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Coleman O. Parsons papers 4078544

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

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>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Parsons, Coleman O., 1905-1991
Title:	Coleman O. Parsons papers
ID:	4078544
ID:	MS#0977
Date [inclusive]:	1716-1981
Physical Description:	3 linear feet 7 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Coleman O. Parsons papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical sketch

Coleman O. Parsons (Columbia A.B., 1928). Professor of English, City University of New York; book collector.

Coleman Parsons was in Ripley, WV on 16 April 1905 and died in New York City on 27 June 1991. He was educated at the University of California Los Angeles 1923-25 University of Chicago 1925-27, Columbia University, A. B. 1928, and Yale University, Ph. D. 1931. An educator and author Coleman O. Parsons was an expert on the works of Sir Walter Scott. He taught at several colleges before joining the staff of the City University of New York in 1941 where he became a professor of English in 1963. Parsons was a professor emeritus at the university at the time of his death. His writings include Witchcraft and Demonology in Scott's Fiction.

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Scope and Content

Letters, manuscripts, notes, memorabilia, photographs, and printed material. Cataloged letters from George Colman the Elder, English dramatist; Lord Jeffrey, Scottish judge and critic; Andrew Lang, Scottish author; Robert Montgomery, English poet; Richard Parsons Rosse, 1st Earl of Rosse; George Thomson, friend of Robert Burns and music editor; Bernard De Voto, critic, and S.R. Crockett, Scottish author. Cataloged manuscripts by Thomas Campbell, Scottish poet, James Montgomery, and E.I. Powell. Cataloged diaries of June and Coleman O. Parsons of their trip around the world in 1936-37. There are also ca.700 pages of notes by Coleman O. Parsons on various Scottish authors(including Sir Walter Scott), Scottish folk-lore and history, and Scottish poetry. Most of the notes concern his research on Francis Colman, George Colman the Elder, and George Colman the Younger. In addition there is the mss. for his book "Studies in Eccentricity"; the mss. of an 18th century Scottish ghost story entitled "A Cool Dialogue between the Living and the Dead" and notes and essays on Mark Twain, as well as a poetry album kept by Elizabeth Saynor Marshall and photographs of Parsons in South Africa.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 6 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Legacy finding aid created from Pro Cite. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-02-18 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

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

Source of acquisition--Parsons, Coleman O. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--12/05/1986. Accession number--M-86-12-05.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Album of E.S. Marshall: Source of acquisition--Parsons, Colman O. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1984. Accession number--M-1984.

Ownership and Custodial History

Gift of Coleman O. Parsons, 1986 & 1989.

Ownership and Custodial History

Gift of Goleman O. Parsons, 1979, 1984, 1986, and 1989.

Processing Information

Processed 06/20/1988. PL - 1/90. HR - 7/97. HR - 8/99.

Processing Information

Album of E.S. Marshall Processed HR 07/08/1997.

Accruals

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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Scottish literature
- Eccentrics and eccentricities
- Ghost stories, Scottish -- 18th century
- Scotland -- Description and travel
- Lake District (England) -- Description and travel
- Albums (books)
- Diaries
- Poems
- Book collectors -- United States -- 20th century
- College teachers
- Poets
- Crockett, S. R (Samuel Rutherford), 1859-1914
- Marshall, Elizabeth Saynor
- Scott, Walter, 1771-1832
- Twain, Mark, 1835-1910

Collection Inventory

Series I: Cataloged Correspondence	
Title/Description	Instances
Crockett, Samuel Rutherford, 1860-1914	box 1
Colman, George, 1732-1794	box 1
De Voto, Bernard	box 1
Jeffrey, Francis Jeffrey, Lord, 1773-1850	box 1
Lang, Andrew, 1844-1912	box 1
Montgomery, Robert, 1807-1855	box 1
Rosse, Richard Parsons, 1st Earl of, d.1741	box 1
Thomson, George, 1757-1851	

box 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)**Series II: Cataloged Manuscripts**

Title/Description	Instances
Bürger, Gottfried August, 1748-1794	box 1
Campbell, Thomas, 1777-1844	box 1
Montgomery, James, 1771-1854	box 1
Parsons, Coleman O.	box 1
Parsons, June Lee.	box 1
Powell, E I	box 2

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Title/Description	Instances
Scott, Sir Walter. Lock of Sir Walter Scott's hair., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 13V Shared MS 1
Scope and Contents	
(In a sealed packet with note of authentication and letter related to its acquisition)	

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Title/Description	Instances
Correspondence, A-Z, [v.p.], [v.d.]	box 2

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Title/Description	Instances
Plays, [v.p.], [v.d.]	box 2

Scope and Contents

[Many with Coleman Parson's notes.]

George Colman the Elder Entertainment of Harlequin Teague, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. The Enraged Musician, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. The Genius of Nonsense, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. The Jealous Wife, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. Preludio, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. Prologues and Epilogues, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. The Separate Maintenance, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. Sheep Shearing, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. The Spanish Barber, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. The Spleen, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. The Suicide, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
George Colman the Elder. Tit for Tat , [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 2
Marshall, Elizabeth Saynor Poetry Album, [n.p.], [1849-1946] <u>Physical Description:</u> 72 leaves in, 1 volume	box 3
Parsons, Coleman. Bibliography of eighteenth century plays and literature., [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description:</u> ca. 150 index cards	box 3
[?] "A Cool Dialogue between the Living and the Dead." , [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 3
Scope and Contents [An unidentified ghost story.]	
Essays and Articles., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 3
Lecture on Sir Walter Scott., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 3
Lecture " " by an itinerant boarder speaker., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 3
Notes and essays on Mark Twain., [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	box 3
Notes on the Aberdeen Journal., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 3
Notes on the Coleman family., [n.p.], [n.d.]	

	box 3	
Notes on Thomas Campbell, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 3	
Notes on William Chambers., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 3	
Notes on Francis Colman, George Colman the Elder and George Colman the Younger, [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description</u> : 19 folders	box 4	folder 1-19
Notes on Francis Colman, George Colman the Elder and George Colman the Younger., [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description</u> : 16 folders	box 5	folder 20-36
Notes on Eighteenth century plays, [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description</u> : 14 folders	box 6	
Notes on George (Gordon), Duke of Gordon, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 6	
Notes on George Hogarth, 1783-187, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 6	
Notes on Baron Lyndhurst, Lord Chancellor., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 6	
Notes on James Montgomery, 1771-1854., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 6	
Notes on Robert Montgomery, 1807-1855., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 6	
Notes on Julia Pardoe, 1806-1862., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 6	
Notes on Scottish folklore and poetry., [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description</u> : 6 folders	box 6	
Notes on George Thomson, 1757-1851., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 6	
Short stories, [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 7	
"Studies in Eccentricity." , [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description</u> : 11 folders	box 7	
Two notebooks detailing trans-Atlantic trips by an unidentified author., [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 7	
Photocopies of letters and manuscripts. [v.p.], [v.p.], [n.d.]	box 7	
Photographs of Coleman Parsons, South Africa, [n.d.]	box 7	

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Series VI: Printed Materials

Title/Description	Instances
Clippings relating to Mark Twain, [n.p.], [v.d.]	box 7
Clippings (photographs of Mark Twain), [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 7

An Excerpt from the General Catalogue of Printed Books in the British Museum re. Daniel Defoe, England, 1953	box 7
"Notes and Queries.", [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 7
Offprint from "The Review of English Studies.", [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 7
Photocopies., [n.p.], [n.d.] <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	box 7
Two Odes by George Colman the Elder, [n.p.], [n.d.]	box 7

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