Descriptive Summary
Title: Jack London in context collection
Dates: 18uu-2013
Collection Number: Consult repository
Creator/Collector: Andrews, Palmer
Extent: 50 linear feet
Repository: Sonoma State University Library
Rohnert Park, California 94928
Abstract: The life of American writer Jack London (1876-1916) spanned a lively and complicated historical era and he was able to capture the period in his many works of fiction and nonfiction. This collection, donated by Palmer Andrews in 2014, focuses on books and research materials that reflect London’s vast range of interests and his personal and literary connections to contemporaries, great thinkers, and events. For more information about and to make an appointment to view this collection, search the University Library’s online catalog. The collection has been inventoried and cataloged and is housed in the Library’s Waring Jones Reading Room.
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection is open for research by appointment.
Publication Rights
The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.
Preferred Citation
Jack London in context collection. Sonoma State University Library
Biography/Administrative History
Jack London (born Jan. 12, 1876, died Nov. 22, 1916) is best known for his books The Call of the Wild, White Fang, and The Sea-Wolf, and a few short stories, such as "To Build a Fire" and "The White Silence." In fact, he was a prolific writer whose fiction explored several regions and their cultures: the Yukon, California, Hawaii, and the Solomon Islands. He experimented with many literary forms, from conventional love stories and dystopias to science fantasy. His noted journalism included war correspondence, boxing stories, and the life of Molokai lepers. A committed socialist, he insisted against editorial pressures to write political essays and insert social criticism in his fiction. He was among the most influential figures of his day, who understood how to create a public persona and use the media to market his self-created image of poor-boy-turned-success. London's great passion was agriculture, and he was well on the way to creating a new model for ranching through his Beauty Ranch when he died at age 40. He left over fifty books of novels, stories, journalism, and essays, many of which have been translated and continue to be read around the world.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Jack London in Context Collection includes books, research materials, and art reflecting Jack London's personal and literary connections to contemporaries, great thinkers, and current events and reflects the collector's particular interests and feelings regarding Jack London. The collection contains some early editions of Jack London's novels, magazine first appearances, correspondence, biographical works about Jack London and his contemporaries, reference books for London researchers, and other materials. The breadth of the collection demonstrates Palmer Andrew's passion as a collector of Jack London materials as well as contextual material that reflects London's time and his popularity in American popular culture. The collection is 50 linear feet.
Indexing Terms
American literature.
Authors, American -- 20th century.
Novelists, American -- 20th century.
Adventure and adventurers -- United States.
London family.
Sonoma County, (Calif.).