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Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers 4078365

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical sketch	3
Scope and Content	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	7
Controlled Access Headings	8
Collection Inventory	8
Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers	8

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Schimmel, Stuart B
Title:	Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers
ID:	4078365
ID:	MS#1079
Date [inclusive]:	1892-1980
Physical Description:	1 linear feet 2 boxes
Language of the Material:	Primarily in English, with one item in Italian.
Abstract:	A collection of materials by and about the nineteenth century English writer and eccentric Frederick Rolfe (also known as Baron Corvo), assembled by the book collector Stuart B. Schimmel.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers; Box and Folder (if known); Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Stuart B. Schimmel (1925-2013) was a prominent book and manuscript collector who lived in Greenwich, Connecticut. He joined the Grolier Club, a private society for New York City bibliophiles, in 1961, and served on its Council from 1972 until 1986. The Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers is one of several collections of rare books and manuscripts Schimmel gave to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical sketch

Frederick William Rolfe, whose pen name was Baron Corvo, authored numerous books and stories. Amongst the most famous are the Toto stories, HADRIAN THE SEVENTH, called by some the greatest ecclesiastical novel ever to be written, and the masterpiece THE DESIRE AND PURSUIT OF THE WHOLE. To say that Rolfe was at times eccentric, acerbic and petulant is understatement, but he was also an excellent story teller, conversationalist and amateur athlete. His life of trials and tribulations ended in 1913, when he died in Venice at the age of 53.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

Original Rolfe materials in the collection include six folders of letters to Wilfrid Meynell, dating from 1892 to 1893, a fragment of an unidentified Rolfe manuscript in Italian, and bookplates designed by Frederick Rolfe for Edward Pirie-Gordon. The collection also includes reproductions of photographs by Rolfe, photocopies of Rolfe's letters to Barnard and Taylor written in 1904 and 1905, and handwritten copies (not made by Rolfe) of letters written to Charles Masson Fox by Rolfe in 1909 and 1910. Memorial cards for Frederick Rolfe and blank stationery for the Order of Sanctissima Sophia are included as well.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

In addition, the collection contains secondary materials about Rolfe's life, work, and collectors. Some correspondence and ephemera related to Schimmel's acquisition of some items in the collection are included. Letters by James Agate to the Rolfe biographer and collector A.J.A. Symons from 1939 are also present, as are a typescript of Symons' lecture, "Frederick, Baron Corvo" from 1927 and a binder's dummy for the First Edition Club's 1937 publication of Rolfe's *The Songs of Meleager*. Printed materials include clippings and ephemera related to posthumous publications of Rolfe's works, biographies of Rolfe by Donald Weeks and Miriam Benkovitz, and exhibition materials from Marylebone Public Library's exhibition for Rolfe's centenary. Playbills, clippings, and a printed copy of Peter Luke's 1968 theatrical adaptation of Rolfe's *Hadrian the Seventh*, are also included.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

This collection was formerly called the Frederick Rolfe papers. Its name was changed in order to differentiate it from the other two assembled collections of Frederick Rolfe materials at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Selected materials cataloged; remainder arranged.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2018-05-25 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Papers: Source of acquisition--Schimmel, Stuart B. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1983.

Ownership and Custodial History

The collection was assembled by the book collector Stuart B. Schimmel in the early 1970s. He donated it to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library in 1983.

Processing Information

Papers Processed AMS 10/--/84.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by CLB May 2018.

Processing Information

This collection was processed in 1984. In addition to manuscripts and printed ephemera, it also originally contained books and periodicals, which were individually cataloged and incorporated into the Rare Book and Manuscript Library's book collections.

The collection was formerly called the Frederick Rolfe papers. Its name was changed in May 2018 in order to differentiate it from the other two assembled collections of Frederick Rolfe materials at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and to comply with DACS 2.0 rules.

