

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Arthur Symons Collection

GEN MSS 305



by Beinecke Staff

July 1997

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 305

CREATOR: Symons, Arthur, 1865-1945

TITLE: Arthur Symons collection

DATES: 1893-1919

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains letters by Symons to such correspondents as William Rose Benét, Joseph Conrad, and Grant Richards; essays by Symons; and a poem by Symons.

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

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.symons>.

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 Arthur Symons 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

Arthur Symons Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, this has been noted in the box-and-folder list.

ARTHUR SYMONS (1865-1945)

Arthur William Symons, poet, editor, and critic, was born in Milford Haven, England, on February 28, 1865. After ending his formal schooling at sixteen, Symons became active in London's literary world and also began the extensive travels in France which would ultimately influence his writing. He joined the Rhymers' Club (a group of poets including such figures as William Butler Yeats); edited a range of literary journals; and established himself as a cultural critic with the publication of his *Symbolist Movement in Literature* in 1899. He authored several volumes of poetry and criticism before suffering a mental collapse in 1908. The majority of his work after this period remained unpublished except for *Confessions* (1930). Symons died in Wittersham, Kent on January 22, 1945.

Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to Arthur Symons, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. The papers span the dates 1897-1919 and are arranged in two series.

[Series I, *Letters by Symons*](#), consists of letters written by Arthur Symons. The series is alphabetically arranged by recipient and includes items addressed to William Rose Benét, Joseph Conrad, and Grant Richards. The letter to Conrad primarily concerns a projected essay on Flaubert.

[Series II, *Writings*](#), contains writings by Symons and is alphabetically arranged by title. While most of these concern literary subjects, Box 1, folder 19 houses a holograph of a letter to a periodical on "The Storm Cloud over Russia." The series also includes three undated family photographs.

Collection Contents

Series I: Letters by Symons, 1897-1916

0.12' (11 folders)

Letters is arranged alphabetically by recipient.

b. 1, f. 1	ALS to [William Rose?] Benét, London Gift, 1937	1916 Dec 20
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to Joseph Conrad, Wittersham Gift, 1937	1912 May 13
b. 1, f. 3	ALS and a signed postcard to James Hunker on literary matters, London Purchase, 1941	1902, 1906
b. 1, f. 4	ALS to Mr. Meynell, Wittersham Regarding the purchase of paintings Gift, 1958	n.y. May 26
b. 1, f. 5	ALS to William Moring, Rome Gift, 1962	1904 Feb 1
b. 1, f. 6	ALS to C. Kegan Paul, London	1893 Apr 23
b. 1, f. 7	4 ALS to Grant Richards Purchase, 1986	1904-06
b. 1, f. 8	3 ALS to Mr. Smithers, Birchington-on-Sea Gift, 1957	1897-1904, n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	ALS to [Francis] Vielé-Griffin, London	1903 Mar 17
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to an unidentified recipient, Belagio, Italy Probably to a publisher. Mentions his essay on Coleridge. Gift, 1959	1903 Sep 18
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to an unidentified recipient, Wittersham Offering to sell a letter by Thomas Hardy. Gift, 1959	1916 Sep 16

Series II: Writings by Symons, 1919, n.d.

0.10' (9 folders)

Writings is arranged alphabetically by title.

b. 1, f. 12	"André Gide": autograph essay, signed with changes and corrections Purchase, 1941	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	"Bohemian Chelsea"; autograph MS essay, signed, with numerous changes and corrections	n.d.
b. 1, f. 14	"Congreve": original manuscript, and typescript copy with several manuscript corrections and additions Gift, 1937	n.d.
b. 1, f. 15	"Édouard Dubus"; autograph MS of essay, signed The text lacks continuity; incomplete? Purchase, 1941	n.d.
b. 1, f. 16	"In the Woods" (poem): typescript copy, signed	n.d.
b. 1, f. 17	"Pierre Louÿs"; autograph essay, signed, with changes and corrections Purchase, 1941	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	"Stendhal": AMsS Gift, 1968	n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	"Storm Cloud over Russia": holograph, corrected, signed With: typescript, carbon Purchase, 1991	[1919]
b. 1, f. 20	Photographs Three snapshots of Arthur Symons; Mrs. Arthur Symons; and the Symons house in Kent, England.	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, Welsh -- Archives

Names

Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950

Conrad, Joseph, 1857-1924

Richards, Grant, 1872-1948

Symons, Arthur, 1865-1945