The Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany

Finding aid prepared by Errol Stevens(?)
William H. Hannon Library
Loyola Marymount University
One LMU Drive, MS 8200
Los Angeles, CA 90045-8200
Phone: (310) 338-5710
Fax: (310) 338-5895
Email: special.collections@lmu.edu
URL: http://library.lmu.edu/collections/archivesandspecialcollections/
© 2012
Loyola Marymount University. All rights reserved.
The Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany

Collection number: 004

William H. Hannon Library
Loyola Marymount University
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:
Errol Stevens(?)

Encoded by:
Clay Stalls

© 2012 Loyola Marymount University. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary
Title: The Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany
Dates: 1947-1959
Collection number: 004
Creator: Dunsany, Edward John Moreton Drax Plunkett, Baron, 1878-1957
Collector: Wray, Willow
Collection Size: 6 archival document boxes, 1 oversize box 2.7 linear feet
Repository: Loyola Marymount University. Library. Department of Archives and Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90045-2659
Abstract: The Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany consists of signed and unsigned manuscripts, letters, photographs, clippings, and numerous published works of Lord Dunsany.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection is open to research under the terms of use of the Department of Archives and Special Collections, William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University.

Publication Rights
Materials in the Department of Archives and Special Collections may be subject to copyright. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, Loyola Marymount University does not claim ownership of the copyright of any materials in its collections. The user or publisher must secure permission to publish from the copyright owner. Loyola Marymount University does not assume any responsibility for infringement of copyright or of publication rights held by the original author or artists or his/her heirs, assigns, or executors. The estate of Lord Dunsany retains all copyright and literary rights to his works.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Series number, Box and Folder number, The Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany, 004, Department of Archives and Special Collections, William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University.

Acquisition Information
Loyola Marymount University (then Loyola University) purchased the collection in 1962 from Willow Wray, Lord Dunsany's literary agent. Accession Number: 1995.9

Processing History
Based on internal departmental documentation, it seems likely that Dr. Errol Stevens, then head of the Department of Archives and Special Collections, processed the collection, circa 1995.

Lord Dunsany Biography
The author and playwright Edward John Moreton Drax Plunket, better known as Lord Dunsany, deeply influenced the development of the literary genres of horror and fantasy. He was born in London in 1878 to Anglo-Irish family of Plunkett, lords of Dunsany Castle, in County Meath, northwest of Dublin, Ireland. The future Lord Dunsany was educated in public school at Eton, which seems to have been unpleasant for him, until the age of sixteen, when his father had him entered into Sandhurst, the British military academy, in 1896. Lord Dunsany graduated and entered British military service as an officer with the Coldstream Guards, serving in the Boer War and seeing action at such battles as Modder River.
In 1899, the same year that Lord Dunsany inherited Dunsany Castle on the death of his father.

In 1901 Dunsany returned to civilian life. In 1904 he married Lady Beatrice Child-Villiers, whose father was the Earl of Jersey; the couple made Dunsany Castle their principal residence for the next twenty years. Randal Arthur Henry, the couple's first and only child, was born in 1906.

Lord Dunsany settled down to the country life of an Anglo-Irish nobleman, but he had greater ambitions. In 1903, he had begun experimenting in writing in short stories. The end result was *The Gods of Pegana*, a collection of short stories concerning mythological gods and lands, both with a malevolent bent. In short Dunsany was creating, or at least helping to create, "sword and sorcery" fantasy. He had to pay for the publication of this first work, but *The Gods of Pegana* enjoyed strong enough sales that he never had to pay to publish his works again. Over the next decade he published six more books, all of which concerned mythological fantasy.

In 1914, Lord Dunsany became a playwright with the production of his first play, at Dublin's famous Abbey Theatre, the one-act "The Glittering House." It was the first of many, for Dunsany continued to write plays through the 1930s. Ironically, his plays were more popular in the United States than they were in either England or Ireland.

In World War I, Lord Dunsany re-joined the British Army, gaining the rank of captain with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. As a Unionist, he fought against the Irish Nationalists in the Dublin Uprising of 1916, and in the brutal trench warfare on the continent, Lord Dunsany saw combat at the Battle of the Somme that same year.

After the war Lord Dunsany continued to write fantasy fiction and plays. His 1924 novel, *The King of Elfland's Daughter*, marked a notable entry in the field of fantasy fiction. He also wrote short stories related to themes in Irish culture, as well as pieces related to his experiences in World War I. The most important development in his writings was the creation of the character "Mr. Joseph Jorkens," who first appeared in 1931. Jorkens is a member of a London gentleman's club, and a raconteur who spins tales for other members, tales which have a more than a touch of fantasy and oddness.

After World War II, Lord Dunsany's reputation declined, and he is best known today for his influence on such writers as H. P. Lovecraft and Arthur C. Clarke and their development of science fiction and horror genres. In short, Lord Dunsany is now considered a minor writer, more important for his initial role in developing fantasy fiction with correlative influence on other genres, especially science fiction and horror.

Sources for this biography include:


Collection Description

The collection consists of signed and unsigned manuscripts, letters, photographs, clippings, and numerous published works of Lord Dunsany.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into the following series:

1. Short Stories, Plays, Essays
2. Poems
3. Book Materials: "Another Year"
4. Correspondence
The Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany

5. Photographs of Lord Dunsany
6. Clippings

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

English Literature
Dunsany, Edward John Moreton Drax Plunkett, Baron, 1878-1957
Authors, Irish -- 20th century
Fantasy fiction, English -- Irish authors -- 20th century
Mythologists -- 20th century

Related Collections
Addendum to the Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany (Collection 005).
Patrick Mahony Collection of Lord Dunsany Materials (Collection 006).

Series 1: Short Stories, Plays, Essays. undated

Physical Description: 3 archival document boxes (Materials in Box 3 overlap with materials in Series 2).

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of short stories, plays, and essays that Lord Dunsany authored. At least some of the plays were known to have been produced, eg, The Strange Lover, staged in Dublin in 1938. Many of the short stories concern "Joseph Jorkens," the lead character in some of Lord Dunsany's best short stories. The format is typescripts or carbons of typescripts unless otherwise noted. Some items are signed. All are undated.

Box 1, Folder 1
At the Scene of the Crime (signed).

Box 1, Folder 2
At the Stavlokratz Chess Club.

Box 1, Folder 3
A Bit of Counter-Espionage (4 copies, 1 signed).

Box 1, Folder 4
The Black Mamba (3 copies).

Box 1, Folder 5
The Chambermaid of the Splendide.

Box 1, Folder 6
A Channel Rescue (3 copies).

Box 1, Folder 7
The Charm Against Thirst.

Box 1, Folder 8
A Conscience in Trouble (signed).

Box 1, Folder 9
The Cook of Santamaria.

Box 1, Folder 10
The Dark Horse (signed).

Box 1, Folder 11
A Deal with a Witch (4 copies).

Box 1, Folder 12
The Earth's Secret (3 copies).

Box 1, Folder 13
The Electric King.

Box 1, Folder 14
The Escape from the Valley (3 copies).

Box 1, Folder 15
A Fatal Mistake.

Box 1, Folder 16
The Glittering Gate (A play--3 copies).

Box 1, Folder 17
Greek meets Greek (3 copies).

Box 2, Folder 18
Hard Horses (signed).

Box 2, Folder 19
The Homecoming (A play--3 copies).

Box 2, Folder 20
In a Hotel Lounge.

Box 2, Folder 21
The Irish Immigrant.

Box 2, Folder 22
Jorkens' Regret (4 copies).

Box 2, Folder 23
A Large Diamond.

Box 2, Folder 24
Lost Lyrics (signed).

Box 2, Folder 25
The Mistake (signed).

Box 2, Folder 26
Mrs. Jorkens.

Box 2, Folder 27
Murder in a Flat (A play).

Box 2, Folder 28
A Queer Island.

Box 2, Folder 29
The Quiet Laugh (2 copies).

Box 2, Folder 30
The Romance of his Life.
| Box 2, Folder 31 | A Romance of the Suburbs (signed). |
| Box 2, Folder 32 | The Slugly Beast (3 copies). |
| Box 2, Folder 33 | A Snake Story (3 copies). |
| Box 2, Folder 34 | The Speech. |
| Box 2, Folder 35 | The Strange Lover (a three-act play). |
| Box 3, Folder 36 | The Strange Lover (a three-act play). |
| Box 3, Folder 37 | The Strange Lover (a three-act play). |
| Box 3, Folder 38 | The Tale of Abu Laheeb (3 copies). |
| Box 3, Folder 39 | Too Long Ago. |
| Box 3, Folder 40 | The Two Bottles of Relish. |
| Box 3, Folder 41 | The Two Jenets. |
| Box 3, Folder 42 | The Two Scientists (3 signed copies). |
| Box 3, Folder 43 | Two Young Officers (signed). |
| Box 3, Folder 44 | The Visitor (3 copies). |
| Box 3, Folder 45 | Where Two Ages Meet (signed). |
| Box 3, Folder 46 | Bibliography of Dunsany's Writings. |

Series 2: Poems. 1950

- Physical Description: 1 archival document box (in Box 3, which also contains materials from Series 1).
- Scope and Content Note
  - This series consists of poems by Lord Dunsany, either on manuscript or on typescript or in some cases both (unless otherwise noted). Lord Dunsany signed some of the pieces. The poems noted as "manuscript" are in the hand of Lord Dunsany all except for "Fossils" were unpublished. That, not coincidentally, is the only one dated; all others are undated.

| Box 3, Folder 46b | A Day in California--2 copies (manuscript and typescript, both signed) |
| Box 3, Folder 47 | A Dialogue--2 copies (one is a carbon of manuscript, signed) |
| Box 3, Folder 48 | A Farewell to California--3 copies (one is a manuscript, signed) |
| Box 3, Folder 49 | Fossils (published in *Tomorrow*, August 1950) |
| Box 3, Folder 50 | In a Kentish Church (carbon of manuscript?) |
| Box 3, Folder 50a | In a Time of Scorn for the Muses |
| Box 3, Folder 51 | The Listener (manuscript, signed) |
| Box 3, Folder 52 | Man and Moth (manuscript) |
| Box 3, Folder 53 | No? (manuscript) |
| Box 3, Folder 54 | The Ruler (carbon of manuscript) |
| Box 3, Folder 55 | Slow Cobbler |
| Box 3, Folder 56 | War-Planes at Evening |
| Box 3, Folder 57 | [untitled] (manuscript, signed) |

Series 3: Book Materials; "Another Year". 1947-1948

- Physical Description: 1 archival document box.
- Scope and Content Note
  - This series contains photocopies of the typescript of Lord Dunsany's unpublished book "Another Year." Each month of the year stands as a chapter. A few chapters have dates written in pencil on them.

| Box 4, Folder 58 | Original file folder for 2 copies of typescript for "Another Year" with note: "Please return to Miss Willow Wray..." undated |
| Box 4, Folder 59 | Preface March 1, 1948 |
| Box 4, Folder 60 | March-May 1947 |
| Box 4, Folder 61 | June-July undated |
| Box 4, Folder 62 | August undated |
| Box 4, Folder 63 | September undated |
| Box 4, Folder 64 | October undated |
| Box 4, Folder 65 | November undated |
| Box 4, Folder 66 | December undated |

The Willow Wray Collection of the Writings of Lord Dunsany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 67</th>
<th>January 1948</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 68</td>
<td>February undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 69</td>
<td>Another March undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 70</td>
<td>Preface March 1, 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 71</td>
<td>March 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 72</td>
<td>April undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 73</td>
<td>May undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 74</td>
<td>June undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 75</td>
<td>July undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 76</td>
<td>August undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 77</td>
<td>September undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 78</td>
<td>October undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 79</td>
<td>November undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 80</td>
<td>December undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 81</td>
<td>January 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 82</td>
<td>February undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 83</td>
<td>Another March undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 4: Correspondence. 1953-1956

Physical Description: 1 archival document box.

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of the correspondence of Lord Dunsany with his agent in California, Willow Wray.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 5, Folder 84</th>
<th>May-June. 1953</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 85</td>
<td>July. 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 86</td>
<td>August. 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 87</td>
<td>September. 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 88</td>
<td>October. 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 89</td>
<td>November. 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 90</td>
<td>December. 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 91</td>
<td>January-February. 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 92</td>
<td>March-July. 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 93</td>
<td>August-November. 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 94</td>
<td>January-March. 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 95</td>
<td>May-June. 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 96</td>
<td>July. 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 97</td>
<td>September-October. 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 98</td>
<td>January-June. 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 99</td>
<td>Undated correspondence. undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 100</td>
<td>Envelopes: Lord Dunsany to Willow Wray. 1953-1958 (dates broken)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series 5: Photographs of Lord Dunsany. 1931, 1954

Physical Description: 1 archival document box.

