

Guide to the W. Somerset Maugham Collection

GEN MSS 263



by Beinecke Staff

June 1997

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Collection Overview

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

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 263

CREATOR: Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset), 1874-1965

TITLE: W. Somerset Maugham collection

DATES: 1897-1956

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.8 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Contains letters from Maugham to various people, including William Morris Colles, Ada Levenson, Charles Hanson Towne, and Donald Goddard Wing; manuscript and proof versions of writings by Maugham, including "Ashenden, or the British agent", "Lady Frederick", and "On a Chinese Screen"; and an etching of Hugh Walpole hitting Elinor Mordaunt in the jaw.

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

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.maugham>.

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.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ongoing collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Type of accession (gift or purchase) and date of acquisition is noted in the box-and-folder list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The W. Somerset Maugham Collection 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.

Preferred Citation

W. Somerset Maugham Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, it has been noted in the box-and-folder list. This finding aid will be updated periodically to account for new materials that may be added to the collection. The date of the most recent update is noted on the title page. For information on material that may have been added since the last update, please consult the Public Service Desk.

Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to W. Somerset Maugham, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection.

Collection Contents

Series I: Letters from W. Somerset Maugham, 1947-56, n.d.

b. 1, f. 1-2	45 Letters and cards to Lady Marion Bateman Accompanied by one photograph and one clipping. Gift, 1971.	1947-56, n.d.
b. 1, f. 3	ALS to Ruth Buddington, Villa Mauresque, Cap. Ferrat With envelope. Accompanied by carbon copy of TL from Ruth L. Buddington (later Ruth B. Leighton) to Maugham, 1935 Aug 24. Gift, 1963.	[1935] Sep 10
b. 1, f. 4	3 ALS and 1 ANS to W. Morris Colles Gift, 1939.	1899-1905
b. 1, f. 5	ALS to [William Morris] Colles, Westminster Gift, 1947.	[1903 Nov 9]
b. 1, f. 6	ALS to F. Tennyson Jesse, St. Jean Cap Ferrat Gift, 1977.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 7-10	38 ALS and 1 APS to Mrs. Ada Levenson Gift, 1955.	1908-11, n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to [Benjamin Moore-Fine], Villa Mauresque, Cap Ferrat Purchase, 1962.	Mar 29
b. 1, f. 12	2 TLS to Miss Morse of the George H. Doran Company of New York Gift, 1939.	1916, 1926
b. 1, f. 13	2 TLS to [John W.] Rumsey, the first with an autograph note at the end Gift, 1947.	1924
b. 1, f. 14	4 ALS and 7 TLS to John W. Rumsey, various places Gift, 1939.	1925-27, n.d.
b. 1, f. 15	TLS to "Charlie" [Charles Hanson Towne], Bryanston Square, [London] Gift, 1947.	1924 Apr 3
b. 1, f. 16	10 TLS to Charles Hanson Towne; also 7 ALS with a typescript of each letter, various places Gift, 1939.	1925-26, n.d.
b. 1, f. 17	TLS to Mr. Wilensky, Villa Mauresque, Cap Ferrat Gift, 1939.	Jun 15
b. 1, f. 18	ALS to Donald G. Wing, San Francisco Gift, 1945.	[1945] Aug 22
b. 1, f. 19	TLS to Donald Goddard Wing, St. Jean-Cap Ferrat With envelope. Gift, 1954.	1954 Apr 27

b. 1, f. 20

TLS to Donald Goddard Wing, St. Jean-Cap Ferrat

1954 Oct 22

This letter refers to his manuscript of "On a Chinese Screen," which he gave to the Yale Library in 1954. Gift, 1954.

Series II: Writings of W. Somerset Maugham, 1928

b. 2, f. 21-24	"Ashenden" Typescript with a few autograph manuscript suggestions. Gift, 1951.	1928
	"The Extraordinary Sex," proof, signed Gift, 1939. See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 41	1929 Mar 21
	"Four Dutchmen," proof, signed Gift, 1939. See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 42	1928 Nov 29
	"In Hiding," proof, signed Gift, 1939. See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 43	1929 Feb 23
b. 2, f. 25-27	"Lady Frederick", New York A play in typescript. An acting copy. 3 acts. Gift, 1958.	n.d.
	"The Man Who Made His Mark," proof, signed Gift, 1939. See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 44	1929 May 30
b. 2, f. 28-33	"Mrs. Dot," New York A play in typescript. Two acting copies. Gift, 1958.	1909 Aug 24
b. 3, f. 34	"On a Chinese Screen," London Autograph manuscript. Several pages written on both sides. Bound in purple leather. Gift, 1954.	1922
	"Straight Flush," proof, signed Gift, 1939. See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 45	n.d.
b. 3, f. 35-36	"Strictly Personal" Autograph manuscript, with many autograph corrections and deletions. Accompanied by a TLS to Mr. Knollenberg, 1942 Sep 28, New York. Gift, 1942.	[1941]

Series III: Other

Royalty agreements

Gift, 1939.

b. 3, f. 37	For "The Explorer." Between Maugham and Lewis Waller of the Lyric Theatre, London	1907 May 24
b. 3, f. 38	For "Eliza of Lambeth." Between Maugham and Thomas Fisher Unwin of London	1897 Apr 6
b. 3, f. 39	For "The Making of a Saint." Between Maugham and Thomas Fisher Unwin of London	1898 Apr 4
b. 3, f. 40	For "The Merry-Go-Round." Between Maugham and the firm of William Heinemann of London	1904 Apr 6

Artwork

Dyson, William Henry. Etching of Hugh Walpole hitting Eleanor Mordaunt in the jaw n.d.

Entitled "The manly art of self-defence or "Now no one can say that Maugham meant it for me!" Gift, 1959.

[See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 46](#)

Oversize, 1929 Mar 21

b. 4, f. 41	"The Extraordinary Sex," proof, signed (in Series II) Gift, 1939.	1929 Mar 21
b. 4, f. 42	"Four Dutchmen," proof, signed (in Series II) Gift, 1939.	1928 Nov 29
b. 4, f. 43	"In Hiding," proof, signed (in Series II) Gift, 1939.	
b. 4, f. 44	"The Man Who Made His Mark," proof, signed (in Series II) Gift, 1939.	1929 May 30
b. 4, f. 45	"Straight Flush," proof, signed (in Series II) Gift, 1939.	n.d.
b. 5, f. 46	Dyson, William Henry. Etching of Hugh Walpole hitting Eleanor Mordaunt in the jaw (in Series III) Entitled "The manly art of self-defence or "Now no one can say that Maugham meant it for me!" Gift, 1959.	n.d.

Series IV: Additions Since June 1997

MAUGHAM, W. SOMERSET

b. 6, f. 47

"Introduction" to *Moll Flanders* by Daniel Defoe
1 item (8 leaves) ; 28 cm. Holograph, corrected. Purchase, 1997.

n.d.

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

Authors, English -- Archives

Preferred Titles

Ashenden, or, the British agent

Lady Frederick: a comedy in three acts

On a Chinese screen

Names

Colles, William Morris, 1855-1926

Leverson, Ada, 1862-1933

Maugham, W. Somerset (William Somerset),
1874-1965

Mordaunt, Elinor, 1877?-1942

Towne, Charles Hanson, 1877-1949

Walpole, Hugh, 1884-1941

Wing, Donald Goddard, 1904-1972