Summary

Creator: Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965

Title: William Somerset Maugham collection of papers

Date: 1897]-1964

Size: 746 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 typescripts, manuscripts, correspondence, and legal documents.

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
William Somerset Maugham was a British fiction and comedy writer, essayist, playwright, and literary critic.

Custodial History
The bulk of the materials was previously owned by W. T. H. Howe, the American Play Co., and the
literary agency A. P. Watt and son.

Scope and Content Note
This is a synthetic collection consisting of typescripts, manuscripts, correspondence, and legal documents. The typescripts and manuscripts include plays, short stories, novels, and other writings, as well as plays based on the author's works. Also included are agreements, forms, and statements from various theatrical agencies concerning the author. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dating from [1897] to 1964, to Kate Mary Bruce, William Morris Colles, Violet Hunt, Edward Knoblock, Sir Edward Howard Marsh, Muriel Rukeyser, Clement King Shorter, Carl Van Vechten, the literary agency of A. P. Watt and Son, and others. Other letters, relating to the author, date from [1921] to 1956; the correspondents include Ian Fleming, Robert Graves, A. P. Watt and Son, the literary agency James B. Pinker and Son, and others. There are letters to Maugham from Shah Agha Khan, Felix Ferry, and Sir Stanley Unwin, dating from 1950 to [1954?].

Key Terms

Names
Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965
Bruce, Kate Mary Maugham, 1897-
Colles, William Morris, 1855-1926
Ferry, Felix
Fleming, Ian, 1908-1964
Graves, Robert, 1895-1985
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Hunt, Violet, 1862-1942
Khan, Agha Mohammad Yahya, 1917-1980
Knoblock, Edward, 1874-1945
Marsh, Edward Howard, Sir, 1872-1953
Rukeyser, Muriel, 1913-1980
Shorter, Clement King, 1857-1926
Unwin, Stanley, Sir, 1884-1968
Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964
A. P. Watt and Son
American Play Company
James B. Pinker and Son
## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

**Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Maugham**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pages</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>With: Ms. note in unidentified hand at end: &quot;Not a picture story. J. K.&quot;;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Published in the U.S. with title: East and West</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 357</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>(100 p)</td>
<td>(100 p)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Oversize (+)  
**Our betters; a play in three acts.** Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 407 n.d. (160 p) (160 p)  
With name of cast and stage directions in an unidentified hand

Oversize (+)  
**Penelope; a comedy in three acts.** Typescript (carbon)  
n.d. (170 p) (170 p)  
From the files of the American Play Co., no. 361

Manuscript box  
[Quartet]. Holograph draft for the introductory talk to the film version  
n.d. (5 p) (5 p)

Oversize (+)  
**Razor's edge, The.** Holograph of the film play.  
Bound  
n.d. (190 p) (190 p)  
With The razor's edge. Typescript (incomplete) with the author's ms. revisions, July 12-19, 1945, p. 106

Oversize (+)  
**Razor's edge, The.** Typescript (incomplete) with the author's ms. Revisions  
1945 July 12 - 1945 July 19 (106 p) (106 p)  
With The razor's edge. Holograph, undated

Oversize (+)  
**Sacred flames; a play in three acts, The.** Typescript (carbon).  
Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 399 n.d. (112 p) (112 p)  
With ms. notes and diagrams in unidentified hand. Published London, Heinemann, 1928

Manuscript box  
[Trío] Holograph replies to questionnaire from Sydney Box concerning filming of his three short stories for Trío  
n.d. (2 p) (2 p)  
With ANS from Sydney Box to P[-?] A[-?] R[-?]  

Oversize (+)  
**[Unattainable, The].** Caroline; a comedy in three acts. Typescript.  
Inscribed: “Return to Margaret Anglin” and “Return to Jane Broder”  
n.d. (95 p) (95 p)  
With ms. notes and stage directions in Margaret Anglin's (?) and an unidentified hand.  
Published London, Heinemann, 1923. From the files of the American Play Co., no. 409

Oversize (+)  
**Unknown; a play in three acts, The.**  
Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 572  
n.d. (107 p) (107 p)  
Published London, Heinemann, 1920

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Maugham

Oversize (+)  
Akins, Zoe and Hugo Rumbold. The human elephant; a play in three acts, adapted from the short story of that title by S. Maugham. Early typescript (carbon).  
Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 303 n.d. (99 p) (99 p)

Oversize (+)  
Akins, Zoe and Hugo Rumbold. The human elephant; a play in three acts, adapted from the short story of that title by S. Maugham. Later typescript with ms. corrections in an unidentified hand.  
Fastened in linen cover of Kurt Frings agency n.d. (112 p) (112 p)  
From the files of the American Play Co.

