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David Roth Martyr Worthy collection of Frederick William Rolfe papers 4079586

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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
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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	7
Controlled Access Headings	8
Collection Inventory	8
Series I: Catalogued correspondence	8
Series II: Catalogued manuscripts and documents	12
Series III: Printed material and tree trunk carvings	15

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Roth, David
Title:	David Roth Martyr Worthy collection of Frederick William Rolfe papers
ID:	4079586
ID:	MS#1080
Date [inclusive]:	1892-1973
Physical Description:	3 linear feet 7 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
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 English book collector David Roth.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); David Roth Martyr Worthy collection of Frederick William Rolfe papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

David Roth was a book collector who lived in the English village of Martyr Worthy, Hampshire.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Frederick William Rolfe (1860-1913), 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](#)

Summary

Contains correspondence, letterbook, manuscripts, typescripts, documents, photographs, microfilm, and other printed materials by and about Frederick William Rolfe "Baron Corvo" (1860-1913). This collection includes Rolfe's letters to Fr. C. S. Beauclerk, S.J. written while they both lived in Holywell, to H. C. Bainbridge and Grant Richards while Rolfe lived in London, and to others. There are typescript copies of his letters to R. M. Dawkins, Charles Masson Fox, and J. J. Walsh. In the letterbooks of 1909-1910, Rolfe kept copies of his letters sent from Venice to many recipients. There are also 33 manuscripts by Rolfe, including parts of his books, IN HIS OWN IMAGE ("More Stories Toto Told Me"), HUBERT'S ARTHUR, and AMICO DI SANDRO, as well as short stories, essays, and poems. Finally, there are sections of two tree trunks, with carvings by Rolfe, from Seaton House, Aberdeen where he was a tutor for the Hay family.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The collection also contains 19 letters from Rolfe collector A. J. A. Symons to Grant Richards, along with letters received by Symons in preparing his 1934 study of Rolfe, THE QUEST FOR CORVO. Several manuscripts and documents by Rolfe's contemporaries and collectors concern Rolfe. There are also periodical articles, booksellers' catalogs, and other printed materials by and about Rolfe.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The collection was given the name Martyr Worthy Collection of Frederick William Rolfe by its assembler, David Roth, after the English village of Martyr Worthy in which Roth lived.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Arranged into three series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
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535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

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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.

Acquisition

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library purchased the collection from David Roth in 1984.

Acquisition

A small addition of clippings, typescripts of letters, and ephemera was given to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library by David Roth's sons in 1995.

Processing Information

Rolfe collection entered in AMC 11/28/1990

Processing Information

65 additional items processed by HR, 05/17/2000

Processing Information

Finding aid written by CLB, May 2018

Processing Information

In addition to manuscripts and printed ephemera, the collection also originally contained books by and about Frederick Rolfe, all but two of which were individually cataloged and incorporated into the Rare Book and Manuscript Library's book collections. The remaining two books are located in Box 5.

Processing Information

The collection was formerly called the Martyr Worthy Collection of Frederick William Rolfe. Its name was changed in May 2018 in order to incorporate the name of its collector in compliance with DACS 2.0 rules.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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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

Selected Related Material

[Stuart B. Schimmel collection of Frederick Rolfe papers](#), A collection of Frederick Rolfe manuscripts and related materials assembled by the Greenwich, Connecticut book collector Stuart B. Schimmel.

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

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

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
- Eccentrics and eccentricities
- English literature -- 19th century
- English literature -- 20th century
- Holywell (Wales)
- Venice (Italy) -- Civilization -- 20th century
- Essays
- Fiction (general genre)
- Photographs
- Poems
- Authors, English
- Cantoni, Enrico
- D'Arcy, Ella
- Hay, Malcolm
- Hochheimer, Frank W
- Holden, John
- Jacob, J. M.
- Rolfe, Frederick, 1860-1913
- Symons, A. J. A (Alphonse James Albert), 1900-1941
- Ragg, Laura M (Laura Maria)
- Richardson, Agnes
- Rolfe, Nellie E
- Roth, David
- Sims, George Frederick, 1923-
- Summers, Montague, 1880-1948
- Watts, Augustine
- Webster, George
- Weeks, Donald
- Woolf, Cecil

