

# Guide to the Edgar Saltus Papers

YCAL MSS 425



by Michael L. Forstrom

2010

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 425

**CREATOR:** Saltus, Edgar, 1855-1921

**TITLE:** Edgar Saltus papers

**DATES:** 1884-1926

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 7.02 linear feet (12 boxes) + 1 broadside

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Edgar Saltus papers contain writings, correspondence, and other materials documenting the life of American author Edgar Saltus.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.saltus>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.saltus>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Elsie Saltus Munds, 1964.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Edgar Saltus Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Edgar Saltus Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Preliminary processing was done to the Edgar Saltus papers at an unknown date. During reprocessing of the collection in 2010, material relating to Saltus that had been donated to the library by sources other than his daughter, Elsie Saltus Munds, and added to the Saltus papers, was removed from the collection. Otherwise, the arrangement of writings and correspondence was largely preserved in Series I and II, and other materials were consolidated in Series III.

Formerly classed as Za Saltus.

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## Edgar Saltus (1855-1921)

Edgar Saltus was a novelist, essayist, and poet. He attended St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire and Yale College in 1876 and 1877, before studying abroad and receiving the degree of LL.B. from Columbia College in 1880, though he never practiced law. Saltus was married three times: to Helen Sturgis Read in November 1883, to Elsie Welch Smith on October 8, 1895, and to author Marie Florence Giles on August 16, 1911. There is considerable scholarship on Saltus, including book-length biographical studies by Marie Saltus (1925) and Claire Sprague (1968). Summary information is available in the standard biographical resources.

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## Scope and Contents

The Edgar Saltus papers contain writings, correspondence, and other materials documenting the life and work of author Edgar Saltus. Writings consist chiefly of drafts, some heavily corrected, for shorter works such as poems, stories, and essays, but include substantive drafts for the novels *The Ghost Girl* (1922) and *The Paliser Case* (1919) and other longer works. Correspondence consists of a small number of letters between Saltus and family members, publishers, editors, and other writers, most notably James Huneker and Richard Le Gallienne, and British actor Henry Irving. Other materials include three scrapbooks containing clippings, with reviews and writings, printed ephemera, photographs, and correspondence relating to Saltus, his family, and his third wife, author Marie Florence Giles.

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## Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Writings, 1884-1919. II. Correspondence, 1888-1925. Other Materials, 1889-1926.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings, 1884-1919

3.13 linear feet (8 boxes) + 1 broadside

Arranged alphabetically by title or supplied heading.

Series I, Writings, consists of drafts for shorter works, such as poems, stories, and essays, and for novels, *The Ghost Girl* (1922) and *The Paliser Case* (1919), and other longer works. Most drafts are hand-written (holograph) and signed, and some are heavily corrected. In addition to the genre, the presence of multiple drafts and other physical formats (typescript or clippings) is noted in folder headings below. A small number of notebooks are filed by title.

Additional short writings can be found among the clippings in scrapbooks in Series III. Other Materials.

|      |  |               |
|------|--|---------------|
| b. 1 | "After the Ball," play, drafts<br>2 Folders  | 1913          |
| b. 1 | "Around the Clock," story, drafts  | undated       |
| b. 1 | "Around the Town," essay, drafts   | undated       |
| b. 1 | <a href="#">"Barbey d'Aureville," story</a>  | 1919 February |
| b. 1 | <a href="#">"The Beloved," story</a>   | undated       |
| b. 1 | "Bonbons and Burgundy," essay  | undated       |
| b. 1 | <a href="#">"The Brute," story, drafts, holograph and typescript carbon</a><br>2 Folders | undated       |
| b. 1 | "The Club Window," essay, drafts   | undated       |
| b. 1 | <a href="#">"The Cupboard," story</a>  | undated       |
| b. 1 | "The Crime's Third Anniversary," essay, typescript, corrected                            | undated       |
| b. 1 | "The Dangers of Health," essay, drafts, typescript carbon<br>2 Folders                   | undated       |
| b. 1 | "De omnibus rebus e...," notebook, notes, poems, drafts                                  | 1896 March    |
| b. 1 | <a href="#">"Dinner is Served," story</a>  | undated       |
| b. 1 | "Done up Brown," story   | undated       |
| b. 1 | "Fashion," essay, draft fragments  | undated       |
| b. 2 | "The Gates of Life," play, typescript carbon, corrected                                  | 1910          |
| b. 2 | <a href="#">"The Ghost," story, drafts, holograph and typescript carbon</a><br>2 Folders | undated       |
| b. 2 | <i>The Ghost Girl</i> , novel, typescript, corrected                                     | [circa 1922]  |
| b. 2 | "The Goblin Girl," story   | undated       |
| b. 2 | "The Golden Chimera," essay  | undated       |

