Finding Aid for the R.M. Ballantyne Papers, 1876-1893

Collection number: 321

UCLA Library Special Collections
UCLA Library Special Collections staff

Los Angeles, CA

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Descriptive Summary

Title: R.M. Ballantyne Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1876-1893
Collection number: 321
Creator: Ballantyne, R.M. (Robert Michael), 1825-1894
Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: R.M. Ballantyne (1825-1894) was an apprentice clerk with Hudson's Bay Company in Manitoba, Canada. He requested a wilderness post, and was sent to posts along the north shore of the St. Lawrence (1846-47). His recollections were published in 1848 and titled Hudson's Bay; or, every-day life in the wilds of North America. He wrote more than 90 books, many of them adventure stories. He was also a draftsman and water-colorist who exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy, and he illustrated many of his books. The collection consists of manuscripts, correspondence, and a scrapbook with pictures of Ballantyne, clippings about him, and an article copied by Westley about Ballantyne.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Harriett S. Weaver, 1986.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], R.M. Ballantyne Papers (Collection 321). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

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Biography
Ballantyne was born on April 24, 1825 in Edinburgh, Scotland; became apprentice clerk with Hudson's Bay Company in Manitoba, Canada; requested a wilderness post, and was sent to posts along the north shore of the St. Lawrence, 1846-47; following his return to Scotland in 1847, a woman who had enjoyed Ballantyne's letters to his mother offered to finance a
private printing of his recollections; this led to the publication in 1848 of *Hudson's Bay; or, every-day life in the wilds of North America*; wrote more than 90 books, many of them adventure stories; he was also a draftsman and water-colorist who exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy, and he illustrated many of his books; publications include *Snowflakes and sunbeams; or, the young fur traders* (1856) and *Ungava: a tale of Esquimaux-land* (1858) and *An author's adventures, or personal reminiscences in bookmaking* (1893); he died February 8, 1894 in Rome.

**Scope and Content**
Collection consists of manuscripts, five letters from Ballantyne to various persons, a letter by Ballantyne to the Reverend J.C. Westley, and a scrapbook with pictures of Ballantyne, clippings about him, and an article copied by Westley about Ballantyne. Manuscripts include *Dusty diamonds cut and polished: a tale of city-Arab life and adventure; The garret and the garden: or, low life high up; Hunted and harried: a tale of the Scottish Covenanters; Post haste: a tale of Her Majesty's mails; Under the waves: or, diving in deep waters; and The walrus hunters: a romance of the realms of ice.*

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Ballantyne, R.M. (Robert Michael), 1825-1894--Archives.
Authors, Scottish--20th century--Archival resources.
Manuscripts for publication.

**[Correspondence, v.d.]**

Box 1

Letters, n.d.

Physical Description: 4 items.

Box 1


Physical Description: 6 leaves.

**[Manuscripts, v.d.]**

Box 1

Hunted & Harried. Nisbet, 1892.

Box 1

Dusty diamonds...., 1893.

Physical Description: 378 leaves. Holograph.
Note
Sadleir no.106.

Box 1

The garrett and the garden: or, low life high up. n.p., 1886.

Physical Description: 121 leaves. Holograph.

Box 2

The walrus hunters...., 1893.

Box 2

Posthaste..., 1879.

Physical Description: 2 p.l., 386 leaves. Holograph.
Note
Sadleir no.121.

Box 2

Under the waves...., 1876.

Physical Description: 383 leaves. Holograph.
Note
Sadleir no.129.