Collection Inventory

Series I: Catalogued correspondence, 1892-1973

Title/Description	Instances
Cantoni, Enrico correspondence with Grant Richards about medallions, 1900 April 24, 9 May <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 1
D'Arcy, Ella letter to A. J. A. Symons, 1925 October 30	box 1

Hay, Malcolm letters to David Roth and newspaper clippings about tree carvings by Rolfe on Hay's property, 1951 February 13-1951 December <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	box 1
Hochheimer, Frank W. letters to Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, Byrne Corrigan, J. Flynn, C. W. Bell, Mrs Tennant, the Father Provincial of the Jesuit Order, Llewellyn Jones, the Father General of the Jesuit Order, (text of letters in the hand of F. W. Rolfe),, 1897 June 9-August 16 <u>Physical Description:</u> 16 folders	box 1
Hochheimer, Frank W. letters to Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, 1897 December 4, 1898 June 18 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 1
Holden, John letters to A. J. A. Symons about his impressions of Frederick Rolfe, 1933 July <u>Physical Description:</u> 4 folders	box 1
Jacob, J. M. letter to David Roth, 1934 February 19	box 1
Morris, C. M. Victoria letter to Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, enclosing letter from Frederick Rolfe, 1895 September 10	box 1
Richardson, Agnes letter to Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, 1897 July 13	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick William note to Henry Charles Bainbridge asking for money, undated	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick William letter to the 9th Marquis of Ruvigny, 1892 January 7	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick William letter to C. M. Victoria Morris, signed "F. Austin,", 1895 September 5	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, 1896 April 3-1898 December 17 <u>Physical Description:</u> 44 folders	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Mrs Tennant, 1896 July 13, 24 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letters to J. Flynn, 1897 April 9, June 21 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Agnes Richardson, 1897 May 14-26, July 10, 22 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Thomas Corrigan, 1897 June 18-July 5	box 1

Physical Description: 5 folders

Rolfe, Frederick letter to N. J. Hammer, 1897 July 29	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letter to E. J. Catherwood, 1897 August 21	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letter to Mother M. Emerentia, 1898 January 15	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letter to C. W. Bell, 1898 May 1	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letter to John Lane (written in the third person), 1899 March 13	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Grant Richards, 1899 April 6-1900 December 21	box 1
<u>Physical Description:</u> 35 folders	
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Henry C. Bainbridge, 1899 September	box 1
<u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	
Rolfe, Frederick letters to J. E. Lyons, 1900 April 9, July 18, November 27	box 1
<u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	
Rolfe, Frederick letter to Frederic Chapman, 1900 August 16	box 1
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Henry C. Bainbridge, 1901-1903 December 4	box 2
<u>Physical Description:</u> 28 folders	
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Grant Richards, 1901 March 6-1903 August 9	box 2
<u>Physical Description:</u> 27 folders	
Typescript copies of letters from Frederick Rolfe to James Joseph Walsh (originals in Donald Weeks' collection), 1903-1911	box 2
Rolfe, Frederick letters to Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, 1903 April 19-1906 February 15	box 2
<u>Physical Description:</u> 5 folders	
Typescript copies of letters from Frederick Rolfe to Grant Richards (originals in Hempstead Public Library), 1903 August 6, 9	box 2
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders	
Typescript copies of letters from Frederick Rolfe to Richard MacGillivray Dawkins (originals in Donald Weeks' collection), 1907-1912	box 2

Physical Description: 1 folders

Rolfe, Frederick letters to the 9th Marquis of Ruvigny, 1908 July 5, 8	box 2
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Physical Description: 2 folders

Typescript copies of letters from Frederick Rolfe to Charles Masson Fox, known as the "Venice Letters," 1909-1910	box 2
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Rolfe, Frederick letterbook, 1909-1910	box 2
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Scope and Contents

Contains drafts and copies of letters to many different recipients, manuscript fragments, etc. Full contents list included.

