Summary

Creator: Chesterton, G. K. (Gilbert Keith), 1874-1936

Title: Gilbert Keith Chesterton collection of papers

Date: 1895?-1935

Size: 67 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 and typescripts, correspondence, an undated notebook, legal and financial documents, a sketchbook, and a portrait sketch.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature


Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

Creator History

Gilbert Keith Chesterton was an English writer of autobiographies, biographies, essays, historical works, journalism, literary criticism, novels, plays, and short-stories.

Custodial History

Previous owners include Humbert Wolfe, the American Play Company, W. T. H. Howe, and Owen D. Young.
**Scope and Content Note**

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts and typescripts, correspondence, an undated notebook, legal and financial documents, a sketchbook, and a portrait sketch. The manuscripts and typescripts include articles and essays, poems, and a number of reader's reports sent to the publisher T. Fisher Unwin about various authors. Also included are essays, reviews and notes for essays about Chesterton, in typescript and manuscript, written by W. H. Auden, Max Beerbohm, Sean O'Casey, Bernard Shaw, Ann Wolfe, and Humbert Wolfe. The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dating from 1904 to 1935, to E. V. Lucas, Clement King Shorter, the publisher T. Fisher Unwin, and the literary agency A. P. Watt and Son. The collection also includes correspondence relating to the author, dating from 1896 to 1928, between various correspondents, including Edward Chesterton, Dorothy Collins, H. B. Elliott, Humbert Wolfe, T. Fisher Unwin, A. P. Watt and Son, and the literary agency James B. Pinker and Son. There is one letter to Chesterton from Humbert Wolfe, dated April 19, 1933.

**Key Terms**

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
- Correspondence
- Notebooks
- Sketchbooks

**Names**
- Chesterton, G. K. (Gilbert Keith), 1874-1936
- Alyea, Dorothy C. (Dorothy Collins), 1898-1974
- Auden, W. H. (Wystan Hugh), 1907-1973
- Beerbohm, Max, Sir, 1872-1956
- Chesterton, Edward
- Elliott, H. B.
- Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
- Lucas, E. V. (Edward Verral), 1868-1938
- O'Casey, Sean, 1880-1964
- Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950
- Shorter, Clement King, 1857-1926
- Wolfe, Ann
- Wolfe, Humbert, 1885-1940
- Young, Owen D., 1874-1946
- A. P. Watt and Son
- American Play Company
- James B. Pinker and Son
- T. Fisher Unwin (Firm)
Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts

Accompanied by the printed text from The New Witness, Sept. 7, 1916. Y.

E. V. L. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed with initials. H.

From the Swedish embassy. (Strictly private and confidential) Holograph memorandum (?) n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Garnett, Edward. Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about George Herbert Perris. Title under review: Leo Tolstoy. Entered under G. K. Chesterton with G. H. Perris as joint author in Public catalogue. (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about George A. Best (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report (fragment) sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Helen Caddick (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Albert Richardson Carman (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about anonymous work entitled Down Durley Lane (1 p) (1 p)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Holger Henrik Herholdt Drachmann (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about George Gamble (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Charlotte (Perkins) Statson Gilman (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's reports (2) sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Lord Ernest William Hamilton (2 items) (2 items)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about "Mrs. Alexander," Annie French Hector (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Elsa D'Esterre Keeling (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's reports (2) sent to T. Fisher Unwin about J. Kent (2 items) (2 items)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Milicent Lord (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Herbert C. MacIliwaine (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Seumas MacManus (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Mrs. Fairman Mann (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Edith Violet Mayne (1 item) (1 item)

Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about Eustace Alfred Reynolds-Ball (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscript box (Tyrrell, J. W.)
Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about James William Tyrrell (1 item)
(1 item)

Manuscript box (Watson, J. R.)
Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about John Reay Watson (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box (Webster, H. C.)
Reader's report sent to T. Fisher Unwin about H. Cayley Webster (1 item) (1 item)

Shaw, Bernard. Chesterton on Shaw. Holograph review. Page 8 wanting [text of missing page supplied from copy written in unknown hands on p. 3 of "Post Office Telegraphs" official paper. 1909 Aug. 24 (9 p) (9 p)
Signed. H.

