

# Guide to the Arthur Symons Collection

GEN MSS 305



by Beinecke Staff

July 1997

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(203) 432-2977  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 305

**CREATOR:** Symons, Arthur, 1865-1945

**TITLE:** Arthur Symons collection

**DATES:** 1893-1919

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letters by Symons to such correspondents as William Rose Benét, Joseph Conrad, and Grant Richards; essays by Symons; and a poem by Symons.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.symons>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.symons>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ongoing collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Type of accession (gift or purchase) and date of acquisition is noted in the box-and-folder list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Arthur Symons Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Arthur Symons Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, this has been noted in the box-and-folder list.

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## ARTHUR SYMONS (1865-1945)

Arthur William Symons, poet, editor, and critic, was born in Milford Haven, England, on February 28, 1865. After ending his formal schooling at sixteen, Symons became active in London's literary world and also began the extensive travels in France which would ultimately influence his writing. He joined the Rhymers' Club (a group of poets including such figures as William Butler Yeats); edited a range of literary journals; and established himself as a cultural critic with the publication of his *Symbolist Movement in Literature* in 1899. He authored several volumes of poetry and criticism before suffering a mental collapse in 1908. The majority of his work after this period remained unpublished except for *Confessions* (1930). Symons died in Wittersham, Kent on January 22, 1945.

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## Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to Arthur Symons, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. The papers span the dates 1897-1919 and are arranged in two series.

[Series I, \*Letters by Symons\*](#), consists of letters written by Arthur Symons. The series is alphabetically arranged by recipient and includes items addressed to William Rose Benét, Joseph Conrad, and Grant Richards. The letter to Conrad primarily concerns a projected essay on Flaubert.

[Series II, \*Writings\*](#), contains writings by Symons and is alphabetically arranged by title. While most of these concern literary subjects, Box 1, folder 19 houses a holograph of a letter to a periodical on "The Storm Cloud over Russia." The series also includes three undated family photographs.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Letters by Symons, 1897-1916

0.12' (11 folders)

Letters is arranged alphabetically by recipient.

|             |   |                 |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| b. 1, f. 1  | ALS to [William Rose?] Benét, London<br>Gift, 1937  | 1916 Dec 20     |
| b. 1, f. 2  | ALS to Joseph Conrad, Wittersham<br>Gift, 1937  | 1912 May 13     |
| b. 1, f. 3  | ALS and a signed postcard to James Hunker on literary matters, London<br>Purchase, 1941                                     | 1902, 1906      |
| b. 1, f. 4  | <a href="#">ALS to Mr. Meynell, Wittersham</a><br>Regarding the purchase of paintings<br>Gift, 1958                         | n.y. May 26     |
| b. 1, f. 5  | ALS to William Moring, Rome<br>Gift, 1962   | 1904 Feb 1      |
| b. 1, f. 6  | ALS to C. Kegan Paul, London  | 1893 Apr 23     |
| b. 1, f. 7  | 4 ALS to Grant Richards<br>Purchase, 1986   | 1904-06         |
| b. 1, f. 8  | 3 ALS to Mr. Smithers, Birchington-on-Sea<br>Gift, 1957   | 1897-1904, n.d. |
| b. 1, f. 9  | ALS to [Francis] Vielé-Griffin, London  | 1903 Mar 17     |
| b. 1, f. 10 | ALS to an unidentified recipient, Belagio, Italy<br>Probably to a publisher. Mentions his essay on Coleridge.<br>Gift, 1959 | 1903 Sep 18     |
| b. 1, f. 11 | ALS to an unidentified recipient, Wittersham<br>Offering to sell a letter by Thomas Hardy.<br>Gift, 1959                    | 1916 Sep 16     |

**Series II: Writings by Symons, 1919, n.d.**

0.10' (9 folders)

*Writings* is arranged alphabetically by title.

|             |   |        |
|-------------|---|--------|
| b. 1, f. 12 | "André Gide": autograph essay, signed with changes and corrections<br>Purchase, 1941  | n.d.   |
| b. 1, f. 13 | "Bohemian Chelsea"; autograph MS essay, signed, with numerous changes and corrections                                       | n.d.   |
| b. 1, f. 14 | "Congreve": original manuscript, and typescript copy with several manuscript corrections and additions<br>Gift, 1937        | n.d.   |
| b. 1, f. 15 | "Édouard Dubus"; autograph MS of essay, signed<br>The text lacks continuity; incomplete?<br>Purchase, 1941                  | n.d.   |
| b. 1, f. 16 | "In the Woods" (poem): typescript copy, signed  | n.d.   |
| b. 1, f. 17 | "Pierre Louÿs"; autograph essay, signed, with changes and corrections<br>Purchase, 1941                                     | n.d.   |
| b. 1, f. 18 | "Stendhal": AMsS<br>Gift, 1968  | n.d.   |
| b. 1, f. 19 | "Storm Cloud over Russia": holograph, corrected, signed<br>With: typescript, carbon<br>Purchase, 1991                       | [1919] |
| b. 1, f. 20 | <a href="#">Photographs</a><br>Three snapshots of Arthur Symons; Mrs. Arthur Symons; and the Symons house in Kent, England. | n.d.   |

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Authors, Welsh -- Archives

### **Names**

Benét, William Rose, 1886-1950

Conrad, Joseph, 1857-1924

Richards, Grant, 1872-1948

Symons, Arthur, 1865-1945