Rolfe, Nellie E. letter to David Roth, 1951 September 1	box 2
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Sims, George Frederick letters to David Roth about Rolfe manuscripts and their publishing rights, 1949-1951	box 2
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Physical Description: 6 folders

Skinner, Arthur Banks letter to Grant Richards about Enrico Cantoni medals, 1900 April 2	box 2
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Symons, Alphonse James Albert letters to Grant Richards about Frederick Rolfe manuscripts and Richards' recollections of Rolfe, 1926 September 27-1933 December, 1936 September 7	box 2
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Physical Description: 19 folders

Symons, Alphonse James Albert letter to Dawkins about Rolfe's translation of <i>The Songs of Meleager</i> , 1936 August 6	box 2
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Mrs Tennant letter to Frederick Rolfe, 1897 July 11	box 2
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Watts, Augustine letter to Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, 1897 May 29	box 2
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Webster, George letter to James B. Pinker, declining to publish <i>Hadrian VII</i> , 1903 October 1	box 2
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Weeks, Donald letters to David Roth about his collection of Frederick Rolfe materials, 1956	box 2
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Physical Description: 3 folders

Woolf, Cecil letters to David Roth and Mrs. Roth on various Frederick Rolfe bibliography-related issues, 1953-1956, 1960	box 2
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Physical Description: 10 folders

Roth family correspondence about Frederick Rolfe collection, 1929-1973	box 2
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Physical Description: 3 folders

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Catalogued manuscripts and documents, 1898-1913, 1925-1955

Title/Description	Instances
Manuscripts for stories 1 through 6 published in <i>In His Own Image</i> , 1898	box 3
<i>Amico di Sandro</i> manuscript fragment, circa 1912	box 3
Manuscript for short story "The armed hands", circa 1908	box 3
Manuscript for essay "Arrested as a spy", circa 1909	box 3
Manuscript for essay "Concerning England and Germany", undated	box 3
Manuscript for "Daughter of a Doge," chapter IV of <i>The Desire and Pursuit of the Whole</i> , 1909	box 3
Manuscript for "Excommunicated; a human document," an unpublished account of Rolfe's dispute with Charles Sidney de Vere Beauclerk, 1898	box 3
"Explanation; Sketch for Genealogy of the House of Borgia" manuscript, 1904 July 4	box 3
Manuscript for essay "A goat in priest's clothing", circa 1902	box 3
Manuscript sections of <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> , undated	box 3
Scope and Contents	
Chapters I and II, note, introductory chapter, parts of chapters XX and XXI, cancelled drafts of introductory chapter and chapter I. Published as pages 7-52.	
Manuscript sections of <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> , undated	box 3
Scope and Contents	
End of chapter III, chapters IV-VII, part of chapter XII, chapters XVII, XVIII, and XX, and part of XXI. Published as pages 84-143, 224-229, 303-357, 391-396, and 419-420.	
Chapter VIII outline for <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> , undated	box 3
Manuscript sections of <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> , undated	box 3

Scope and Contents

Chapter XX and (incomplete) chapter XXI. Published as pages 391-448.

Notes and book list for <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> ,, undated	box 3
Notes for <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> ,, undated	box 3
Sephira intended for use in <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> ,, undated	box 3
Notes and drafts for <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> ,, undated	box 3

Scope and Contents

Notes and drafts for chapters VI and XIX in Charles Henry Clinton Pirie-Gordon's hand, with corrections by Rolfe.

Pen and ink illustration of Hubert de Burgh by Frederick Rolfe, for <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> ,, undated	box 3
Pen and ink illustration of the Piscina in St Thomas's Tower, by Frederick Rolfe, for <i>Hubert's Arthur</i> ,, undated	box 3
"In re: Lead Fume", 1902	box 3

Scope and Contents

Chemical report by Frederick Rolfe, written in the form of a letter from Henry Charles Bainbridge to his employer, Ludwig Mond.

