Collection of Robert Frost Letters and Poems: Finding Aid

Processed by Huntington Library Staff. Finding aid prepared by Diann Benti.
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Collection of Robert Frost Letters and Poems

Dates (inclusive): Approximately 1891-1958

Bulk dates: 1894-1916

Collection Numbers: mssHM 1201, etc.

Collection Numbers (complete list): mssHM 1201; mssHM 7237; mssHM 7638-7657; mssHM 10799; mssHM 13810; mssHM 25337-25368; mssHM 47622; mssHM 48305; mssHM 59545

Creator: Frost, Robert, 1874-1963

Extent: 59 pieces in 1 box

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Abstract: This collection contains 59 pieces of correspondence and poems of American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963), chiefly consisting of handwritten poems and letters sent by Frost to Susan Hayes Ward (1835-1916), poetry editor for The Independent, from the mid 1890s to the 1910s.

Language: English.

Access

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

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation


Provenance

Received from various sources.

The bulk of the collection was purchased from P. K. Foley in 1923 (HM 1201, HM 7237, HM 7638-7657, and HM 25337-25368).

HM 13810, purchased from A.A.A. Conant Sale (Lot #25), November 1923.

HM 10799 was presumably transferred from Reference Department Files.

HM 47622 was transferred from Reference Department Files, January 1981.

HM 48305 was transferred from Manuscript Department Files, February 5, 1982.

HM 59545 was removed from North of Boston by Robert Frost (Call number 491731) in June 1991.

Biographical Note

Robert Lee Frost (1874-1963) was an American poet. Frost sold his first poem, "My Butterfly. An Elegy" to the Independent, a weekly New York magazine, where it appeared in the November 8, 1894, issue. Frost was married to Elinor (White) Frost from 1895 until her death in 1938.

Bibliography

For more information about The Huntington Library's Robert Frost Collection, see Leslie Monsour, "Robert Frost at The Huntington," Huntington Frontiers (Spring/Summer 2017)

Scope and Content

This collection contains 59 pieces of correspondence and poems of American poet Robert Frost, chiefly consisting of handwritten poems and letters sent by Frost to Susan Hayes Ward (1835-1916), poetry editor for The Independent, from the mid 1890s to the 1910s.

Items consist of:

- Thirty letters from Robert Frost to Susan Hayes Ward (HM 7656, HM 25338-25366)
• Eighteen loose poems signed by Robert Frost (HM 7638-7646, HM 7648-7655, HM 7657)
• Two poems whose authorship was repudiated by Frost; apparently in the hand of Elinor M. Frost (HM 1201, HM 7647)
• A collection of 17 handwritten poems presented by Frost to Ward for Christmas 1911 (HM 7237)
• A letter from Robert Frost to William Hayes Ward, the editor of The Independent (HM 25337)
• Two letters from Elinor Frost to Susan Hayes Ward (HM 25367-25368)
• Three letters from Frost to Huntington Library staff authorizing access to his papers (HM 10799, HM 47622, HM 48305)
• Two letters from Frost related to autographs (HM 13810, HM 59545)

Arrangement
Arranged in one box in call number order.

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

Subjects
Frost, Robert, 1874-1963 -- Archives.
Frost, Elinor, 1873-1938 -- Archives.
Poets, American -- 20th century -- Archives.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States.
Manuscripts -- United States.
Poems -- United States.

Alternate Authors
Frost, Elinor, 1873-1938.
Haselden, R. B. (Reginald Berti), 1881-1952, addressee.
Ward, William Hayes, 1835-1916, addressee.
Ward, Susan Hayes, 1838-1924, addressee.

Box 1

Correspondence and manuscripts
HM 1201 [Frost, Robert Lee?] [Poem in 3 stanzas of 4 lines each, beginning:] "I had a love once ..." [After 1895]

1 leaf, 6 7/8 x 4 1/2 in. Manuscript (apparently in the handwriting of Elinor M. Frost).
HM 7237  **Frost, Robert.** *Collection of poems presented to Susan Hayes Ward at Christmas, 1911.* 1911 December 25
  24 leaves (22 written pages including note of presentation), 4 7/8 x 6 3/8 in. Autograph manuscript signed.
  Contents:
  - My Giving
  - Reluctance
  - To a Moth Seen in Winter
  - Unchastened
  - On the Sale of My Farm
  - Wind and Window-Flower
  - Pussy-Willow Time
  - Pursuit of the Word
  - Death
  - Tutelary Elves
  - The Rain Bath
  - To the Loud Southwester
  - The Little Things of War
  - Determent
  - Pan Desponds
  - New Grief
  - Winter Winds

HM 7638  **Frost, Robert.** *The Blue Bird to Lesley:* [a poem in 41 lines].  [Approximately 1903]
  2 leaves, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7639  **Frost, Robert Lee.** *Clear and Colder. Boston Common:* [poem in 4 stanzas of 8 lines each]  [Approximately 1891]
  2 leaves, 6 3/8 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7640  **Frost, Robert Lee.** *Despair:* [a sonnet].  [Approximately 1905]
  1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7641  **Frost, Robert Lee.** *The Flower Boat:* [a poem in 3 stanzas of 4 lines each].  [Approximately 1894]
  1 leaf, 8 x 5 in. Manuscript (holograph signed; in pencil).

HM 7642  **Frost, Robert Lee.** *Genealogical: [a poem in 64 lines and] A Riddle. - Who is Intended:* [poem in 3 lines].  [Approximately 1911]
  4 leaves, 5 x 6 1/2 in. Manuscript (holograph). Was enclosed in 1911 December 19 letter from Robert Frost to Susan Hayes Ward.

HM 7643  **Frost, Robert Lee.** *Love Being All One:* [a poem in 3 stanzas of 5 lines each].  [Approximately 1905]
  1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7644  **Frost, Robert Lee.** *Midsummer birds:* [a poem in 3 stanzas of 5 lines each].  [Approximately 1905]
  1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).
HM 7645 Frost, Robert Lee. The Mill City : [a sonnet]. [Approximately 1905]
1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7646 Frost, Robert Lee. Nature's Neglect : [a poem in 5 stanzas of 4 lines each].
[Approximately 1901]
1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7647 Frost, Robert Lee. Sea Dream : [a poem in 3 stanzas of 4 lines each]. [After
1895]
1 leaf, 9 x 6 7/8 in. Manuscript (apparently in the handwriting of Elinor M. Frost).

HM 7648 Frost, Robert Lee. What Thing a Bird Would Love : [a poem in 6 stanzas of 4
lines each]. [Approximately 1905]
1 leaf 6 5/8 x 5 1/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7649 Frost, Robert Lee. When the Speed Comes : [a sonnet]. [Approximately
1905]
1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7650 Frost, Robert Lee. A Winter's Night : [a poem in 2 stanzas of 4 lines each].
[Approximately 1905]
1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 3/4 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7651 Frost, Robert Lee. A Wish : [a poem in 14 lines]. [Approximately 1905]
1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 3/4 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

1892]
3 leaves, 8 x 5 in. Manuscript (holograph).

HM 7653 Frost, Robert Lee. A Summer's Garden : [a poem in 5 stanzas of 4 lines
each]. [Approximately 1896]
2 leaves, 7 7/8 x 5 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7654 Frost, Robert Lee. [In a Vale : poem (last 3 stanzas only, of 5 lines each)].
[Approximately 1905]
1 leaf, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 7655 Frost, Robert Lee. The Trial by Existance [sic] : [a poem in 9 stanzas of 8
lines each]. [Approximately 1905]
5 leaves, 6 5/8 x 5 1/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

1907 August 6.
4 pages. Autograph letter signed.
Includes two poems: Choice of Society (page 2) and A Dream Pang (page 4).

HM 7657 Frost, Robert Lee. The Black Cottage : [a poem in 5 stanzas of 8 lines each].
[Approximately 1905]
2 leaves, 6 1/2 x 4 7/8 in. Manuscript (holograph signed).

HM 10799 Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Reginald Berti Haselden. 1929 February 20
3 pages. Autograph letter signed.
Relative to Frost's poems in the Huntington Library.
HM 13810  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to unidentified recipient.* [Approximately 1920]
1 page. Autograph letter signed.
In response to a request to autograph books; name of addressee is erased.

2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25338  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1894 April 22
4 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25339  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1894 June 10
2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25341  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1894 December 4
4 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25342  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1894 December 28
2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25343  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1895 January 6
2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25344  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1895 January 30
4 pages. Autograph letter signed.

1 page. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25346  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1896 July 8
3 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25347  *Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1896 August 15
2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25348  *[Frost, Robert Lee.] Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. Lawrence, Massachusetts.* 1896 December 27

1 page. Autograph letter signed.
1 page. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25351  Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. West Derry, New Hampshire. 1906 July 17
1 page. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25352  Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. West Derry, New Hampshire. 1906 October 29
3 pages. Autograph letter signed.

2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

1 page. Autograph letter signed.

2 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 25356  Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to Susan Hayes Ward. West Derry, New Hampshire. 1907 November 4
4 pages. Autograph letter signed.

1 page. Autograph letter signed (incomplete).

HM 25358  Frost, Robert Lee. Letter to [Susan Hayes Ward]. [1911?]
1 page. Autograph letter signed (incomplete).

3 pages. Autograph letter signed (incomplete).

2 pages. Autograph letter signed (incomplete).

2 pages. Autograph letter signed (incomplete).
Poem on page 2: In White: [a draft of "Design"].

3 pages. Autograph letter signed.

2 pages. Autograph letter signed.
   3 pages. Autograph letter signed.

   2 pages. Autograph letter signed.


   4 pages. Autograph letter signed.

HM 47622 Frost Robert Lee. Letter to [Reginald Berti Haselden]. [Amherst, Massachusetts]. 1937 November 26
   1 page. Autograph letter signed.
   Request to allow Professor R.S. Newdick to examine manuscripts.

   1 page. Typewritten letter signed.
   Authorization for Elizabeth Sergeant to access letters.

HM 59545 Frost Robert Lee. Letter to [Mr. Beggen?]. South Shaftsbury, Vermont. 1928 April 9
   1 page. Autograph letter signed. With envelope.
   Brief response related to autograph request. This letter was removed from North of Boston (Call number 491731). Address name presumably is misspelling for Katherine Larned Bogess. Also includes photocopy of envelope and bookplate that could not be removed from book.