Manuscripts about Chesterton

In his: Holograph notebooks, v. 13, p. [217]-[220] (reversed)
O'Casey, Sean. [Notes] Holograph. Subject is G. K. Chesterton n.d. (1 item)
(1 item)

With her: ANS to "Grandpa" [Joseph C. Graham] Dec. 1 [n.y.]. Came with the papers of her father, Humbert Wolfe

Wolfe, Humbert. Shylock reasons with Mr. Chesterton. Holograph and typescript poems. Incomplete: The crowder's tune and Three epitaphs. III.
The little sleeper, wanting n.d. (9 folders) (9 folders)

Notebooks

Beerbohm, Max. Holograph notebook. Consists of preliminary notes for essays on the author's contemporaries, arranged alphabetically by the subject. Includes G. K. Chesterton and others n.d (1 v) (1 v)
Signed

Typescripts

Manuscript box
age of nonsense, The. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. For his column Straws in the wind, in G. K.'s Weekly n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
Signed

Manuscript box
Art for aviators. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections 1931 Oct. 12 (5 p)
(5 p)
Signed Accompanying ms. note signed D. E. Collins. Published under title: On Mammoth Portraiture in his All I Survey. London, Methuen, 1933

Manuscript box
Signed

Manuscript box
end of the story, The. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. For his column Straws in the wind, in G. K.'s weekly n.d. (5 p) (5 p)
Signed

Manuscript box
note on Rousseau, A. Typescript with the author's ms. corrections. For his column Straws in the wind, in G. K.'s weekly n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
Signed

(Belloc)

(Belloc)
Signed with initials "B. C." and 3 additional ones, the last signed (?) by J. S. Phillimore
Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Typescripts (cont.)

Signed with initials, "B. C."

Manuscript box  Vanity fair. Typewritten article with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (12 p) (12 p)
Signed

Typescripts related to Chesterton

Manuscript box  Auden, W. H. The gift of wonder. Typescript draft of essay with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (7 p., 2 folders) (7 p., 2 folders)

Manuscript box  Shaw, Bernard. Why not give the intellectuals a chance? Typewritten article with the author's ms. corrections and additions. Relates to G. K. Chesterton 1933 June 14 (18 p) (18 p)
Accompanied by his: ALS to Richard Mealand of Nash's Pall Mall magazine. June 26, 1933. 1 p. Published in Nash's Pall Mall magazine, v. 92, no. 486, Nov. 1933, p. 8-9, 94-96

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Manuscript box (Chesterton)  Collins, Dorothy. ALS to Humbert Wolfe. Written as secretary to G. K. Chesterton 1928 Sept. 12 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box  Lucas, E. V. LS to 1935 Dec. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box  New Statesman. TLS to the editor. At head: The case against Chesterton. In reply to Bernard Shaw n.d. (7 p) (7 p)
Manuscript box  Shorter, Clement King. TLS to Feb. 14 (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box  T. Fisher Unwin. ALS to n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
With reader's report by Edward Garnett
Manuscript box  Watt and son, A. P. LS and TLS to 1904 Dec., [1922] Feb. 23 (2 items) (2 items)

Incoming Correspondence

Manuscript box  Wolfe, Humbert. TL (carbon) to G. K. Chesterton 1933 Apr. 19 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Related Correspondence

Manuscript box (Chesterton)  Chesterton, Edward. ALS to T. Fisher Unwin. Accepting for his son, G. K. Chesterton, an appointment in the firm of T. Fisher Unwin 1896 Nov. 4 (1 p) (1 p)
Manuscript box (Chesterton)  Elliott, H. B. ALS to A. P. Watt & son. Relates to G. K. Chesterton and others 1912 Nov. 25 (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscript box (Pinker, J. B., firm)  Letters, ALS, telegrams, etc. from various publishers, etc. to the firm of James B. Pinker and son as literary agent for G. K. Chesterton 1917 Oct. 29 (1 item) (1 item)

Financial and Legal Documents

Financial Documents

Manuscript box (Chesterton)  English review, The. Check made out to G. K. Chesterton by Ford Madox Ford 1909 Mar. 12 (1 item) (1 item)

Legal Documents

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Manuscript box (Chesterton)

Agreements, correspondence, forms, statements from various theatrical agencies concerning G. K. Chesterton (1 folder) (1 folder)
From the files of the American Play Co.

Pictorial Works

Sketchbooks
Sketchbook with original pencil drawings and the author's ms. notes 1895?
(69 p) (69 p)

Portraits
Russell, George William. Pen-and-ink self portrait sketch. 14 x 19 cm.
Includes pencil sketches of W. B. Yeats, John O'Leary, Edward Martyn and G. K. Chesterton n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Signed with initials. With unidentified pen-and-ink illustration on verso