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

Guide to the

Gilbert Keith Chesterton collection of papers

1895?-1935

Berg Coll MSS Chesterton

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Chesterton, G. K. (Gilbert Keith), 1874-1936

Title: Gilbert Keith Chesterton collection of papers

Date: 1895?-1935

Size: 67 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, an undated notebook, legal and financial documents, a sketchbook, and a portrait sketch.

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

Gilbert Keith Chesterton was an English writer of autobiographies, biographies, essays, historical works, journalism, literary criticism, novels, plays, and short-stories.

Custodial History

Previous owners include Humbert Wolfe, the American Play Company, W. T. H. Howe, and Owen D. Young.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, an undated notebook, legal and financial documents, a sketchbook, and a portrait sketch. The manuscripts and typescripts include articles and essays, poems, and a number of reader's reports sent to the publisher T. Fisher Unwin about various authors. Also included are essays, reviews and notes for essays about Chesterton, in typescript and manuscript, written by W. H. Auden, Max Beerbohm, Sean O'Casey, Bernard Shaw, Ann Wolfe, and Humbert Wolfe. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dating from 1904 to 1935, to E. V. Lucas, Clement King Shorter, the publisher T. Fisher Unwin, and the literary agency A. P. Watt and Son. The collection also includes correspondence relating to the author, dating from 1896 to 1928, between various correspondents, including Edward Chesterton, Dorothy Collins, H. B. Elliott, Humbert Wolfe, T. Fisher Unwin, A. P. Watt and Son, and the literary agency James B. Pinker and Son. There is one letter to Chesterton from Humbert Wolfe, dated April 19, 1933.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Notebooks

Sketchbooks

Names

Chesterton, G. K. (Gilbert Keith), 1874-1936

Alyea, Dorothy C. (Dorothy Collins), 1898-1974

Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973

Beerbohm, Max, Sir, 1872-1956

Chesterton, Edward

Elliott, H. B.

Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)

Lucas, E. V. (Edward Verrall), 1868-1938

O'Casey, Sean, 1880-1964

Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950

Shorter, Clement King, 1857-1926

Wolfe, Ann

Wolfe, Humbert, 1885-1940

Wolfe, Humbert, 1885-1940

Young, Owen D., 1874-

A. P. Watt and Son

American Play Company

James B. Pinker and Son

T. Fisher Unwin (Firm)

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts

Inserted in: [Lucas, E. V., and C. L. Graves] lf. [London] 1908	ballad of St. Barbara, The. Holograph poem n.d (6 p) (6 p) Accompanied by the printed text from The New Witness, Sept. 7, 1916. Y.
	E. V. L. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Signed with initials. H.
Manuscript box	From the Swedish embassy. (Strictly private and confidential) Holograph memorandum (?) n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box (Perris)	Garnett, Edward. Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about George Herbert Perris. Title under review: Leo Tolstoy. Entered under G. K. Chesterton with G. H. Perris as joint author in Public catalogue. (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Best)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about George A. Best (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Caddick)	Reader's report (fragment) sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Helen Caddick (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Carman)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Albert Richardson Carman (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about anonymous work entitled Down Durley Lane (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box (Drachmann)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Holger Henrik Herholdt Drachmann (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Gamble, G.)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about George Gamble (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Gilman, C. P.)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Charlotte (Perkins) Statson Gilman (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Hamilton, E. W.)	Reader's reports (2) sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Lord Ernest William Hamilton (2 items) (2 items)
Manuscript box (Hector)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about "Mrs. Alexander," Annie French Hector (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Keeling)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Elsa D'Esterre Keeling (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Kent, J.)	Reader's reports (2) sent to T. Fisher Unwin about J. Kent (2 items) (2 items)
Manuscript box (Lord, M.)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Milicent Lord (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (MacIlwaine)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Herbert C. MacIlwaine (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (MacManus)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Seumas MacManus (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Mann, Mrs. F.)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Mrs. Fairman Mann (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Mayne)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Edith Violet Mayne (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Reynolds-Ball)	Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Eustace Alfred Reynolds-Ball (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts (cont.)

- Manuscript box (Tyrrell, J. W.) Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about James William Tyrrell (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box (Watson, J. R.) Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about John Reay Watson (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box (Webster, H. C.) Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about H. Cayley Webster (1 item) (1 item)

Shaw, Bernard. Chesterton on Shaw. Holograph review. Page 8 wanting [text of missing page supplied from copy written in unknown hands on p. 3 of "Post Office Telegraphs" official paper. 1909 Aug. 24 (9 p) (9 p)
Signed. H.

