

The New York Public Library Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature

Guide to the

William Somerset Maugham collection of papers

1897]-1964

Berg Coll MSS Maugham

Processed by Staff.

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.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.

Alternative Form Available: William Somerset Maugham's outgoing correspondence Available on microfilm as part of William S.Maugham collection of papers; service copy classmark: *Z-10384

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

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 A. P. Watt and Son American Play Company James B. Pinker and Son

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts	
Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Maugham	
Oversize (+)	[Altogether] Jane. Typescript (carbon) of short story. Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 309 n.d. (46 p) (46 p) With: Ms. note in unidentified hand at end: "Not a picture story. J. K."; Published in the U. S. with title: East and West
Oversize (+)	Camel's back; [a play in three acts], The. Typescript (carbon) n.d. (120 p) (120 p) From the files of the American Play Co., no. 341
Oversize (+)	Explorer; a play in four acts, The. Typescript (carbon). Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 316 n.d. (111 p) (111 p) Published London, W. Heinemann, 1912
Cased	Forever spring. Mimeographed novel. "To be serialized by Red book in the Fall of 1941" 1941 Sept. 26 (1 v) (1 v) Signed With: Typewritten corrections inserted opposite p. 1-18, and ms. corrections in an unidentified hand opposite p. 22
Oversize (+)	Lady Frederick; a comedy in three acts. Stamped: "Office of Alice Kauser." Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co. n.d. (126 p) (126 p) With ms. notes and stage directions in an unidentified hand. Published London, W. Heinemann, 1912
Oversize (+)	Land of promise; a comedy in four acts, The. Typescript (carbon). Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 344 n.d. (116 p) (116 p) Published London, Bickers & son, 1913
Oversize (+)	Mrs. Beamish; a comedy in three acts. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. Stamped on t.p.: R. Golding Bright. Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co. n.d. (108 p) (108 p) With: Mrs. Beamish; a comedy in three acts. Under the circumstances. Later emended typescript
Oversize (+)	Mrs. Beamish; a comedy in three acts. Under the circumstances. Later typescript with ms. corrections in an unidentified hand. Stamped on t.p.: R. Golding Bright. Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co. n.d. (120 p) (120 p) With: Mrs. Beamish; a comedy in three acts. Emended typescript
Oversize (+)	Night in June, A. Typescript (carbon) of short story n.d. (39 p) (39 p) From the files of the American Play Co.
Oversize (+)	"Noble Spaniard", The. Typescript (carbon) of play. Translation and adaptation of Grenet-Dancourt's three-act comedy Les gaites du veuvage. Fastened in linen cover of the American Play Co., no. 357 n.d. (100 p) (100 p)
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

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Maugham (cont.)

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 [Trio] Holograph replies to questionnaire from Sydney Box concerning

filming of his three short stories for Trio 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

Oversize 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 Dietz Howard and Rouhen Mamulian, Sadie Thompson: a musical pla

Oversize (+)(Maugham) Dietz, Howard and Rouben Mamulian. Sadie Thompson; a musical play based on W. Somerset Maugham's Rain. Script stamped "Richard J.

Madden play company." No. 432 n.d. (92 p) (92 p)

With: Errata, 2 p. stamped Dec. 13, 1944 on cover; With: Colton, John and Clemence

Randolph. Rain; a play in three acts, undated. 121 p.

Manuscript box 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

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Maugham (cont.)

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

Manuscript box. In: Aldington, Richard. 99 TLS, 3 telegrams to Rob Lyle. 1954-1956. Enclosed in letter of Sept. 6, 1954. Folder 1 Aldington, Richard. TL (copy) to 1954 Aug. 29 (1 p) (1 p)

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)

Н.

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)

Н.

Manuscript box Colles, William Morris. ALS to [1904] July 3 (3 p) (3 p)

Manuscript box Colles, Mr. ALS to July 31 (2 p) (2 p)

Manuscript box Darnborough, Antony. TLS to 1948 Nov. 16 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box Doran, George H. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Manuscript box Harper & Bros. TNS to. Mentions Edna St. Vincent Millay 1940 Oct. 18 (1 p) (1

p)

With TL (carbon) to Maugham, Oct. 15, 1940. 1 p.; From the files of Harper & Row, inc.

