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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the W.S. Lewis Collection of W.S. Gilbert Manuscripts and Letters

GEN MSS 6



by Beinecke Staff

June 1997

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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 6

**CREATOR:** Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon), 1895-1979 , collector

**TITLE:** W. S. Lewis collection of W. S. Gilbert manuscripts and letters

**DATES:** 1867-1908

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.2 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Contains typescript carbon versions of plays by Gilbert, as well as two letters from Gilbert regarding production of, and royalties on, his plays.

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

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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.gilbert>.

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

Gift of W. S. Lewis, 1942.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

The W. S. Lewis Collection of W. S. Gilbert Manuscripts and Letters 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**

W. S. Lewis Collection of W. S. Gilbert Manuscripts and Letters, General Collection. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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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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## **Scope and Contents**

This finding aid encompasses accessions of materials pertaining to W. S. Gilbert.

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## Collection Contents

### I. Letters from W. S. Gilbert, 1908 May 29

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b. 1, f. 1	ALS to Mr. Philip Carr, