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Guide to the

John Millington Synge collection of papers

1898-1929

Berg Coll MSS Synge

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Synge, J. M. (John Millington), 1871-1909

Title: John Millington Synge collection of papers

Date: 1898-1929

Size: 122 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, typescripts, and correspondence.

Access: Restricted access.

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

Preferred citation: [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

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

Creator History

John Millington Synge was an Irish playwright, poet, and essayist.

Custodial History

Previous owners include Sara Allgood, Lady Gregory, and John Quinn.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, typescripts, and correspondence by and about the author. The manuscripts and typescripts consist of an article, poems, and a play ("Riders to the Sea") by the author, as well as reviews, articles, poems, and essays relating to the author by Louis MacNeice, John Masefield, James Stephens, and William Butler Yeats. The correspondence consists of letters, dating from 1898 to 1909, from the author to Padraic Colum, Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory, Karel Musek, George Roberts, W. B. Yeats, and others, as well as letters relating to the author, dating from 1906 to 1929, between various correspondents including Darrell Figgis, Lady Gregory, Samuel Synge, and others.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Names

Synge, J. M. (John Millington), 1871-1909

Allgood, Sara, 1883-1950

Colum, Padraic, 1881-1972

Figgis, Darrell, 1882-1925

Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932

Gregory, Lady, 1852-1932

MacNeice, Louis, 1907-1963

Masefield, John, 1878-1967

Mus_ek, Karel

Quinn, John, 1870-1924

Roberts, George, 1803?-1860

Stephens, James, 1882-1950

Synge, Samuel

Yeats, W. B. (William Butler), 1865-1939

Container List

Manuscripts and Typescripts

Manuscripts and Typescripts written by Synge

- | | |
|---|--|
| Oversize (+) | [Article on Irish players, intended for the Manchester guardian] Holograph
n.d. (9 p) (9 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box | [On an anniversary; To the oaks of Glenree; The passing of the Shee; A question] Incomplete. Four ms. poems in Lady Gregory's hand n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Published in his The works, Dublin, Maunsel, 1910, v. 2 |
| Manuscript box | Playboy of the western world. Typescript (photocopy), unsigned and undated. n.d. (76 p) (76 p) |
| Manuscript box | Riders to the sea. Typescript of play with the author's ms. corrections n.d. (19 p) (19 p)
Signed. With Lady Gregory's signed marginal ms. note, "Signed and sent me by Synge" |
| Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Synge | |
| Manuscript box
(Synge) | Gaelic American. New York. Extracts relating to American production of John Millington Synge's The playboy of the Western world, dated Oct. 14-Dec. 16, 1911. Typescript (carbon) n.d. (8 p) (8 p)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers |
| Manuscript box | MacNeice, Louis. "Lecture notes for Cambridge--re drama." Incomplete holograph. Pages numbered 7-25. Discusses Yeats, Synge, T. S. Eliot and others, and contains an analysis of Samuel Beckett's work n.d. (19 p) (19 p)
Signature added later |
| Manuscript box | Masefield, John. Synge, John Millington (1871-1909) Typescript (carbon) of article for DNB n.d. (13 p) (13 p)
Enclosed in his: 30 ALS to Lady Gregory. Jan. 20, 1903-[May 18, 1930] Letter of July 29, 1911. Letters of July 17 and 26, 1911 relate to same |
| Cased | Stephens, James. I remember. Reminiscences of J. M. Synge. Holograph 1928 Feb. 2 (13 p) (13 p)
H. |
| Manuscript box
(Synge) | Unidentified manuscripts. [Synge, John Millington. The playboy of the western world] Holograph notes (incomplete) in an unidentified hand, relating to incidents during Dublin performances of The playboy. Mentions W. B. Yeats n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Came with Sara Allgood's correspondence |
| Manuscript box | Yeats, William Butler, Lady Gregory, and J. M. Synge (?). [Abbey theatre. Address] Typescript with Lady Gregory's (?) ms. corrections. Address delivered to Abbey theatre company over division of Abbey funds at Sept. 23, 1905 meeting n.d. (2 p) (2 p) |
| Manuscript box | Yeats, William Butler. "After Synge's death I was given a letter."
Typewritten memorandum relating to John Millington Synge's will with Lady Gregory's ms. corrections and notes to W. B. Yeats n.d. (2 p) (2 p) |
| At beginning of
vol. 7 on double
sheet of his:
Collected works,
Shakespeare
head ed., 1908 | Yeats, William Butler. [On those that hated 'The playboy of the western world,' 1907] Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Published in his The collected poems of W. B. Yeats, New York: Macmillan, 1951, p. 109.
Presentation copy to Lady Gregory |

Manuscripts and Typescripts (cont.)

