
Finding Aid for the Arthur Christopher Benson Papers, 1900-1925

Processed by Brooke Whiting; machine-readable finding aid created by Myra Villamor and Caroline Cubé.

UCLA Library Special Collections

UCLA Library Special Collections staff

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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575

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Finding Aid for the Arthur Christopher Benson Papers, 1900-1925

Collection number: 656

UCLA Library Special Collections
UCLA Library Special Collections staff

Los Angeles, CA

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Processed by:

Brooke Whiting, July & November 1962

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Online finding aid edited by:

Josh Fiala, May 2002

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Arthur Christopher Benson Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1900-1925

Collection number: 656

Creator: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925

Extent: 2 boxes (1 linear ft.)

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Arthur Christopher Benson (1862-1925) published his first volume of essays in 1896. In all, he published more than seventy books, including poetry, short stories, novels, biographies, and essays. The collection consists of correspondence and literary manuscripts, an unpublished novel and a presentation copy of a book of Benson's poems.

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

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Arthur Christopher Benson Papers (Collection 656). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

UCLA Catalog Record IDUCLA Catalog Record ID: [709335](#)**Biography**

Benson was born April 24, 1862; his father was Edward White Benson, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury; entered Eton as King's scholar, 1874; went to King's College, Cambridge, 1881; returned to work at Eton, 1885-1903; published first volume of essays, 1896; produced various works, including a biography of his father, *Edward White Benson* (1899), *The Schoolmaster* (1902), *Land of Hope and Glory*, and *Peace and Other Poems* (1905); in all, published more than seventy books, including poetry, short stories, novels, biographies, and essays; became master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, 1915; died June 17, 1925 at Cambridge.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of the correspondence and literary manuscripts of Arthur Christopher Benson. Manuscript titles include: *The Art of the Biographer*, *Biographic Studies*, *Loopholes*, *Memoir of Mary Benson*, *Poems*, *The War 1914*, and *Bibliography of Arthur Christopher Benson*. Also includes an unpublished novel and a presentation copy of a book of Benson's poems, *Le Cahier Jaune*.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. Correspondence, book of poetry, and typescripts.
2. Manuscript and typescripts of unpublished material.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925--Archives.

Authors, English--20th century--Archival resources.

Poets, English--20th century--Archival resources.

Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925-- *Cahier Jaune*.

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| Box 1 | <p>Correspondence, mainly from Gordon G. Wordsworth to Arthur Christopher Benson, but with 2 letters from other people, and also copies of 3 letters from various people to Gordon Wordsworth. v.p., September 1924-February 1925.</p> <p>Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.</p> <p>Physical Description: 24 pieces.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>These letters concern the purchase of Mount Scawfell by Benson and Wordsworth for the purpose of giving it to the National Trust.</p> |
| Box 1 | <p>Le Cahier Jaune; poems. Eton: Privately printed, 1892.</p> <p>Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.</p> <p>Physical Description: 99pp. 22.5cm.</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Presentation copy from the author to Sir Walter Durnford, Provost of King's College, Cambridge.</p> <p><i>With this is bound:</i> His, <i>The Myrtle Bough, a Vale</i>. Eton, Spottiswoode, 1903. 70pp., and his, <i>The Olive Bough</i>. Eton: Spottiswoode, 1904. 31pp.</p> <p>Note</p> <p><i>Ex libris:</i> C.K. Ogden.</p> |

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- Box 1 ***The Art of the Biographer. Cambridge, 1917.***
 Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.
 Physical Description: 49 leaves. Typescript with holograph corrections, bound.
 Scope and Content Note
 Published in *Royal Society of Literature of the United Kingdom*, London. Essays by diverse hands, being transactions. London, 1926. 22cm. New [i.e. 3rd] series, vol.6, pp. [139]-164.
 Read April 29th, 1925.
- Box 1 **Biographical studies: Issak Walton, Edward Ernest Bowen, William Collins, Evelyn Shirley Shuckburgh, Henry James, The Angel [fiction?], Matthew Arnold, Crevasse [fiction?]. Cambridge, v.d.**
 Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.
 Physical Description: 8 typescripts with holograph corrections, bound in 1 vol.
 Note
 Apparently all unpublished.
- Box 1 **Letters to various persons. v.p., v.d.**
 Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.
 Physical Description: 2 items. Typescript, holograph.
 Scope and Content Note
 With these: 1 letter of July 26, 1926 (typescript copy) from R.M. Welsford to Lord Charnwood, and 1 letter of August 2, 1926 (typescript copy) from Charnwood to Welsford, both regarding Arthur Christopher Benson's estate.
- Box 1 ***Loopholes. Cambridge, 1916.***
 Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.
 Physical Description: Typescript with holograph corrections, bound.
 Scope and Content Note
 These were... made into a little book called Loopholes [unpublished]...
 Title on backstrip reads Fragments 1917 (omitted from *Loopholes*).
- Box 2 **[Manuscript without title. n.p.,n.d.].**
 Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.
 Physical Description: 190 leaves. 23cm. Holograph marked in pencil.
 Note
 A novel, apparently unpublished.
- Box 2 ***Memoir of Mary Benson. Cambridge, 1925.***
 Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.
 Physical Description: Typescript (carbon), bound.
 Scope and Content Note
 A life of the author's mother.
 Note
 Ex libris: E.F. Benson.
 Unpublished.
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Box 2

Poems. [A volume of miscellaneous pieces, both poetry and prose. n.p., v.d.]

Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.

Physical Description: 24 typescripts, some with holograph corrections.

Scope and Content Note

The dates, 1904, 1909, and 1916 appear on several items.

One item dated December 13, 1903, is printed. Poems. A.C.B. appears on the spine. Bound in boards.

Ex libris: C.K. Ogden.

Box 2

The War 1914. Cambridge, n.d.

Creator/Collector: Benson, Arthur Christopher, 1862-1925.

Physical Description: Typescript with holograph corrections, bound.

Note

Apparently unpublished.

Box 2

Bibliography of Arthur Christopher Benson. n.p., n.d.

Physical Description: 25pp. 26cm. Typescript with corrections in ink.

Scope and Content Note

Compiler unknown.

Included are several biographical quotations from various sources.