Handwritten notes on the Chatto and Windus advertisement for <i>Don Tarquinio</i> ,, circa 1905	box 3
Typescript preface to <i>The one and the many</i> ,, undated	box 3
Scope and Contents	
Typescript was made after Rolfe's death.	

<i>The Rubaiyat of Umar Khaiyam</i> ,, circa 1900	box 3
Scope and Contents	
Early version of stanzas 1-7. Later version published in 1903.	

Typescript of "Sancte Willielme Norvicentis ora pro me", 1887 September 10	box 3
Scope and Contents	
Poem in Latin with English translation and copy of related letter; typescript is a later copy of the poem.	

Manuscript for essay "Venetian Courtesy", 1909	box 3
Manuscript for essay "Venetians", 1913	box 3

Manuscript dedicatory leaf for <i>The weird of the wanderer</i> , 1912 June	box 3
Receipt to A. P. Ready for plaster casts, 1900 May 3	box 3
D'Arcy, Ella, "Yellow Book celebrities" essay typescript and photocopy, circa 1925 <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 4
Hunter Blair, Sir David Oswald, "More light on Baron Corvo", 1934 Scope and Contents Essay on Frederick Rolfe, with an addition in Hunter Blair's hand.	box 4
Ragg, Laura Roberts (Mrs Lonsdale), "Frederick Rolfe", undated Scope and Contents Carbon copy of essay typescript on Ragg's memories of Frederick Rolfe.	box 4
Rolfe, Nellie E. receipts to Henry Charles Bainbridge for payment for piano, 1902 December 2-1904 April 12 <u>Physical Description</u> : 6 folders	box 4
Roth, David, "A Corvo Collection," from <i>Desiderata</i> vol. 8 no. 5 (1955 February 4), 1955 Scope and Contents Printed copy of Roth's article on his Martyr Worthy collection, with extensive revisions in his hand.	box 4
Roth, David, "A Corvo Collection," essay typescript carbon copy, 1955	box 4
Summers, Montague, "Baron Corvo," essay typescript, 1941 Scope and Contents Published in <i>The Times Literary Supplement</i> , 1941 December 13.	box 4
Microfilm of the Martyr Worthy collection, undated	box 4
Roth, David notes and envelopes formerly used for components of Martyr Worthy collection, undated	box 4
Black and white photographs of books and manuscript by Rolfe, undated	box 4
Photograph, 1913	box 4

Scope and Contents

Sepia-toned photograph of a man, possibly Frederick Rolfe, having his portrait painted.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series III: Printed material and tree trunk carvings, 1894-1978

Title/Description	Instances
<p><i>The Quest for Corvo</i>, by A. J. A. Symons, undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Cassell and Co. publishers, not a first edition; with clippings of reviews inside front cover.</p>	<p>box 5</p>
<p><i>Points: Second Series, 1866-1934</i>, by Percy H. Muir, 1934</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Contains a bibliography of Frederick W. Rolfe with annotations by David Roth, pages 99-103.</p>	<p>box 5</p>
<p>Booksellers' catalogs of Rolfe items, 1948-1949, undated</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 2 folders</p>	<p>box 5</p>
<p>Printed ephemera related to Rolfe and productions of <i>Hadrian the Seventh</i> in England, 1894-1973, undated</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 3 folders</p>	<p>box 5</p>
<p>Periodicals containing articles written by Rolfe, 1890-1903, 1952</p>	<p>box 5</p>
<p>Periodicals containing articles about Rolfe, 1923-1982</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 2 folders</p>	<p>box 5</p>
<p>Newspapers containing articles about Rolfe, 1954-1968</p> <p><u>Physical Description</u>: 2 folders</p>	<p>box 5</p>
<p>Tree trunk carving, undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Section of a tree trunk with carvings by Rolfe, from Seaton House, Aberdeen where he was a tutor from the Hay family.</p>	<p>box 6</p>
<p>Tree trunk carving, undated</p>	<p>box 7</p>

Scope and Contents

Section of a tree trunk with carvings by Rolfe, from Seaton House, Aberdeen where he was a tutor from the Hay family.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)