Gosse, Edmund, 1849-1928.

Edmund Gosse letters
1890-1928

Abstract: This small collection contains fourteen letters from English author Edmund Gosse (1849-1928) to literary figures, agents, and book collectors, as well as members of high society, reflecting Gosse's close relationship to all aspects of the literary industry. The letters covered a spectrum of topics, including the history of literary circles, historical figures, current literature by himself and others, as well as the movements and travels of people in his social circle.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F092
Title: Edmund Gosse letters
Inclusive Dates: 1890-1928
Extent: 14 items
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099 F92, Edmund Gosse letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: Boxes 5, F92: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099
Location: Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware
Processing: Processed and encoded by Sean Lovitt, October 2014.
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Biographical Note

English author Edmund Gosse (1849-1928) wrote works of poetry, literary criticism and biography. Primarily active in the Victorian period, Gosse was one of the group of poets working as a civil servant at the English Board of Trade that included English poet Austin Dobson (1840-1921). Throughout his career, Gosse remained in contact with many of the most important writers of his time, including Charles Swinburne and Henry James.

One of Edmund Gosse's most acclaimed works, Father and Son (1907), chronicles his childhood growing up with fundamentalist Christian parents. As he established his literary career, Gosse drifted toward the artistic circles blossoming in England in the latter half of the nineteenth century. His first work of poetry, Madrigals, Songs and Sonnets (1870), circulated among the painters and poets of the Pre-Raphaelites. In 1875, he married the aspiring painter Ellen Epps (1850-1929), a student of Ford Madox Brown. Gosse continued to write poetry and expand his literary circle to such considerable figures as Robert Louis Stevenson and Robert Browning. Although Gosse did not achieve the literary fame his friends and contemporaries did, he is known for his vivid descriptions of the figures who moved in his literary and social networks. Gosse is also known for his full length biographies that include works on John Donne (1899) and Charles Swinburne (1917).

In addition to his creative writing, Edmund Gosse wrote works of literary criticism. His first critical book and perhaps most significant was Studies in the Literature of Northern Europe (1879), which is credited with introducing Henrik Ibsen to English audiences.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

This small collection contains fourteen letters from English author Edmund Gosse (1849-1928) to literary figures, agents, and book collectors, as well as members of high society, reflecting Gosse's close relationship to all aspects of the literary industry. The letters covered a spectrum of topics, including the history of literary circles, historical figures, current literature by himself and others, as well as the movements and travels of people in his social circle.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Gosse, Edmund, 1849-1928--Correspondence.
Besant, Walter, 1836-1901--Correspondence.
Pleadwell, F. L. (Frank Lester), 1872-1957--Correspondence.
Le Gallienne, Richard, 1866-1947--Correspondence.
Jean-Aubry, G. (Georges), 1882-1950--Correspondence.
Saint-Evremond, 1613-1703.

Topical Terms

Authors, English--19th century--Correspondence.
Authors, English--20th century--Correspondence.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Occupation

Authors.

Personal Contributors

Besant, Walter, 1836-1901, correspondent.
Pleadwell, F. L. (Frank Lester), 1872-1957, correspondent.
Le Gallienne, Richard, 1866-1947, correspondent.
Jean-Aubry, G. (Georges), 1882-1950, correspondent.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.
MSS 644 Austin Dobson collection
MSS 197 Henry Mills Alden papers
MSS 646 Bruce Garland collection of Thomas Wise material

MSS 266 George Moore collection

MSS 601 Frank W. Tober collection on literary forgery
Detailed Description of the Collection

Edmund Gosse letters to Walter Besant, 1890-1900 [Box 5 F92]

7 items

Gosse's letters to novelist and historian Walter Besant (1936-1901), which comprise a majority of the collection, concern Gosse's literary career and various social engagements. Also includes one undated letter.

Edmund Gosse letter to Richard Le Gallienne, 1893 December 18 [Box 5 F92]

English poet and member of the Rhymer's Club Richard Le Gallienne (1866-1947) received a single letter from Gosse to accompany a copy of the recently printed Catalogue of a Portion of the Library of Edmund Gosse (1893).

Edmund Gosse letter to Lady Poynder, 1901 September 14 [Box 5 F92]

This letter from Gosse obliquely recounting the travels of several people of distinction was written on mourning paper to one Lady Poynder or Poyner.

Edmund Gosse letters to G. Jean-Aubry, 1917 [Box 5 F92]

2 items

In a letter to French translator and Joseph Conrad's biographer G(eorges) Jean-Aubry, Gosse offered an in-depth critique of Jean-Aubry's work Un Précurseur de l'Entente (1916) for its portrayal of the early modern French soldier and author Charles de Saint-Evremond (1614-1703) as well as another brief note devoted to Gosse's praise of Swinburne's forays into French verse.

Edmund Gosse letter to Aubrey Gentry, 1923 July 13 [Box 5 F92]

Publisher and director of Cassell & Co., Ltd., Aubrey Gentry received a brief note from Gosse politely rejecting his requisition of another book.

Edmund Gosse letters to F. L. Pleadwell, 1926, 1928 [Box 5 F92]

2 items

Gosse wrote the American military physician and collector Captain F. L. (Frank Lester) Pleadwell (1872-1957) thanking him for a copy of Life and Works of Edward Coote Pinkney, which Pleadwell had edited. The second letter outlines a short history of the literary circle centered around Charles and (Cle)mentia Taylor at Aubrey House.