Finding Aid for the Laurence Binyon Papers, 1912-1937

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Finding Aid for the Laurence Binyon Papers, 1912-1937

Collection number: 404

UCLA Library Special Collections
UCLA Library Special Collections staff

Los Angeles, CA

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Laurence Binyon Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1912-1937
Collection number: 404
Creator: Binyon, Laurence, 1869-1943
Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) was a British Museum official for 40 years as well as a art historian, critic, translator, playwright, and poet. The collection consists of 7 versions of Binyon's play, Arthur, which was composed by Binyon in 1923 in collaboration with Sir John Martin-Harvey. There is also a folder of notes about Arthur, a folder of notes and sketches for the production by Martin-Harvey, 16 original drawings of costumes by M.L. Blood, and 61 letters to Martin-Harvey.

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.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Laurence Binyon Papers (Collection 404). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Biography
Binyon was born August 10, 1869 in Lancaster, England; British Museum official for 40 years, as well as art historian, critic, translator, playwright, and poet; author of numerous works on art, including Painting in the Far East (1908); professor of poetry at Harvard; published many collections of poetry, including The winnowing fan: poems on the Great War (1914), The sirens (1924), The idols (1928), and Collected poems of Lawrence Binyon (1931); wrote a play, Arthur (1923), whose original title was “Launcelot”; died in March 1943 in Reading, England.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of 7 versions of Binyon's play, *Arthur*, which was composed by Binyon in 1923 in collaboration with Sir John Martin-Harvey. Also contains a folder of notes about *Arthur*, a folder of notes and sketches for the production by Martin-Harvey, 16 original drawings of costumes by M.L. Blood, and 61 letters to Martin-Harvey, several of which are addressed to Lady Martin-Harvey.

**Indexing Terms**

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

- Binyon, Laurence, 1869-1943--Archives.
- *Arthur*, King--Drama.
- Dramatists, English--Archival resources.
- Martin-Harvey, John, Sir, 1863-1944.

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**Arthur, [originally called “Launcelot”], London, 1912-1923**

Creator/Collector: Binyon, Laurence, 1869-1943

Physical Description: 7 versions. Holograph (original version in 7 notebooks, 20 × 16 cm.), and 6 typescripts with corrections by Binyon and Sir John Martin-Harvey.

Scope and Content Note

A play in 8 scenes, composed by Binyon in close cooperation with Martin-harvey. First published by William Heinemann, London 1923. First produced by Robert Atkins at the Old Vic, March 1923. Also, 2 folders of related materials:

- Miscellaneous notes about *Arthur* by Binyon and Martin-Harvey
- Notes and sketches for the production of *Arthur* by Martin-Harvey.

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**Costumes [by M.L. Blood] for the play on “King Arthur.” Sutton Coldfield, 1912.**

Physical Description: 16 original drawings, one to a page, numbered 1 through 17. no.15 is missing. 4 are watercolors. Bound in wrappers.

Scope and Content Note

With this: invoice for drawings from M.L. Blood to Mrs. Martin Harvey for £3-3-0. Sutton Coldfield, November 30, 1912.

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**Letters, signed, to Sir John Martin-Harvey. v.p., 1913-1937.**

Physical Description: 61 items. Holograph.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of these letters have to do with the writing of *Arthur*, 1913-1923. Several of them are addressed to Lady Martin-Harvey.