Manuscript box Hunt, Violet 11 ALS to n.d. (11 letters in 2 folders) (11 letters in 2 folders)

Manuscript box 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)

Manuscript box 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)

Manuscript box Landau, [--?]. TLS to 1954 Nov. 3 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box Little, Fanny B. ALS to. Stamped April 29, 1925 by G. H. Doran co. 1925 Apr.

28? (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box 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)

Manuscript box. In: Maugham, W. S. 2 ALS, 8 TLS to Jane Rubin. Folder 2 Madden, Richard. TNS to May 14 (1 p) (1 p)

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)

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box Maugham, Frederick Herbert, 1st viscount Maugham. 6 ALS to. Supplied

dates by Robin Maugham [1943] June 10 - [1945] May 19 (6 letters) (6 letters)

Manuscript box 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

Manuscript box. In: Nash's Pall Mall magazine. Mealand, Richard, of Nash's Pall Mall magazine, ALS to [1934] Apr. 15 (3 p) (3

p)

May happy returns! Folder 33

Includes his contribution to Nash's 25th anniversary issue

Manuscript box Mealand. Richard, of Nash's Pall Mall magazine. 3 ALS to. One undated.

Letter of Aug. 16 [1935] relates to Nash's short story competition for 1935

[1935] Aug. 16, [1935] Sept. 21, [n.y.] Oct. 27 (2 p.; 1 p. each) (2 p.; 1 p. each) Letter of Sept. 21 [1935] published in Nash's, v. 96, no. 511 (Dec. 1935) p. 14

Manuscript box Nichols, Beverly. 9 ALS, 1 TLS to n.d. (10 letters in 2 folders) (10 letters in 2 folders)

Manuscript box Overton, Grant. 2 ALS, 4 TLS to 1926 Oct. 29 - 1928 Nov. 22 (6 letters) (6 letters)

Manuscript box Payen-Payne, de Vincheles. 4 TLS, 2 ALS to. Relates to his proof copy of

Don Fernando [1935] Jan. 15 - [1935] May 11 (6 letters) (6 letters)

Manuscript box Pinker and son, James B. LS, ALS, etc. to 1911, [n.d (2 letters) (2 letters)

Manuscript box Plomer, William. ALS (photocopy) to 1934 Sept. 30 (2 p) (2 p)

Came with Plomer's correspondence with Jacob Schwartz

Manuscript box Rubin, Jane. 2 ALS, 8 TLS to 1951 June 3 - [n.y.] Jan. 20 (10 letterrs in 2 folders) (10

letterrs 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 Unwin, T. Fisher. ALS to [1897] Jan. 14 (2 p) (2 p)

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)

В.

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

В.

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

В.

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.

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

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

В.

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)

В.

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

R

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

В.

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

В

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)

В.

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 (carbons) 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

Son. London, April 6, 1954. 2 p.

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

Son. 1947-1964. Letter of July 12, 1953. Folder 17

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)

Correspondence (cont.)

Related Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box (Maugham)

Jonas, Klaus W. 6 ALS and LS to Carl Van Vechten. Relate to Maugham exhibition at Rutgers University opening, Feb. 5, 1951 1950 Dec. 21 - 1951 Jan.

22 (7 letters) (7 letters)

With: LS from Ada J. English to Carl Van Vechten, Jan. 22, 1951. B; 1951 acc.

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.

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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)

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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

Manuscript box

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

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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

Legal Documents

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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

Manuscript box (Maugham)

Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning Maugham n.d. (163 folders) (163 folders)

From the files of the American Play Co.

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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.

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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.

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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.

Manuscript box (Maugham)

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

From the files of the American Play Co. Nos. 5, 53, 102, 109-115, 158-160, 237-239