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

Processed by UCLA Library Special Collections staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé

© 2003

The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

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

Processed by:
UCLA Library Special Collections staff
Encoded by:
Caroline Cubé
Online finding aid edited by:
OE,MY

© 2003 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

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.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

Property rights to the physical object belong to the UCLA Library Special Collections. Literary rights, including copyright, are retained by the creators and their heirs. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine who holds the copyright and pursue the copyright owner or his or her heir for permission to publish where The UC Regents do not hold the copyright.

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.

UCLA Catalog Record ID

UCLA Catalog Record ID: [4230353](#)

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 | Letter to Reverend J.C. Westley. Harrow, May 5, 1883.
Physical Description: 6 leaves. |
| | [Manuscripts, v.d.] |
| Box 1 | <i>Hunted & Harried</i>. Nisbet, 1892. |
| Box 1 | <i>Dusty diamonds...</i>, 1893.
Physical Description: 378 leaves. Holograph.
Note
Sadleir no.106. |
| Box 1 | <i>The garrett and the garden: or, low life high up</i>. n.p., 1886.
Physical Description: 121 leaves. Holograph. |
| Box 2 | <i>The walrus hunters...</i>, 1893. |
| Box 2 | <i>Posthaste...</i>, 1879.
Physical Description: 2 p.l., 386 leaves. Holograph.
Note
Sadleir no.121. |
| Box 2 | <i>Under the waves...</i>, 1876.
Physical Description: 383 leaves. Holograph.
Note
Sadleir no.129. |