

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 40 M 132  
87 M 48

Location 5-g-6 (R)

Title Alexander Black Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1858-1939; Bulk dates 1890-1928

Date of receipt September 1940

Received from Edith O'Dell (Mrs. Alexander Blac

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 2 AB & 2 ½AB; 1.5 linear feet

Condition good

Restrictions none

Description

Biographical Note Alexander Black, author, editor and photographer, was born in Brooklyn on February 7, 1859. Black began his career in the 1870's as a reporter for the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and later worked as an editor for the Brooklyn Times(1885-1905), the New York World (1905-1910), Frank Seaman, Inc. (1910-1913), and the Newspaper Feature Service (1913-1926). From 1926 to 1935 he was the art editor for King Features Syndicate.

His novels include A Capital Courtship, Miss Jerry and The Great Desire. Black's photographs were used to illustrate his books and his "picture plays" or "photoplays", which he presented in theaters. Images, projected at the rate of four per minute, were accompanied by spoken lines, written and delivered by Black. He presented his first full length drama in 1894.

Black was a member of the Authors Club and served on the organizing committee of the P.E.N. American Center.

He was married in 1881 to Elizabeth Helmle. After her death Black married Edith O'Dell, editor of the McClure Newspaper Syndicate, in 1935. He died on May 8, 1941.

Continued

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

Authors, American

Journalism - Editing

Photographers - New York

American Center of P.E.N.

Remington, Frederic, 1861-1909

Tesla, Nikola, 1856-1943

Accessioned by FP

Date 12/28/88

Scope and Content

The Alexander Black Papers (1858-1939) consist of correspondence, material relating to P.E.N. , writings, photographs, sketches and miscellaneous papers.

Correspondence (1858-1939) reflects Black's connections with the literary world of his day and concerns Black's editorial work and personal engagements. Correspondents include Frederic Remington, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Nikola Tesla, Arthur Stedman and Almon Gunnison. Three letters from 1858-1862 are the oldest items in the collection and were written by Black's parents and sister.

P.E.N. papers (1921-1935) include correspondence and printed matter relating to meetings, membership and events sponsored by the Center. The most frequent correspondent is Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Miscellaneous papers include certificates, awards, invitations, programs, clippings and several issues of "The Young Idea", a newsletter published by Black in the 1870's. Notable among the photographs are portraits of Franklin H. Giddings and Robert Peary. There are also several sketches by Black.

Writings are made up of holograph and typescript manuscripts, notes and notebooks. Manuscripts include The Camera in Literature, A Capital Courtship (published in 1897), The Girl and The Guardsman (published in 1900), The Great Desire (published in 1919), Miss Jerry (published in 1895) and Miss America (published in 1898). Black's notebooks contain quotations from the classics, poetry and his notes and comments (7 volumes). One notebook contains notes from his "Southern Trip", 1898, and two Date Books (1895-1904) list his engagements (probably for lectures or photoplays) during that period.

ALEXANDER BLACK PAPERS

Box List

Box Number	Contents
1	Correspondence, 1858-1939
2	P.E.N. Correspondence, 1921-1928 P.E.N. Printed Matter, 1921-1935 Photographs & Sketches Miscellaneous Papers
3	Writings
4	Notebooks (10 volumes)

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Accession # 87 M 48 Location 5-G-6  
(in corres. box)  
Title Alexander Black. Additions  
Approximate inclusive dates  
Date of receipt July 1987 Received from Billy Rose Theatre Collection  
transfer  
Volume on arrival 4 sketches  
Number of boxes (after reboxing) 1 folder  
Condition Good. sketches need cleaning  
Restrictions None  
Description

Four sketches in pencil by Alexander Black. The first sketch is a man whose arms are folded; the second is a view of a room; the third is a school that Black attended; the fourth is "Entrance to the cells. Fifth Precinct Station House. Brooklyn, N.Y."

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

Drawing

Accessioned by VW

Date 8/11/87