|                   |  |                  |
|-------------------|--|------------------|
| b. 3              | <a href="#">"The Golden Flood," novel, drafts</a>  | undated          |
| b. 3              | "Golgotha," essay, drafts  | undated          |
| b. 3              | "The Halls of Elbis," novel, drafts  | undated          |
| b. 3              | "The Happiest Way," essay, drafts  | undated          |
| b. 3              | "Here," poem   | undated          |
| b. 3              | <i>Historia Amorus</i> , title page and table of contents  | undated          |
| b. 4              | "The Horrors of Grub Street," essay, drafts  | undated          |
| b. 4              | <a href="#">"The Hue and Cry," story, drafts</a><br>2 Folders  | undated          |
| b. 4              | <i>The Imperial Orgy</i> , draft fragments   | undated          |
| b. 4              | "The Impostor," play scenario  | [circa 1894]     |
| b. 4              | "Jewels," poem   | undated          |
| b. 12 (Broadside) | "Jonathan Club Is 'Original as Well as Unique'," article, printed version, <i>Los Angeles Examiner</i> | 1909 November 15 |
| b. 4              | "The Lords of the Ghostland: A History of the Ideal," essay, drafts<br>2 Folders                       | undated          |
| b. 4              | <a href="#">"Loveland," story, drafts</a>  | undated          |
| b. 4              | <a href="#">"The Man Who Did Not Exist," story</a>   | undated          |
| b. 4              | "The Metropolitan Opera Glass," essay, drafts  | [1899 August?]   |
| b. 4              | "Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt," essay   | undated          |
| b. 5              | "Myosotis and Opals," essay  | undated          |
| b. 5              | "The Mystery of Love," essay   | undated          |
| b. 5              | "The New Paganism," essay  | undated          |
| b. 5              | "Not Yet," essay, typescript carbon  | undated          |
| b. 5              | "Nuptials," poem, drafts   | undated          |
| b. 5              | "The Origin of the Crime," essay, drafts   | undated          |
| b. 5              | <i>Oscar Wilde: An Idler's Impression</i> , essay, drafts  | [1916?]          |
| b. 5              | <i>The Paliser Case</i> , novel, drafts<br>2 Folders   | [circa 1919]     |
| b. 5              | <i>Parnassians Persmally Encountered</i> , story, drafts   | undated          |
| b. 5              | "Peace," poem, drafts  | undated          |
| b. 6              | <i>The Perfume of Eros</i> , novel, drafts (incomplete)  | [circa 1905]     |

|                   |  |                 |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 6              | "The Pipes of Priapus," essay  | undated         |
| b. 6              | "The Pumps of Fashion," essay  | undated         |
| b. 6              | "Poppies and Mandragora, Allegresse," poem, drafts   | undated         |
| b. 6              | <a href="#">"The Punch," story, drafts</a>   | undated         |
| b. 6              | "The Reflections of Floriline Schopenhauer on Perfumes, as Dictated to Edgar Saltus," story, drafts        | undated         |
| b. 6              | "The Rogues Gallery," essay, drafts<br><i>2 Folders</i>  | undated         |
| b. 6              | "Rome," notebook, notes, early drafts  | 1891            |
| b. 6              | "The Russian Miracle," essay, drafts   | undated         |
| b. 6              | "Scaffolds and Altars," table of contents and draft fragments  | undated         |
| b. 6              | "Silver Bullets," essay, typescript carbon   | undated         |
| b. 12 (Broadside) | "The Singer the Sorcerer and the Secrets of Satanism," article, printed version,<br><i>New York Herald</i> | 1903 February 1 |
| b. 7              | "Sonnets Serene and Otherwise," notebook   | [1884-1885]     |
| b. 7              | "The Soul of the World," essay, drafts   | undated         |
| b. 7              | "The Stage," essay, draft fragments  | undated         |
| b. 7              | <a href="#">"The Sultan's Daughter," story</a>   | undated         |
| b. 7              | "Sunday Matter," galley proof, fragment  | undated         |
| b. 7              | "The Terrible Wedding," story and play, drafts<br><i>2 Folders</i>   | undated         |
| b. 7              | "Teuton Illusions," essay, typescript carbon   | undated         |
| b. 7              | <a href="#">"That Girl," story, drafts</a><br><i>2 Folders</i>   | undated         |
| b. 7              | "That Woman," story  | undated         |
| b. 12 (Broadside) | "A Tragedy of Real Life in New York," article, printed version, <i>The Journal</i>                         | 1896 April 26   |
| b. 7              | <i>The Tsars: From the First to the Last</i> , clippings and typescript carbon                             | undated         |
| b. 7              | "The Valley of Paradise," play, typescript   | undated         |
| b. 7              | "Victor Hugo," essay, clippings and typescript carbon  | undated         |
| b. 7              | <a href="#">"Von Altmont," story</a>   | undated         |
| b. 7              | <a href="#">"The Wager," story, drafts, holograph and typescript carbon</a><br><i>2 Folders</i>            | undated         |
| b. 7              | "Wall Street," essay   | undated         |