Oversize (+)  
Bolton, Guy. Theatre; comedy [based on] Somerset Maugham's story. Two typescripts ( carbons)  
n.d. (127 p., 127 p) (127 p., 127 p)  
From the files of the American Play Co., no. 400
Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)
Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Maugham (cont.)

Colton, John and Clemence Randolph. Rain; a play in three acts. Founded on the story "Miss Thompson" by W. Somerset Maugham. Typescript (carbon) n.d. (121 p) (121 p)
With: Dietz, Howard and Rouben Mamulian. Sadie Thompson; a musical play based on W. Somerset Maugham's Rain. Typescript, undated. 92 p.; From the files of the American Play Co., no. 318

Manuscript box
(Maugham)

Darnborough, Antony. Typewritten memorandum to Sydney Box. Relates to the filming of W. S. Maugham's short story Ther verberg in Trio 1950 Feb. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
Encloses note from the vicar of Grosvenor chapel refusing permission to film on premises. 1 l.

Oversize
(+)(Maugham)


Manuscript box
(Maugham)

Nash's Pall Mall magazine. Many happy returns! Holograph and typescript contributions by various authors to the 25th anniversary issue of Nash's. Detailed list of contents in folder 1 1934? (57 folders) (57 folders)
Some contributions accompanied by correspondence. Published in Nash's, v. 93, no. 494 (July 1934) p. 58-59, 142-147

Manuscript box
Box 31

Wescott, Glenway. [Images of truth. Somerset Maugham and posterity]. Final typescript with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (38 p) (38 p)
Published New York, Harper & Row [c1962]

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Aldington, Richard. TL (copy) to 1954 Aug. 29 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box

Manuscript box
Archer, William. TLS to 1948 Aug. 1 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
Archer, William. TLS to Feb. 20 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
Beerbohm, Max. ALS to 1928 Feb. (1) (1)

Manuscript box
Box, Sydney. TLS to 1950 Feb. 16 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
Bruce, Kate Mary. 75 ALS, 1 TLS, 1 telegram to. Supplied dates by Robin Maugham 1927 Mar. 3 - [1961 Oct. 20 (77 letters in 16 folders) (77 letters in 16 folders)

Manuscript box
Colles, William Morris. ALS to [1898] Nov. 10 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.

Manuscript box
Colles, William Morris. ALS to [1899] July 12 (3 p) (3 p)

Manuscript box
Colles, William Morris. ALS to [1903] Feb. 6 (3 p) (3 p)
H.

