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Wilfred Owen collection4079189

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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>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Owen, Wilfred, 1893-1918
Creator:	Bell, John, 1922-2008
Title:	Wilfred Owen collection
ID:	4079189
ID:	MS#0963
Date [inclusive]:	1917-1966
Physical Description:	1 box 68 items
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Wilfred Owen collection; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

British World War I poet Wilfred Owen (1893-1918) was killed on the battlefield in France. His book titled *Poems* was posthumously edited and published by his friend Siegfried Sassoon.

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Summary

The collection contains letters and manuscripts by and relating to Wilfred Owen, including seven letters (Nov. 5, 1917 to Oct. 10, 1918) written by Owen to Siegfried L. Sassoon (1886-1967) (English war poet, writer, and soldier). Additional correspondence includes 22

letters from the poet's mother, Mrs. Susan Owen to Sassoon (1921-1933); 28 letters written by the poet's brother, Harold Owen to Sassoon (1921-1966); one letter written by the poet's cousin, Leslie Gunston, to Sassoon (1921), and one letter (1930) to Edmund C. Blunden (1896-1974) (English poet, author and critic). There are also three letters from the Wilfred Owen scholar, Dennis S.R. Welland, to Siegfried Sassoon (1950). Finally, the collection holds one letter from Ian M. Parsons a partner at Chatto and Windus and one letter from the editor John Bell of Oxford University Press to Siegfried Sassoon (1946 and 1965).

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Summary

The letters from Wilfred Owen to Siegfried Sassoon span the period from shortly after Owen left the Craiglockhart War Hospital to several weeks before Owen's death on November 5, 1918. The correspondence covers the period of Owen's greatest achievement as a war poet and have been published in the *Collected Letters OF Wilfred Owen* edited by Harold Owen and John Bell (1961).

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Scope and Contents

The correspondence written by Mrs. Susan Owen contain a great deal of information about her son, his manuscripts and papers, and the preparations for the 1931 edition of the *Poems* edited by Edmund C. Blunden. The Harold Owen letters cover a wide range of subjects and are of particular interest for their information about the writing of his book, *Journey from Obscurity: Memoirs of the Owen Family*.

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Scope and Contents

There are also three poetry manuscripts in the collection: 1) an autograph manuscript of "The Blind" (published as "The Sentry"), 37 lines, 2 pp. (September 1918); 2) an autograph manuscript of "Spring Offensive" 18 lines, 1 p. (September 1918), early draft of the poem as published in *Poems*, 1920, edited by Siegfried Sassoon; 3) and autograph manuscript of "Shadwell Stair" 16 lines, 1 p. (circa November 1917).

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Arrangement

Cataloged.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Corrected and edited the Description Summary. Created a box and folder list with enhanced description. cml 2022-05-25

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

Researchers must use published version of Wilfred Owen's letters or photocopies filed with the collection.

Accruals

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

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1979. Accession number--M-79.

Processing Information

1989-08-00 Cataloged Christina Hilton.

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Controlled Access Headings

- World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives
- World War, 1914-1918 -- France
- Families -- England
- Autographs (manuscripts)
- Poems
- Poets, English
- Sassoon, Siegfried, 1886-1967
- Owen, Susan
- Owen, Harold
- Gunston, Leslie
- Blunden, Edmund, 1896-1974
- Welland, Dennis
- Chatto & Windus (Firm)
- Oxford University Press
- Craiglockhart War Hospital

Collection Inventory

Series I: Catalogued Correspondence, 1917-1966

Title/Description	Instances
Bell, John (1922-2008) (Editor, Oxford University Press.)	

To Siegfried Sassoon--London--t.l.s., 1 p., 1965 October 14	box 1
Gunston, Leslie (1895-1988) (Poet, artist, and cousin of Wilfred Owen.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--Wimbledon--a.l.s., 2 p. (signed E. Leslie Gunston), 1921 August 8	box 1
To Edmund Blunden--Reading--a.l.s., 2 p. (signed E. Leslie Gunston), 1930 February 17	box 1
Norman, Charles (1904-1996) (Russian-born American writer of biography, fiction, and poetry.)	
To the Memory of Wilfred Owen--n.p., t.ms., 2 p. (poem; signed pencil note by Siegfried Sassoon at the head of the first page), undated	box 1
Owen, Colin S. (1900-1971) (Brother of Wilfred Owen.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--Nairobi--a.l.s., 1 p., 1946 March 26	box 1
Owen, Harold [William Harold] (1897-1971) (Brother and biographer of Wilfred Owen.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 5 p., 1921 December 23	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 3 p., 1922 January 4	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--London--a.l.s., 3 p., 1922 January 19	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--London--a.l.s., 1 p., 1922 June 10	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--London--a.l.s., 3 p., 1922 November 27	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--London--a.l.s., 2 p., 1922 November 29	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--London--a.l.s., 1 p., 1922 December	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 2 p., 1922 December 21	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--London--a.l.s., 1 p., 1922 December	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 2 p., 1923 January 18	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 2 p., 1923 February 18	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 2 p., 1923 May 17	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Prestbury--a.l.s., 4 p., 1924 January 2	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Prestbury--a.l.s., 2 p., 1924 March	

