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American Literature

Guide to the

**John Millington Synge collection of papers**

1898-1929

Berg Coll MSS Synge

Processed by Staff.

## Summary

**Creator:** Synge, J. M. (John Millington), 1871-1909

**Title:** John Millington Synge collection of papers

**Date:** 1898-1929

**Size:** 122 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, typescripts, and correspondence.

**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

John Millington Synge was an Irish playwright, poet, and essayist.

## Custodial History

Previous owners include Sara Allgood, Lady Gregory, and John Quinn.

## Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, and correspondence by and about the author. The manuscripts and typescripts consist of an article, poems, and a play ("Riders to the Sea") by the author, as well as reviews, articles, poems, and essays relating to the author by Louis MacNeice, John Masefield, James Stephens, and William Butler Yeats. The correspondence consists of letters, dating from 1898 to 1909, from the author to Padraic Colum, Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory, Karel Musek, George Roberts, W. B. Yeats, and others, as well as letters relating to the author, dating from 1906 to 1929, between various correspondents including Darrell Figgis, Lady Gregory, Samuel Synge, and others.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

### **Names**

Synge, J. M. (John Millington), 1871-1909  
Allgood, Sara, 1883-1950  
Colum, Padraic, 1881-1972  
Figgis, Darrell, 1882-1925  
Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932  
Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932  
MacNeice, Louis, 1907-1963  
Masefield, John, 1878-1967  
Mus\_ek, Karel  
Quinn, John, 1870-1924  
Roberts, George, 1803?-1860  
Stephens, James, 1882-1950  
Synge, Samuel  
Yeats, W. B. (William Butler), 1865-1939

## Container List

### Manuscripts and Typescripts

#### Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Synge

Oversize (+)	[Article on Irish players, intended for the Manchester guardian] Holograph n.d. (9 p) (9 p) H.
Manuscript box	[On an anniversary; To the oaks of Glencree; The passing of the Shee; A question] Incomplete. Four ms. poems in Lady Gregory's hand n.d. (2 p) (2 p) Published in his The works, Dublin, Maunsell, 1910, v. 2
Manuscript box	Playboy of the western world. Typescript (photocopy), unsigned and undated. n.d. (76 p) (76 p)
Manuscript box	Riders to the sea. Typescript of play with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (19 p) (19 p) Signed. With Lady Gregory's signed marginal ms. note, "Signed and sent me by Synge"
<b>Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Synge</b>	
Manuscript box (Synge)	Gaelic American. New York. Extracts relating to American production of John Millington Synge's The playboy of the Western world, dated Oct. 14-Dec. 16, 1911. Typescript (carbon) n.d. (8 p) (8 p) Came with Lady Gregory's papers
Manuscript box	MacNeice, Louis. "Lecture notes for Cambridge--re drama." Incomplete holograph. Pages numbered 7-25. Discusses Yeats, Synge, T. S. Eliot and others, and contains an analysis of Samuel Beckett's work n.d. (19 p) (19 p) Signature added later
Manuscript box	Masefield, John. Synge, John Millington (1871-1909) Typescript (carbon) of article for DNB n.d. (13 p) (13 p) Enclosed in his: 30 ALS to Lady Gregory. Jan. 20, 1903-[May 18, 1930] Letter of July 29, 1911. Letters of July 17 and 26, 1911 relate to same
Cased	Stephens, James. I remember. Reminiscences of J. M. Synge. Holograph 1928 Feb. 2 (13 p) (13 p) H.
Manuscript box (Synge)	Unidentified manuscripts. [Synge, John Millington. The playboy of the western world] Holograph notes (incomplete) in an unidentified hand, relating to incidents during Dublin performances of The playboy. Mentions W. B. Yeats n.d. (1 item) (1 item) Came with Sara Allgood's correspondence
Manuscript box	Yeats, William Butler, Lady Gregory, and J. M. Synge (?). [Abbey theatre. Address] Typescript with Lady Gregory's (?) ms. corrections. Address delivered to Abbey theatre company over division of Abbey funds at Sept. 23, 1905 meeting n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Manuscript box	Yeats, William Butler. "After Synge's death I was given a letter." Typewritten memorandum relating to John Millington Synge's will with Lady Gregory's ms. corrections and notes to W. B. Yeats n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
At beginning of vol. 7 on double sheet of his: Collected works, Shakespeare head ed., 1908	Yeats, William Butler. [On those that hated 'The playboy of the western world,' 1907] Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p) Published in his The collected poems of W. B. Yeats, New York: Macmillan, 1951, p. 109. Presentation copy to Lady Gregory

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Synge (cont.)