Scope and Content Note
This series contains photographs (and negatives) of Lord Dunsany. These include portraits, group scenes, and Lord Dunsany reading from his works.

Below is a list of the photographers in this series, along with the folder numbers of their photographs.

S.M. Boland. Folders 101-104
Jack Case. Folders 105-106. Photographs are dated 3/28/54
Al Frederick. Folders 107-111
Bob Lynds. Folder 112
George F. Weld. Folders 113-130. Note: The photographs in these folders (all portraits) are identified by his photographer's number.
Photographs by unidentified photographers. Folders 131-139.
Negatives are in folders 140-142.
Series 5: Photographs of Lord Dunsany, 1931, 1954

Box 6, Folder 101
"Lord Dunsany speaks on lyric verse." Photograph of Serge Ivanoff portrait of Lord Dunsany (1953)

Box 6, Folder 102
"Lord Dunsany...Reading from his book of verse,"

Box 6, Box 103
"Lord Dunsany reading 'Lilith'"

Box 6, Folder 104
"Lord Dunsany observations on ultra modern poetry"

Box 6, Folder 105
Lord Dunsany with a man and woman

Box 6, Folder 106
Lord Dunsany with a man and woman. Note on verso: "Many thanks again for a great show. We have been receiving many compliments for you."

Box 6, Folder 107
Lord Dunsany seated in front of bookcase

Box 6, Folder 108
Same image as above

Box 6, Folder 109
Cropped view of above

Box 6, Folder 110
Lord Dunsany seated and looking down at a book

Box 6, Folder 111
Lord Dunsany standing next to a grotto

Box 6, Folder 112
Lord Dunsany seated, holding cup

Box 6, Folder 113
number 6

Box 6, Folder 114
number 7

Box 6, Folder 115
number 10

Box 6, Folder 116
number 19

Box 6, Folder 117
number 20 (2 copies)

Box 6, Folder 118
number 20A (3 copies; negative is in folder 140)

Box 6, Folder 119
number 22

Box 6, Folder 120
number 23

Box 6, Folder 121
number 23A

Box 6, Folder 122
number 2

Box 6, Folder 123
number 27

Box 6, Folder 124
number R-1-A

Box 6, Folder 125
number R-2-A

Box 6, Folder 126
number R-3-A

Box 6, Folder 127
number R-4-A

Box 6, Folder 128
number R-5-A

Box 6, Folder 129
number R-8-4

Box 6, Folder 130
Unnumbered (7 copies; negative is in folder 141)

Box 6, Folder 131
"Lord Dunsany, Red Skelton taken on the set of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's THE GREAT DIAMOND ROBBERY..."

Box 6, Folder 132
"Walter Plunkett, Lord Dunsany and Red Skelton taken on the set of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's THE GREAT DIAMOND ROBBERY..."

Box 6, Folder 133
"Lord Dunsany, Stewart Granger taken at lunch in the MGM commissary..."

Box 6, Folder 134
Stanly (?), Sol Baer Fielding, Dunsany, and Gene Kelly

Box 6, Folder 135
Johnny Greer (?), Sonya Levier (?), Chas. Fitzsimmons, Mitzi Fielding, Lord Dunsany, Jack Cummings, Sol Baer Fielding, Dorothy Kingsley, Wm. Ludwig, Saul Kaplan (?)

Box 6, Folder 136
Sol Baer Fielding, Dunsany, Edmund (?) Given, Charles Fitzsimmons

Box 6, Folder 137
Lord Dunsany writing, (2 copies; negative is in folder 142)

Box 6, Folder 138
Lord Dunsany standing with cane, color photo

Box 6, Folder 139
Photographs of political demonstrations in Berlin, circa 1931 (19 images)

Box 6, Folder 140
Negative of George Weld print number 10a (see folder 118 for print)

Box 6, Folder 141
Negative of unnumbered George Weld print (see folder number130)

Box 6, Folder 142
Negative of Lord Dunsany writing (see folder 137 for print)

Series 6: Clippings, 1950-1959

Physical Description: 1 oversize document box.

Scope and Content Note

All clippings concern the work of Lord Dunsany or else are by him.

Box 10v
Scrapbook of clippings. 1950-1959

Box 10v, Folder 143
New Yorker clippings mentioning Lord Dunsany, undated