

Guide to Oscar Wilde holdings in the Rosenbach Museum & Library

17 April 2024

HISTORICAL NOTE:

All objects owned by Dr. Rosenbach are marked below with an asterisk (*). Those marked with double (**) are part of Philip Rosenbach's gift to the Foundation on January 12, 1953, consisting partly of objects from Dr. Rosenbach's estate. The Rosenbach has expanded these holdings, and continues to collect works by and about Wilde. The guide is updated as new material is acquired. Objects acquired since 2014 are marked with a "+".

SCOPE & CONTENT

This collections guide serves as an overview of the Wilde holdings, providing titles and call numbers. For complete catalog information and to view the materials in person, please make a research appointment and use the call number for reference.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

The Oscar Wilde holdings at the Rosenbach consist of

- I. Manuscripts
- II. Books
- III. Books with contributions by Oscar Wilde
- IV. Photographs and Fine Arts

I. Oscar Wilde Manuscripts

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| EMs 1280/6 | ALS: Philadelphia, to Elizabeth Lewis, [1882 Jan. 17]. 1 item (2 p.); 11 cm. Summary: A letter to his solicitor's wife, reporting on the success of his American tour and his plans to visit Walt Whitman the next day. |
| EMs 1280/9 | LS fragment: London, to an unidentified correspondent, [18]89 June 21. 1 item (1 p.); 16 cm. Summary: Last page only of a letter authorizing an increase in the Wildes' investment in the United States and South American Investment Trust. In the hand of Constance Wilde, signed by her and Oscar. |
| EMs 1280/8 | ALS: London, to George Herbert Kersley, [18]90 Feb. 24. 1 item (4 p.); 18 cm. Summary: Offers condolences on the death of his father and asks if he might hear some of Kersley's poems. With envelope. |
| EL3 .W672p 921 MS | * <i>The portrait of Mr W. H.</i> : AMs and related material, [1889?]-1921. 4 items in case; 36 cm. Manuscript 105 p. Summary: Copy text for the revised version of Wilde's story as it was published by Mitchell Kennerley in 1921. It consists of pages from the story as first published in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, July 1889, with manuscript corrections and marginal |

additions, and some pages entirely in manuscript. Also present are a carbon copy of a typescript report (5 p.) written for Kennerley by Arthur Hooley, concerning possible "grounds for offense" in the story; a prospectus (4 p.) for the Kennerley edition, and a clipping from the New York Post, 20 June 1921, about Kennerley and the manuscript. Summary: The revised version of the story was announced for publication in 1893 by the firm of Elkin Matthews and John Lane. The firm later reported that the manuscript was returned to Wilde's house on the day of his arrest in 1895, but it was not found there and was considered lost until 1920, when it came into the possession of Mitchell Kennerley. Kennerley announced that he had purchased it from the sister of Frederic Chapman, a friend of Wilde's and manager at John Lane, who had died in 1918. It was purchased by A.S.W. Rosenbach in September 1923.

EL3.W672s MS

Salomé: drame en une acte / Oscar Wilde: AMs, [1891]. 2 v. (120 p.) in case; 25 cm. Summary: Final fair copy of the manuscript of the play, in Wilde's hand with corrections and emendations in the hand of Pierre Louÿs, to whom the work is dedicated. Tipped in at the end is a receipt from the Librairie de l'Art Independent for the guarantee given by Pierre Louÿs for its publication.

EL3 .W672 MS1

**Sonnet: on the sale by auction of Keats' love- letters AMsS, 1885 Mar. 1. 1 v. (1 p.); 36 cm. Summary: A sonnet of protest, written the day before the Sotheby auction at which Keats's letters to Fanny Brawne appeared on the market for the first time.

EL4 .D731 MS1

Douglas, Alfred Bruce, Lord. ALsS and sonnets: 1893 Sept. 30-Nov. 22. 6 items (13 p.) in case; 22 cm. Summary: A series of letters between Lord Alfred Douglas and John Lane in which Douglas relinquishes his role as translator of Oscar Wilde's *Salomé* and takes exception to a remark about him. Lane explains his position, and Douglas accepts the response. (Three letters from Douglas and one from Lane.) Also present are manuscripts of two sonnets: "A Christmas sonnet" by Douglas and "Sonnet á Oscar Wilde," in French, signed P.L.O.

EMs 1283/3

Pearson, Hesketh, 1887-1964, recipient. Letters: concerning Oscar Wilde, [1882]-1945 (bulk 1943-1945). 12 items (17 l.); 26 cm. or smaller. Summary: Letters written between 1943 and 1945 by various artists and writers associated with Oscar Wilde, to Hesketh Pearson while he was researching his biography of Wilde. Correspondents include: Gordon Bottomley, Lord Alfred Douglas, Laurence Housman, Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, Bernard Partridge, Eden Phillpotts, W. Graham Robertson, and Sir William

Rothenstein. Also present is an announcement of a lecture on art decoration to be delivered by Wilde in New York on 10 May [1882].