Manuscript box
Colles, William Morris. ALS to [1904] July 3 (3 p) (3 p)
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<th>Manuscript box</th>
<th>Colles, Mr. ALS to July 31 (2 p) (2 p)</th>
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<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Darnborough, Antony. TLS to 1948 Nov. 16 (1 p) (1 p)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Doran, George H. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)</td>
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<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Hunt, Violet 11 ALS to n.d. (11 letters in 2 folders) (11 letters in 2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Knoblock, Edward. 12 ALS, 1 LS, 1 card, 10 TLS to 1914 Apr. 9 - [ca. 1930] June 24 (24 letters in 5 folders) (24 letters in 5 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Land, Myrick. TLS, TNS to. Relates to disagreement with Hugh Walpole 1961 Sept. 6, 1962 Apr. 23 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)</td>
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<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Landau, [--?]. TLS to 1954 Nov. 3 (1 p) (1 p)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Little, Fanny B. ALS to. Stamped April 29, 1925 by G. H. Doran co. 1925 Apr. 28? (1 p) (1 p)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Lyons, Leonard. 1 ANS, 1 TLS, 8 TNS to 1946 Nov. 5 - 1963 Mar. 2 (10 letters in 2 folders) (10 letters in 2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Madden, Richard. TNS to May 14 (1 p) (1 p)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Marsh, Sir Edward Howard. 33 ALS, 1 TLS to [1919?] July 5 - [1949] Apr. 24 (34 letters in 7 folders) (34 letters in 7 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Maugham, Robin. 2 ALS, 1 postcard to. Dates supplied by correspondent, one undated [1939] Nov. 20, [n.y.] Apr. 24 (3 p.; 1 leaf; 1 card) (3 p.; 1 leaf; 1 card) With one envelope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Mealand, Richard, of Nash's Pall Mall magazine, ALS to [1934] Apr. 15 (3 p) (3 p) Includes his contribution to Nash's 25th anniversary issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Nichols, Beverly. 9 ALS, 1 TLS to n.d. (10 letters in 2 folders) (10 letters in 2 folders)</td>
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<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Overton, Grant. 2 ALS, 4 TLS to 1926 Oct. 29 - 1928 Nov. 22 (6 letters) (6 letters)</td>
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<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Pinker and son, James B. LS, ALS, etc. to 1911, [n.d] (2 letters) (2 letters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manuscript box</td>
<td>Plomer, William. ALS (photocopy) to 1934 Sept. 30 (2 p) (2 p) Came with Plomer's correspondence with Jacob Schwartz</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Guide to the
William Somerset Maugham collection of papers
Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box  
Rubin, Jane. 2 ALS, 8 TLS to 1951 June 3 - [n.y.] Jan. 20 (10 letters in 2 folders) (10 letters in 2 folders)  
With: Maugham, W. S. TNS to Richard Madden, May 14 [n.y.] 1 p.

Manuscript box  
Rukeyser, Muriel. 2 TLS to 1957 Apr. 27, 1962 Nov. 17 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)

Manuscript box  
Shorter, Clement King. ALS to [1918] Feb. 8 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box  
Smith, Frederick Stanley. 6 ALS, 1 TLS to 1923 Sept. 16 - 1935 Jan. 16 (7 letters)  
(7 letters)

Manuscript box  
With reader's report by W. H. Chesson, 6 by Edward Garnett and one by Vaughan Nash

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carl. ALS to 1925 Sept. 2 (1 p) (1 p)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carl. ALS to 1925 Oct.? (1 p) (1 p)  
With: Colefax, Sibyl (Halsey), lady. ALS to [Carl] Van Vechten. [Nov. 22, 1925]

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carl. ALS to 1928 May 25 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to 1931 Apr. 12 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carl. ALS to [1934] Aug. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to [1934] Sept. 19 (3 p) (3 p)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to [1934] Nov. 9 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to 1936 Jan. 18 (1 p) (1 p)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to. On correspondence card 1936 Apr. 11 (1 card) (1 card)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to 1936 May 19 (1 p) (1 p)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to 1938 Feb. 25 (1 p) (1 p)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to. Introduces Maugham's nephew Robin 1938 (1 p) (1 p)  
Accompanied by letter from Robin Maugham to Carl Van Vechten; both letters in envelope postmarked Jan. 31, 1938. B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carl. LS to 1939 Mar. 31 (1 p) (1 p)  
B.

Manuscript box  
Van Vechten, Carl. Postal card to 1939 (1 card) (1 card)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carl. ALS to [1940?] Aug. 21 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to 1941 Apr. 5 (1 p) (1 p)  
B.

Manuscript box  
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to 1941 Nov. 17 (1 p) (1 p)  
B.
Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to [1944?] Jan. 31 (1 p) (1 p)
  B.

Manuscript box
[Van Vechten], Carlo [Carl]. ALS to 1944 Nov. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
  B.