|      |  |                       |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 7 | "William the Peacemaker," essay                  | undated               |
| b. 8 | Other writings<br>Also stored in: 12 (Broadside) | 1898-1899,<br>undated |



**Series II: Correspondence, 1888-1925***0.11 linear feet (10 folders)*

Series II, Correspondence, contains a small number of letters between Edgar Saltus and family members, publishers, editors, and other writers, most notably James Huneker and Richard Le Gallienne, and British actor Henry Irving. Additional correspondence to Saltus and his wife Marie Florence Giles can be found in the scrapbooks in Series III. Other Materials.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

|      |                                |                         |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| b. 9 | Boni & Liveright               | 1919, undated           |
| b. 9 | Gilliams, E. Leslie            | undated                 |
| b. 9 | Greening & Co. Ltd.            | 1901 April 26           |
| b. 9 | <a href="#">Huneker, James</a> | [1916-1920],<br>undated |
| b. 9 | Irving, H. B. (Henry Brodribb) | 1918 October 17         |
| b. 9 | Le Gallienne, Richard          | undated                 |
| b. 9 | Lifland, S.                    | 1918 December<br>26     |
| b. 9 | Munds, Elsie Saltus            | undated                 |
| b. 9 | <i>The Sun</i>                 | undated                 |
| b. 9 | Unidentified                   | undated                 |

**Series III: Other Materials, 1889-1926***0.1 linear feet (4 folders)*

Series III, Other Materials, contains a single manuscript fragment, photograph of Edgar Fawcett, will, and three scrapbooks. The scrapbooks contain clippings, printed ephemera, photographs, and correspondence. The clippings relate to Saltus, his wife Marie Giles, and family, and include reviews and writings. Writings, for example, include printed versions of poems, short fiction, and essays for such magazines as *Harper's Bazaar*, as well as a number of short pieces for newspapers dating from 1902 and 1903.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

|      |  |                       |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| b. 9 | Manuscript fragment  | undated               |
| b. 9 | Pencil   | undated               |
|      | Photograph of Edgar Fawcett<br>Stored in: Oversize, Box 10 | 1889 March            |
| b. 9 | Printed ephemera   | undated               |
|      | Scrapbooks<br>Stored in: Oversize, Boxes 10-11             | 1898-1926,<br>undated |
| b. 9 | Stationery   | undated               |
| b. 9 | Will, draft  | 1903 June 10          |

**Oversize***4 linear feet (3 boxes)*

|                  |                             |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| b. 13 (Oversize) | Empty cases                 | undated               |
| b. 10 (Oversize) | Photograph of Edgar Fawcett | 1889 March            |
| b. 10 (Oversize) | Scrapbook                   | 1898-1926,<br>undated |
| b. 11 (Oversize) | Scrapbook                   | 1902-1908,<br>undated |
| b. 11 (Oversize) | Scrapbook                   | 1912-1914,<br>undated |

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

American literature -- 19th century  
American literature -- 20th Century  
Authors, American -- Archives

### Genres / Formats

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Photographic prints  
Scrapbooks

### Occupations

Authors

### Names

Giles, Marie Florence, 1883?-1960  
Huneker, James, 1857-1921  
Irving, H. B. (Henry Brodribb), 1870-1919  
Le Gallienne, Richard, 1866-1947  
Saltus, Edgar, 1855-1921