Century Magazine Correspondence: Finding Aid

Processed by The Huntington Library staff in May 1956; supplementary encoding and revision supplied by Xiu Zhi Zhou and Diann Benti.

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Century Magazine Correspondence

Dates (inclusive): 1885-1914

Collection Number: mssCM 1-760

Creator: Century magazine.

Extent: 760 pieces in 9 boxes

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

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Abstract: This collection consists mainly of letters written by various contributors to the editors of The Century magazine between 1885 and 1914. The collection also contains numerous editorial memorandums and notes written by Richard Watson Gilder to his editorial assistants chiefly in 1904.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. Century Magazine Correspondence, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance


Historical Note

The Century Magazine was the successor to Scribner's Monthly, founded by Roswell Smith and Dr. Josiah Gilbert Holland in New York City, with its first issue published in November 1870. In 1881, due to a change in ownership, the name became The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine. At that time, Richard Watson Gilder became editor-in-chief and his was the controlling influence in the magazine until his death in 1909. The magazine was an important periodical in its day, publishing numerous types and genres of writing as well as pictorial works.

Scope and Content

The collection consists mainly of letters written by various contributors to the editors of The Century Magazine. Most of the correspondence is addressed either to Gilder or his associate editor, Robert Underwood Johnson, who became editor upon Gilder's death. A few letters are simply addressed to the Century Magazine or to Clarence Clough Buel, assistant editor. The collection also contains numerous editorial memorandums and notes written by Richard Watson Gilder to his editorial assistants. Most of these were written about 1904 when Gilder was frequently in Massachusetts to recover his health. He remained active in his editorial duties, however, sending almost daily suggestions and directions to the editorial office in New York.

Correspondents represented in the collection include: Irving Bacheller (22 pieces), John Kendrick Bangs (11 pieces), John Joy Bell (9 pieces), Lewis Saul Benjamin (9 pieces), F. C. Boggs, Robert Browning; Clarence Clough Buel, Francis Marion Crawford (30 pieces), Doty; Helena deKay Gilder, Jeannette Leonard Gilder (6 pieces), Joseph Benson Gilder, Richard Watson Gilder (319 pieces), Frederic Harrison (19 pieces), Thomas Wentworth Higginson (20 pieces), Emory R. Johnson, Robert Underwood Johnson (7 pieces), John La Farge (44 pieces), Louise Chandler Moulton (18 pieces), Charles Eliot Norton (24 pieces), Sir Gilbert Parker (5 pieces), Elizabeth Robins Pennell (22 pieces), Bertha Runkle (5 pieces), Anne Douglas Sedgwick (28 pieces), William Sharp (18 pieces), Frank Dempster Sherman (18 pieces), Roswell Smith, Harriet Elizabeth Prescott Spofford (8 pieces), Eleanor Tully, Elizabeth Sturat Phelps Ward (35 pieces), Ward Herbert Dickinson, Mary Augusta (Arnold) Ward (Mrs. Humphry Ward) (22 pieces), Charles Dudley Warner (27 pieces), and Richard Whiteing (11 pieces). Note: piece counts have been included for correspondents represented by three or more items.
Some notable items include:

- Crawford, Francis Marion. Synopsis of a story. [1894 April 28]
- Gilder, Richard Watson. To R. U. Johnson. Re: plans for Civil War articles. 1885 April 23
- Gilder, Richard Watson. To Johnson. 1904 July 16. Praising a story of Hawthorne; ... it will not be even a `pearl before swine' for the swine will drop off at the first sentence.
- Gilder, Richard Watson. To Century office. 1904 September 22. Telegram that a picture is upside down.
- Harrison, Frederic. 1901 October 29. Re: an historical romance he is writing.
- Johnson, Robert Underwood. To Gilder. 1889 July 24. Re: the way journalism is carried on in California.
- Norton, Charles Eliot. To Gilder. 1891 February 3. Regrets Ruskin has written so much in recent years about himself and his friends.

**Arrangement**
Arranged chronologically.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Subjects**
Century magazine.
Authors, American -- 19th century -- Correspondence.
Authors, American -- 20th century -- Correspondence.

**Forms/Genres**
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century.
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 20th century.
Memorandums -- United States.
Notes -- United States.

**Alternate Authors**
Bangs, John Kendrick, 1862-1922.
Bell, J. J. (John Joy), 1871-1934.
Benjamin, Lewis Saul, 1874-1932.
Crawford, F. Marion (Francis Marion), 1854-1909.
Gilder, Richard Watson, 1844-1909.
Harrison, Frederic, 1831-1923.
Higginson, Thomas Wentworth, 1823-1911.
Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937.
La Farge, John, 1835-1910.
Moulton, Louise Chandler, 1835-1908.
Parker, Gilbert, 1862-1932.
Pennell, Elizabeth Robins, 1855-1936.
Runckle, Bertha.
Sedgwick, Anne Douglas, 1873-1935.
Sharp, William, 1855-1905.
Sherman, Frank Dempster, 1860-1916.
Spofford, Harriet Elizabeth Prescott, 1835-1921.
Ward, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, 1844-1911.
Ward, Humphry, Mrs., 1851-1920.
Warner, Charles Dudley, 1829-1900.
Whiteing, Richard, 1840-1928.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Date/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1905-1906</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1907-1910</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Correspondence, 191-1914; Miscellaneous ephemera/fragments [9 pieces]</td>
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