Manuscript box
Watt and son, A. P. 10 ALS, 123 TLS, 1 telegram to 1947 Jan. 18 - 1964 May 9
  (134 letters in 27 folders) (134 letters in 27 folders)
Enclosed in July 12, 1953: Ferry, Felix. TLS to W. S. Maugham, July 1, 1953. 2 p.; with AL
(draft), signed W. P. Watt, TL signed Patricia Butler, and 15 TL (carbon) from Watt to
Maugham

Manuscript box
Wolfe, Humbert. ANS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Incoming Correspondence

Manuscript box (Maugham)
Agha Khan, Agha Sultan Mohammed Shah. ANS to [Maugham] [1954?] June
  3 (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by: Field, Roscoe & co., London. TL, signed Kenneth Ewart, to A. P. Watt and

Manuscript box
Ferry, Felix. TLS to Maugham 1953 July 1 (2 p) (2 p)
Enclosed in: Maugham, William Somerset. 10 ALS, 123 TLS, 1 telegram to A. P. Watt and

Manuscript box (Maugham)
Unwin, Stanley, Sir. TLS to Maugham. Relates to Maugham's article on
Augustus Hare 1950 Sept. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
  From the files of A. P. Watt and son

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box (Bennett)
Bodkin, Thomas. TLS to Reginald Pound. Relates to Arnold Bennett,
  mentions W. S. Maugham 1953 Jan. 15 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box (Maugham)
Fleming, Ian. 2 TLS to A. P. Watt and son. Relate to W. S. Maugham 1954
May 14, 1954 May 24 (1 leaf; 1 p) (1 leaf; 1 p)
  From the files of A. P. Watt and son

Manuscript box
Graves, Robert. ALS, ANS, and postcard to A. P. Watt and son. Letter of
Nov. 18, 1947 relates to W. S. Maugham [1921] Apr. 3 - 1947 Nov. 18 (1 p. each; 1
card) (1 p. each; 1 card)

Manuscript box (Maugham)
Jonas, Klaus W. 6 ALS and LS to Carl Van Vechten. Relate to Maugham
22 (7 letters) (7 letters)

Manuscript box (Bennett)
Kelly, Sir Gerald Festus. TLS to Reginald Pound. Relates to Arnold
  Bennett; mentions W. S. Maugham 1953 Jan. 26 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box
Kelly, Sir Gerald Festus. TLS, TNS to A. P. Watt & son. Letter of June 7th
quotes letter from W. S. Maugham to Kelly 1938 June 7, 1938 June 13 (1 p. each)
  (1 p. each)
With carbons of two letters from Watt and three unrelated memoranda

Manuscript box (Pinker, J. B., firm)
Letters, ALS, telegrams, etc. from various publishers, etc. to the firm of
  James B. Pinker and son as literary agents from William Somerset
  Maugham n.d. (60] letters ([60] letters)
  B.
### Correspondence (cont.)

**Related Correspondence (cont.)**

- Letters, ALS, telegrams, etc. from various publishers, etc. to the firm of A. P. Watt and son as literary agents for W. S. Maugham 1947 - 1956 (14 letters)
  - (14 letters)

- Macmillan, Harold. TLS, TNS to A. P. Watt and son. Relate to W. S. Maugham’s proposed selection of Rudyard Kipling’s stories 1951 Feb. 6, 1951
  - Feb. 21 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
  - From the files of A. P. Watt and son

- Queen, Ellery, pseud. TLS to Katharine Ulman. Relates to reprint rights to W. Somerset Maugham's The hairless Mexican 1954 June 16 (1 p) (1 p)
  - From the files of A. P. Watt and son

- Stern, Gladys Bronwyn. 3 ALS to Beverley Nichols. Mention John Betjeman, John Van Druten and W. S. Maugham n.d. (3 letters) (3 letters)

- [Watt and son, A. P.] 2 typed memoranda, 1 miscellaneous piece relating to W. S. Maugham 1949 - 1954 (3 items) (3 items)

### Legal Documents

- Agreement (envelope only) between William Somerset Maugham and T. Fisher Unwin 1899 Mar. 7 (1 item) (1 item)

- Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Maugham n.d. (163 folders) (163 folders)
  - From the files of the American Play Co.

- Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Maugham. Refers to his The moon and sixpence n.d. (1 folder) (1 folder)
  - From the files of the American Play Co.

- Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Maugham. Refers to his Our betters n.d. (1 folder) (1 folder)
  - From the files of the American Play Co.

- Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Maugham. Refers to his The sacred flame n.d. (1 folder) (1 folder)
  - From the files of the American Play Co.

- Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Maugham n.d. (6 folders) (6 folders)