	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Goring-on-Thames--a.l.s., 4 p., 1927 July 14	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Checkendon--a.l.s., 2 p., 1928 November 30	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Wallingford--a.l.s., 6 p. (with envelope), 1931 May 7	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 7 p. (with envelope), 1946 March 20	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 5 p. (with envelope), 1946 April 23	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 4 p. (with envelope), 1949 August 23	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 8 p., 1949 September 13	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 2 p. (with envelope), 1956 December 27	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 2 p. (with envelope), 1957 January 1	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 1 p., 1957 July 1	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 1 p., 1959 September 22	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 2 p. (with envelope), 1959 September 26	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 2 p. (with envelope), 1965 October 11	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Ipsden--a.l.s., 2 p. (with envelope), 1966 February 5	box 1
Owen, Susan [Harriet Susan] (1867-1942) (Mother of Wilfred Owen.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 2 p., January 21	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 2 p., June 12	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 8 p., June 22	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 4 p., July 27	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 1 p., July 31	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 10 p., September 10	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 2 p., September 23	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 2 p., October 14	box 1

To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 3 p., November 18	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 10 p., [1920] March 1	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 2 p., [1920] October 11	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 2 p., 1921 August 25	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 3 p., [1923] December 16	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Taunton--a.l.s., 2 p., 1926 September 22	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 6 p., 1926 September 29	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 2 p., 1926 October 16	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 5 p. (with envelope), 1927 May 3	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 8 p. (with envelope), 1930 February 23	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 4 p. (with envelope), 1930 November 26	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 4 p., 1933 May 9	box 1
To Siegfried Sassoon--Reading--a.l.s., 3 p. (with envelope), 1933 May 14	box 1
Owen, Wilfred Edward Slater (1893-1918) (British World War I poet, who was killed on the battlefield in France. His book titled <i>Poems</i> was posthumously edited and published by his friend Siegfried Sassoon.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--v.p.--7 a.l.s., 1917 November 5-1918 October 10	box 1
(photocopies of letters, Published: Owen, <i>Collected Letters</i> , nos. 557, 565, 568, 648, 649, 660 and 664)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--Shrewsbury--a.l.s., 4 p., 1917 November 5	box 1
(Published: Owen, <i>Collected Letters</i> , no. 557.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--Scarborough--a.l.s., 6 p., 1917 November 27	box 1
(Published: Owen, <i>Collected Letters</i> , no. 565.)	
["Shadwell Stair"]--Scarborough a.ms., 1 p., circa 1917 November	box 1

(poem; written on verso of stationary imprinted, 5th (Res.) Battn. Manchester Regt., The Barracks, Scarborough)	
[Note: Text of the poem varies in several instances from the published in <i>The Poems of Wilfred Owen</i> , edited by Edmund Blunden, 1931, p. 51.]	
To Siegfried Sassoon--Scarborough--a.l.s., 1 p., 1917 December 6	box 1
(Published: Owen, <i>Collected Letters</i> , no. 568.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon E.F.C., Officers Rest House and Mess--a.l.s., 2 p., 1918 August 31	box 1
(Published: Owen, <i>Collected Letters</i> , no. 648.)	
"The Blind" [Amiens]--a.ms., 2 p., circa 1918 September	box 1
(poem; with two corrections by Owen and a note at the beginning, "Please confer title if worthy"; Siegfried Sassoon has canceled the title and written in pencil at head of the page, "The Sentry/Wilfred Owen")	
[Note: Enclosed in the letter written by Owen to Sassoon, 1918 September 22]	
"Spring Offensive", Amiens--a.ms., 2 p., circa 1918 September	box 1
(poem; text on recto and a note by Owen on verso; Sassoon has written Owen's name in pencil at head of poem)	
[Note: Enclosed in the letter written by Owen to Sassoon, 1918 September 22.]	
To Siegfried Sassoon--A Depot, A.P.O. S. 17, B.E.F., France [Étaples]--a.l.s., 4 p., 1918 September 1	box 1
(Published: Owen, <i>Collected Letters</i> , no. 649.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--D. Coy. 2nd Manchester Regt.--[Amiens]--a.l.s., 2 p., 1918 September 22	box 1
(Two manuscript poems, "The Blind" and "Spring Offensive", enclosed in above letter catalogued separately. Published: Owen, <i>Collected Letters</i> , no. 660.)	
To Siegfried Sassoon--[On the battlefield]--a.l.s., 4 p., 1918 October 10	box 1
(with enclosure, printed "Special Order of the Day", by 4th Army Commander, General Sir H.S. Rawlinson, dated (1918 October 7); note by Sassoon in pencil at the top of the page. Published: <i>Collected Letters</i> , no. 664.)	

Parsons, Ian M. (1906-1980) (Partner, Chatto and Windus Ltd. (1930-1954); chair and managing director (1954-1976).)

To Siegfried Sassoon--London--t.l.s., 1 p., 1946 June 14 box 1

Welland, Dennis Sydney Reginald (1919-2002) (English author including *Wilfred Owen: A Critical Study* (Chatto and Windus, 1960, revised and enlarged edition, 1978).)

To Siegfried Sassoon--Nottingham--a.l.s., 1 p., 1950 October 8 box 1

To Siegfried Sassoon--Nottingham--a.l.s., 2 p., 1950 October 15 box 1

To Siegfried Sassoon--Nottingham--a.l.s., 1 p., 1950 December 11 box 1

Printed material: Clippings and reviews, 1920-1971 box 1

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