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|----------------|--|
| Cased          | Yeats, William Butler. [Preface to the first edition of John M. Synge's Poems and translations] Holograph 1909 Apr. 4 (9 p) (9 p)<br>With accompanying text. John Quinn bookplate; H.  |
| Oversize (+)   | Yeats, William Butler. J. M. Synge. Holograph 1910 Sept. 16 (42 p) (42 p)<br>Accompanied by the printed text, an excerpt paged 146-195. Published with title: J. M. Synge and the Ireland of his time. John Quinn bookplate; H.  |
| Manuscript box | Yeats, William Butler. To a wealthy man who promised a second subscription to the Dublin Municipal Gallery if it were proved the people wanted pictures. Typescript with Lady Gregory's ms. corrections n.d. (3 p) (3 p)<br>With 3 additional poems: Red Hanrahan's song about Ireland, The song of wandering Aengus, and To Ireland in the coming times. Also: 2 p. of poems, one dated Jan. 24, 1909 |

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Oversize (+)<br>Inserted in:<br>Morris, William.<br>The water of the<br>wondrous isles.<br>[Hammersmith,<br>1897] | Bullen, A. H. ALS to 1905 Jan. 14 (1 p) (1 p)   |
| Manuscript box  | Colum, [Padraic]. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)<br>H.   |
| Manuscript box  | Gregory, Lady. 68 ALS, 1 TLS, 1 postcard to. Includes fragments of two undated letters 1898 July 1 - 1909 Jan. 3 (70 letters in 19 folders) (70 letters in 19 folders)      |
| Manuscript box  | Musek, Karel. ALS to [1904] Mar. 10 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)<br>B.   |
| Manuscript box  | Musek, Karel. ALS to 1904 June 2 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)<br>B.  |
| Manuscript box  | Musek, Karel. ALS to 1907 May 4 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)<br>B.   |
| Manuscript box  | Musek, Karel. ALS to 1907 Oct. 28 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)<br>B.   |
| Manuscript box  | Roberts, George. ALS to 1904 Dec. 23 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)<br>B.  |
| Manuscript box  | Roberts, George. ALS to Mar. 16 (1 p) (1 p)<br>B.   |
| Manuscript box  | Yeats, Elizabeth. ALS to 1908 Nov. 24 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)   |
| Manuscript box  | Yeats, [Elizabeth]. ALS to 1909 Jan. 13 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)   |
| Manuscript box  | Yeats, William Butler. 13 ALS, 3 TLS, 1 TL (carbon) to [1905?] Mar. 7 - 1908 Sept. 7 (17 letters in 4 folders) (17 letters in 4 folders)<br>Came with Lady Gregory's papers |
| Manuscript box  | Yeats, William Butler. ALS to 1909 Feb. 19 (2 p) (2 p)  |
| <b>Related Correspondence</b>   |   |
| Manuscript box<br>(Synge)   | Figgis, Darrell. TLS to Charles Benjamin Purdom. Relates to J. M. Synge's The Playboy of the Western world 1911 Nov. 5 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)                                    |
| Manuscript box  | Gregory, Lady. TL (fragment, carbon) to Mr. Tyler. Relates to J. M. Synge's Playboy of the Western world production in Montreal [1913?] Jan. 28 (1 p) (1 p)                 |

Correspondence (cont.)

Related Correspondence (cont.)

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Manuscript box              | Gregory, Lady. 2 ALS (copies) to Samuel Synge. May 9 letter in two versions 1929 [May 1], 1929 May 9 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)<br>Removed from her: Journal, v. 41, p. 5520 and 5538  |
| Manuscript box<br>(Gregory) | Gregory, William Robert. ALS to Viscount Hugh Gough. Relates to Dublin riots of J. M. Synge's <i>The Playboy of the Western world</i> 1907 Feb. 3 (3 p) (3 p)<br>From Lady Gregory's son  |
| Manuscript box<br>(Gregory) | Steuart, A. Francis. ALS to William G. Fay. On card. Relates to J. M. Synge 1906 July 26 (1 card) (1 card)<br>Encloses letter to his sister, Miss Steuart, from Phoebe(?) A. Traquair [Traquhaire], June 24, [1906] 3 p.; Came with Lady Gregory's papers |
| Manuscript box<br>(Synge)   | Synge, Samuel. 2 ALS to Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory 1929 Apr. 30, 1929 May 8 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)<br>Removed from: Gregory. Journal, v. 41, p. 5520 and 5538  |
| Manuscript box<br>(Gregory) | Ward, J. J. ALS to Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory. Supporter of J. M. Synge 1912 Jan. 20 (1 p) (1 p)  |
| Manuscript box              | Yeats, Susan Mary (Lily) ALS to Maire O'Neill. Relates to publication by John Quinn of a book by John Millington Synge n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)   |