkman Sturgis (?) 1894 Jan. 25 (5 p) (5 p)
H.
Cased
Watt, A. P., & Son. Letterbooks. Letters (copies) to various authors and publishers, etc. Vols. numbered on spines through XXV. Lacking vols. I, V-VI, XII, XIV, XX-XXIV. Each volume indexed separately at front 1879 Oct. - 1891 June (16 v) (16 v)
Partial description and list of correspondents laid in volume [1]

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box
(Shorter)
Great North road, The. Baxter, Charles. 2 ALS to Clement King Shorter. Relates to the date of composition of R. L. Stevenson's The Great North road 1895 Nov. 25, 1897 Jan. 7 (2 p. each) (2 p. each)
Copy of letter from Stevenson to William Ernest Henley, dated 1884, is laid in

Manuscript box
(Stevenson, R. L.)
Bixby, W. K. LS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates to Robert Louis Stevenson 1917 May 7 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
(Stevenson, R. L.)
Bixby, W. K. LS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates to Robert Louis Stevenson 1917 June 18 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
(Stevenson, R. L.)
Catton, Robert. ALS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates to Robert Louis Stevenson 1923 Mar. 3 (1 p) (1 p)
B. (1955 acc.)

Manuscript box
(Stevenson, R. L.)
B. (1955 acc.)

Manuscript box
Colvin, Sidney. 3 ALS and 2 LS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates to Robert Louis Stevenson 1911 Aug. 8 - 1923 Mar. 25 (5 letters) (5 letters)

Manuscript box
Colvin, Sidney. ALS to Christopher Darlington Morley. Relates to Robert Louis Stevenson 1915 Nov. 30 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
With copy of letter in Clayton Meeker Hamilton's hand

Inserted in:
Stevenson, R. L.
Father Damien.
Sydney, 1890.
Copy 2

Inserted in:
Stevenson, R. L.
Letters to an editor. [n.p., 1914]

Manuscript box
Colvin, Sidney. ALS to Col. W. F. Prideaux 1910 Apr. 18 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
Colvin, Sidney. ALS to Clement K. Shorter 1914 Nov. 6 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Conrad, Joseph. ALS to Sir Sidney Colvin. Mentions Robert Louis Stevenson 1919 July (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Manuscript box
Cunningham, Alison. ALS to Lord Guthrie 1909 Nov. 12 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Accompanied by: Guthrie, Charles John, Lord Guthrie. ALS to Dorothy Furman. July 17, 1916. 1 l.

Manuscript box
Cunningham, Alison. 3 ALS to John H. K. Todd 1913 Jan. 15 - 1913 Feb. 13 (6 p.; 2 p.; 1 leaf) (6 p.; 2 p.; 1 leaf)

Manuscript box
Guide to the
Robert Louis Stevenson collection of papers
Correspondence (cont.)
Related Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Hamilton, Clayton Meeker. ALS to [--?] Saxton. Relates to R. L. Stevenson
1916 July 31 (1 p) (1 p)
Encloses: Guthrie, C. J., Lord Guthrie. ALS to C. M. Hamilton. Swanstone cottage, Colinton

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Jenkin, Anne. ALS to Sir Sidney Colvin. Relates to the death of Robert
Louis Stevenson [1894] Dec. 18 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Jenkin, Fleeming. ALS to Sir Sidney Colvin. Writer is R. L. Stevenson's
biographer. Letter relates to Walter Cavage Landor 1881 Aug. 2 (4 leaves) (4 leaves)

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Low, Will Hicock. ALS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates to R. L.
Stevenson 1916 Jan. 15 (5 p) (5 p)

Manuscript box

Moore, George. TLS to Sir Sidney Colvin. Mentions Robert Louis
Stevenson 1917 Mar. 8 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box

Moore, George. LS to Sir Sidney Colvin. Mentions Landor and Stevenson
1917 Mar. 15 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.

Manuscript box

Moore, George. ALS to Sir Sidney Colvin. Mentions Landor and Stevenson
[1917] Apr. (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box

Morley, Christopher Darlington. ALS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates
To R. L. Stevenson 1916 Jan. 4 (3 p) (3 p)
Encloses: Field, I (Osbourne) S. Memorandum headed “Of vital importance; these must

Manuscript box

Morley, Christopher Darlington. ALS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates
to Robert Louis Stevenson 1916 Jan. 26 (2 p) (2 p)

Manuscript box (Gotham)

Pyle, E[--?] C[--?]. TLS to Frances Steloff. 1939 June 19 (1 p) (1 p)
Encloses typewritten extracts from Robert Louis Stevenson letters. 2 p.

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Steuart, John Alexander. ALS to Clayton Meeker Hamilton. Relates to R.
L. Stevenson 1925 Jan. 20 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Stevenson, Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne. 13 ALS to Adelaide Boodle.
Relates to Robert Louis Stevenson 1887 Aug.? - 1899 Sept. 17 (13 letters in 3
folders) (13 letters in 3 folders)

Manuscript box

Stevenson, Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne. ALS to Sir Sidney Colvin 1881?
Aug. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
With ANS from Robert Louis Stevenson on p. 2

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Stevenson, Fanny. ALS to Alison Cunningham 1913 Jan. 13 (3 p) (3 p)

Manuscript box (Stevenson)

Stevenson, Margaret Isabella Balfour. ALS to Frances, Lady Colvin.
Correspondent was Mrs. Sitwell by a previous marriage. Letter relates to
R. L. Stevenson 1873 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Stevenson, Margaret Isabella Balfour. ALS to Sir Sidney Colvin. Mother of Robert Louis Stevenson describing the death of her son 1895 Feb. 4 (4 leaves)

Stevenson, Robert. A stormy voyage, 1832. Transcript in the hand of his grandson, Robert Louis Stevenson 189-? (8 p) (8 p)


Financial and Legal Documents

Financial Documents

Check for 19 [pounds] sterling to T. Davidson on the Wilts & Dorset banking company, Bournemouth branch 1887 Apr. 6 (1 item) (1 item)

Draft to bearer on H. J. Moors for two dollars 1892 May 24 (1 item) (1 item)
Signed by R. L. Stevenson

Draft to bearer on H. J. Moors for "seven dollars currency" 1892 Dec. 12 (1 item) (1 item)
Signed by R. L. Stevenson

Legal Documents

Codicil to the will of R. L. Stevenson, written in his hand 1885 July 14 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed "Robert Alan Mowbray Stevenson, witness"; H.

Portraits and Pictorial Works

Portraits


Osbourne, Lloyd. Original pen-and-ink sketch of Robert Louis Stevenson n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Moody, Sidney; Howe

Pictorial Works

Cutter's deck, The. Original pencil drawing n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Signed

Original map showing the position of various towns, rivers, dikes, etc. n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Original pencil drawings (16) including a portrait of "Cummy" and 1 water color drawing n.d. ([17] items) ([17] items)
All but 2 signed in full, or with initials
Portraits and Pictorial Works (cont.)

Pictorial Works (cont.)


Original pencil drawings n.d. ([2] items) ([2] items)