II. Oscar Wilde Printed books, by title

- EL3 .W672b 898
copy 1 *The ballad of Reading Gaol*. 1st ed. London: Leonard Smithers, 1898. Tipped in ALS from Wilde to Robert Ross, [Nov.-Dec. 1898]. 2 p.
- EL3 .W672b 898
copy 2 *The ballad of Reading Gaol*. 3d ed. London: Leonard Smithers, 1898.
- EL3 .W672b 898
copy 3 *The ballad of Reading Gaol*. 5th ed. London: Leonard Smithers, 1898.
- EL3 .W672e 901 + *Essays, criticism and reviews : now first collected*. London: Privately printed, 1901.
- EL3 .W672h 888 + *The happy prince and other tales*. [large paper ed.] London: David Nutt, 1888. illustrated by Walter Crane. #5 of 75, signed by Oscar Wilde.
- EL3 .W672ho 891 + *A house of pomegranates*. London: James. R. Osgood, McIlvaine & Co., 1891.
- EL3 .W672im 899 + *The importance of being earnest: a trivial comedy for serious people*. London: Leonard Smithers and Co., 5 Old Bond Street W, MDCCCXCIX [1899]
- EL3 .W672i ***Impressions of America*. Sunderland: Keystone Press, 1906. One of 500 copies.
- EL3 .W672l *Letters after Reading: II, Naples and Paris*. New York: Paul R. Reynolds, 1921.
- EL3 .W672p 921 **The portrait of Mr. W.H.* New York: Mitchell Kennerley, 1921.
- EL3 .W672port 2008 + *A portrait of Oscar Wilde: from the Moreira Salles Collection of literary manuscripts*. [Verona]: Privately printed for Lucia Moreira Salles, 2008.
- EL3 .W672r *Ravenna*. Oxford: Thos. Shrimpton and Son, 1878. Presentation copy to E.D. Morshead.

- EL3 .W672re ***Resurgam: unpublished letters*. [London, 1917.]
- EL3 .W672s 893 *Salomé*: . Paris: Librairie de l'art indépendant; Londres: Elkin Mathews et John Lane, 1893.
- EL3 .W672s 903 *Salome: a tragedy in one act*. New York: London: John Lane the Bodley Head Ltd.; New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1903. Drawings by Aubrey Beardsley.
- EL3 .W672s 904 *Salome: a tragedy in one act*. London: Melmoth & Co., 1904. Pirated edition.
- Ro1 924b *Some letters from Oscar Wilde to Alfred Douglas* San Francisco: printed for William Andrews Clark, Jr, by John Henry Nash, 1924.
- EL3 .Z1sp *The spirit lamp*. Oxford, 1892-1893. 16 magazines in case. Oxford under-graduate magazine edited by Lord Alfred Douglas. Includes several poems by Wilde and Douglas's review of *Salome*.
- FP .F745 925h Harris, Frank. *New preface to "The life and confessions of Oscar Wilde,"* by Frank Harris and Lord Alfred Douglas. London: The Fortune Press, 1925.

III. Books with contributions by Oscar Wilde

- EL4 .R686r 882 Rodd, Rennell, 1858-1941.
Rose Leaf and Apple Leaf: With an Introduction by Oscar Wilde. Philadelphia: J. M. Stoddart, 1882.
Presentation copy to J. Bertram Lippincott from Joseph M. Stoddart
Gift of Mark Samuels Lasner in honor of Philip K. Cohen

IV. Fine and Decorative Arts featuring or related to Oscar Wilde

- 1954.0801 Beardsley, Aubrey. *Aubrey Beardsley's illustrations to Salomé*. [London?: John Lane?, 19--?] 1 portfolio ([17] sheets)
- 1954.2135
[formerly EMs
1280/7] Sarony, Napoleon. Oscar Wilde: photograph, New York, 1882. Three quarter length portrait of Oscar Wilde shown at a three quarter angle to the left. He wears a fur-trimmed overcoat and holds a hat and walking stick.
- 1954.2136.001 Sarony, Napoleon. Oscar Wilde: photograph, New York, 1882. Full length portrait of Oscar Wilde, with his hand on his hip. He

wears a velvet jacket and vest, knee breeches, stockings and shoes with bows. The cabinet card is printed "Oscar Wilde/Copyright 1882, by N. Sarony/37 Union Sqr., N.Y." Purple stamp on the reverse: "From Charles L. Ritsmann, 943 Broadway and /171 1/2 Fifth Avenue, N.Y."

1954.2136.002

Sarony, Napoleon. Oscar Wilde: photograph, New York, 1882. Full length portrait of Oscar Wilde, with his hand on his hip. He wears a velvet jacket and vest, knee breeches, stockings and shoes with bows. "12" is printed at the lower left. The cabinet card is printed "Oscar Wilde/Copyright 1882, by N. Sarony/ 37 Union Sqr., N.Y."

Acosta 19:35

Photograph of Dolly Wilde and Rollo Peters, [between 1915 and 1925]. Black and white photograph of Dolly Wilde and Rollo Peters, standing outside at the edge of a road. Peters wears a sweater and knickers and holds a pipe. Wilde wears a dress belted below the waist.