Manuscripts about Chesterton

- In his: Holograph notebooks, v. 13, p. [217]-[220] (reversed) O'Casey, Sean. [Notes] Holograph. Subject is G. K. Chesterton n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

- Manuscript box (Wolfe, H.) Wolfe, Ann. [Reviews. Ward, Maisie; Gilbert Keith Chesterton] G. K. Chesterton by Maisie Ward. Holograph draft n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
With her: ANS to "Grandpa" [Joseph C. Graham] Dec. 1 [n.y.]. Came with the papers of her father, Humbert Wolfe

- Manuscript box Wolfe, Humbert. Shylock reasons with Mr. Chesterton. Holograph and typescript poems. Incomplete: The crowder's tune and Three epitaphs. III. The little sleeper, wanting n.d. (9 folders) (9 folders)
Detailed analysis of contents on folders. On p. [2] of "After battle" his: [London sonnets] Sometimes when I think of love. Holograph draft, undated. 1 p. Folder 1

Notebooks

Beerbohm, Max. Holograph notebook. Consists of preliminary notes for essays on the author's contemporaries, arranged alphabetically by the subject. Includes G. K. Chesterton and others n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Signed

Typescripts

- Manuscript box age of nonsense, The. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. For his column Straws in the wind, in G. K.'s Weekly n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box Art for aviators. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections 1931 Oct. 12 (5 p) (5 p)
Signed Accompanying ms. note signed D. E. Collins. Published under title: On Mammoth Portraiture in his All I Survey, London, Methuen, 1933
- Manuscript box common enemy, The. Typescript (carbon). For his column Straws in the wind, in G. K.'s weekly 1935 Oct. 16 (5 p) (5 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box end of the story, The. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. For his column Straws in the wind, in G. K.'s weekly n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box note on Rousseau, A. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. For his column Straws in the wind, in G. K.'s weekly n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
Signed
- (Belloc) [One hundred and one ballades] Ballades urbane. Nos. I-LII. Uncorrected typescript (carbon) (53 p) (53 p)
- (Belloc) [One hundred and one ballades] Ballades urbane. Nos. I-LII. Typescript with Hilaire Belloc's ms. corrections of ballades (20 p) (20 p)
Signed with initials "B. C." and 3 additional ones, the last signed (?) by J. S. Phillimore

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)
Typescripts (cont.)

(Belloc) [One hundred and one ballades] Ballades urbane. Nos. I-LII. Another copy with no. V wanting and with Hilaire Belloc's ms. note "not mine, G[ilbert] K[Keith] C[hesterton] M[aurice] B[aring] [E.C.] Bentley [T. Michael] Pope, etc.(?)" (1 item) (1 item)
Signed with initials, "B. C."

Manuscript box Vanity fair. Typewritten article with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (12 p) (12 p)
Signed

Typescripts related to Chesterton

Manuscript box Auden, W. H. The gift of wonder. Typescript draft of essay with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (7 p., 2 folders) (7 p., 2 folders)
Accompanied by his: 3 ALS, 2 ANS to John Sullivan, Aug. 21 [1967]-Dec. 2, 1972. 1 p. each; Sullivan, John. 2 TL (carbons) to W. H. Auden, Aug. 30 and Oct. 11, 1972. 1 p. each.
Published in G. K. Chesterton: A Centenary Appraisal, edited by John Sullivan, London, 1974

Manuscript box Shaw, Bernard. Why not give the intellectuals a chance? Typewritten article with the author's ms. corrections and additions. Relates to G. K. Chesterton 1933 June 14 (18 p) (18 p)
Accompanied by his: ALS to Richard Mealand of Nash's Pall Mall magazine. June 26, 1933. 1 p. Published in Nash's Pall Mall magazine, v. 92, no. 486, Nov. 1933, p. 8-9, 94-96

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Manuscript box (Chesterton) Collins, Dorothy. ALS to Humbert Wolfe. Written as secretary to G. K. Chesterton 1928 Sept. 12 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box Lucas, E. V. LS to 1935 Dec. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box New Statesman. TLS to the editor. At head: The case against Chesterton. In reply to Bernard Shaw n.d. (7 p) (7 p)

Manuscript box Shorter, Clement King. TLS to Feb. 14 (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box T. Fisher Unwin. ALS to n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
With reader's report by Edward Garnett

Manuscript box Watt and son, A. P. LS and TLS to 1904 Dec., [1922] Feb. 23 (2 items) (2 items)

Incoming Correspondence

Manuscript box Wolfe, Humbert. TL (carbon) to G. K. Chesterton 1933 Apr. 19 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box (Chesterton) Chesterton, Edward. ALS to T. Fisher Unwin. Accepting for his son, G. K. Chesterton, an appointment in the firm of T. Fisher Unwin 1896 Nov. 4 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box (Chesterton) Elliott, H. B. ALS to A. P. Watt & son. Relates to G. K. Chesterton and others 1912 Nov. 25 (1 item) (1 item)

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 agent for G. K. Chesterton 1917 Oct. 29 (1 item) (1 item)

Financial and Legal Documents

Financial Documents

Manuscript box (Chesterton) English review, The. Check made out to G. K. Chesterton by Ford Madox Ford 1909 Mar. 12 (1 item) (1 item)

Legal Documents

Financial and Legal Documents (cont.)

Legal Documents (cont.)

Manuscript box
(Chesterton)

Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning G. K. Chesterton (1 folder) (1 folder)
From the files of the American Play Co.

Pictorial Works

Sketchbooks

Sketchbook with original pencil drawings and the author's ms. notes 1895?
(69 p) (69 p)

Portraits

Manuscript box

Russell, George William. Pen-and-ink self portrait sketch. 14 x 19 cm.
Includes pencil sketches of W. B. Yeats, John O'Leary, Edward Martyn and G. K. Chesterton n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Signed with initials. With unidentified pen-and-ink illustration on verso