A cataloging error identified a group of Rolfe collectors' letters, mostly to Donald G. Brien, as being components of this collection. Those materials are in fact components of the Columbia University collection of Frederick Rolfe papers (MS #1081).

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

See also: MS #1080, David Roth collection of Frederick William Rolfe papers; MS #1081, Columbia University collection of Frederick Rolfe papers; and MS #0610, Ned Edward Hoopes papers

Selected Related Material

[Columbia University collection of Frederick Rolfe papers](#), A collection of Frederick Rolfe manuscripts and related materials assembled by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Selected Related Material

[David Roth Martyr Worthy collection of Frederick William Rolfe papers](#), The Rare Book and Manuscript Library's most extensive collection of Frederick Rolfe materials, assembled by the English book collector David Roth and named after the Hampshire village in which he lived.

Selected Related Material

[Miriam J. Benkovitz papers](#), Benkovitz was a Frederick Rolfe biographer, book collector, and English professor at Skidmore College. Further materials related to her biography of Rolfe are located in the Benkovitz papers.

Selected Related Material

[Ned Edward Hoopes papers](#), Hoopes was another Frederick Rolfe biographer; his papers include notes and other materials related to that work.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Book collectors
 - English literature -- 19th century
 - Rolfe, Frederick, 1860-1913
 - Symons, A. J. A (Alphonse James Albert), 1900-1941
 - Symons, Julian, 1912-1994
 - Weeks, Donald
 - Woolf, Cecil
-

Collection Inventory

Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers, 1892-1980	
Title/Description	Instances
Frederick Rolfe letters to Wilfrid Meynell (6 folders), 1892-1893	box 1
Frederick Rolfe fragment of Sforza family history, with translation by Donald Weeks, undated	box 1
Bookplates designed by Frederick Rolfe for Edward Pirie-Gordon, undated	box 1
Reproductions of photographs taken by Frederick Rolfe, undated	box 1
Photocopies of Frederick Rolfe letters to Barnard and Taylor (2 folders), 1904-1905	box 1
Handwritten copies of Frederick Rolfe letters to Charles Masson Fox, 1909-1910	box 1
Memorial cards for Frederick Rolfe, undated	box 1
Stationery for the Order of Sanctissima Sophia, undated	box 1
Lecture typescript by A. J. A. Symons on "Frederick, Baron Corvo", 1927	box 1
Binder's dummy for First Edition Club's publication of <i>The Songs of Meleager</i> , 1937	box 1
James Agate letters to A. J. A. Symons, 1939 June 11-17	box 1
Exhibition materials from Marylebone Public Library's centenary exhibition on Corvo, "Baron Corvo: 1860-1960", 1960	box 1

Book dealers' catalogs with annotations by Schimmel, 1965, 1970, undated	box 1
Clippings on Peter Luke's <i>Hadrian the Seventh</i> theatrical adaptation, undated	box 1
Full text of <i>Hadrian the Seventh</i> , in <i>Plays and Players</i> (vol. 15 no. 8), 1968 May	box 1
Playbills for <i>Hadrian the Seventh</i> , 1969	box 1
Correspondence and other materials related to Schimmel's acquisition of some items in his Frederick Rolfe collection, 1970-1971	box 1
Clippings: reviews of Donald Weeks' <i>Corvo</i> , 1973	box 1
Clippings: reviews of Miriam J. Benkovitz's <i>Frederick Rolfe: Baron Corvo</i> , 1977	box 1
<i>Ramparts</i> , vol. 2 no. 4, 1964 Winter	box 2
<i>The Saturday Book</i> , Fifth Year, 1945	box 2
<i>Life and Letters</i> , vol. 1 no. 2, 1928 July	box 2
<i>Columbia Library Columns</i> , vol. 25 no. 2, 1976 February	box 2
<i>Books at Iowa</i> , no. 1, 1964 October	box 2
Invitations to RBML exhibition, "Baron Corvo: Madman and Genius," 1986 March 6	box 2
Oversized Photographs	mapcase 13-I-9

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)