Manuscripts and Typescripts relating to Synge (cont.)

- Cased Yeats, William Butler. [Preface to the first edition of John M. Synge's Poems and translations] Holograph 1909 Apr. 4 (9 p) (9 p)
With accompanying text. John Quinn bookplate; H.
- Oversize (+) Yeats, William Butler. J. M. Synge. Holograph 1910 Sept. 16 (42 p) (42 p)
Accompanied by the printed text, an excerpt paged 146-195. Published with title: J. M. Synge and the Ireland of his time. John Quinn bookplate; H.
- Manuscript box Yeats, William Butler. To a wealthy man who promised a second subscription to the Dublin Municipal Gallery if it were proved the people wanted pictures. Typescript with Lady Gregory's ms. corrections n.d. (3 p) (3 p)
With 3 additional poems: Red Hanrahan's song about Ireland, The song of wandering Aengus, and To Ireland in the coming times. Also: 2 p. of poems, one dated Jan. 24, 1909

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Oversize (+)
Inserted in:
Morris, William.
The water of the
wondrous isles.
[Hammersmith,
1897]
- Manuscript box Bullen, A. H. ALS to 1905 Jan. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Colum, [Padraic]. ALS to n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Manuscript box Gregory, Lady. 68 ALS, 1 TLS, 1 postcard to. Includes fragments of two undated letters 1898 July 1 - 1909 Jan. 3 (70 letters in 19 folders) (70 letters in 19 folders)
- Manuscript box Musek, Karel. ALS to [1904] Mar. 10 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
B.
- Manuscript box Musek, Karel. ALS to 1904 June 2 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
B.
- Manuscript box Musek, Karel. ALS to 1907 May 4 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
B.
- Manuscript box Musek, Karel. ALS to 1907 Oct. 28 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
B.
- Manuscript box Roberts, George. ALS to 1904 Dec. 23 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
B.
- Manuscript box Roberts, George. ALS to Mar. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
B.
- Manuscript box Yeats, Elizabeth. ALS to 1908 Nov. 24 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box Yeats, [Elizabeth]. ALS to 1909 Jan. 13 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
- Manuscript box Yeats, William Butler. 13 ALS, 3 TLS, 1 TL (carbon) to [1905?] Mar. 7 - 1908 Sept. 7 (17 letters in 4 folders) (17 letters in 4 folders)
Came with Lady Gregory's papers
- Manuscript box Yeats, William Butler. ALS to 1909 Feb. 19 (2 p) (2 p)
- Related Correspondence
- Manuscript box (Synge) Figgis, Darrell. TLS to Charles Benjamin Purdom. Relates to J. M. Synge's The Playboy of the Western world 1911 Nov. 5 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Manuscript box Gregory, Lady. TL (fragment, carbon) to Mr. Tyler. Relates to J. M. Synge's Playboy of the Western world production in Montreal [1913?] Jan. 28 (1 p) (1 p)

Correspondence (cont.)

Related Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box
Gregory, Lady. 2 ALS (copies) to Samuel Synge. May 9 letter in two versions 1929 [May 1], 1929 May 9 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Removed from her: Journal, v. 41, p. 5520 and 5538
- Manuscript box
(Gregory)
Gregory, William Robert. ALS to Viscount Hugh Gough. Relates to Dublin riots of J. M. Synge's *The Playboy of the Western world* 1907 Feb. 3 (3 p) (3 p)
From Lady Gregory's son
- Manuscript box
(Gregory)
Steuart, A. Francis. ALS to William G. Fay. On card. Relates to J. M. Synge 1906 July 26 (1 card) (1 card)
Encloses letter to his sister, Miss Steuart, from Phoebe(?) A. Traquair [Traquaire], June 24, [1906] 3 p.; Came with Lady Gregory's papers
- Manuscript box
(Synge)
Synge, Samuel. 2 ALS to Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory 1929 Apr. 30, 1929 May 8 (1 p. each) (1 p. each)
Removed from: Gregory. Journal, v. 41, p. 5520 and 5538
- Manuscript box
(Gregory)
Ward, J. J. ALS to Lady Isabella Augusta Persse Gregory. Supporter of J. M. Synge 1912 Jan. 20 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box
Yeats, Susan Mary (Lily) ALS to Maire O'Neill. Relates to publication by John Quinn of a book by John Millington Synge n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)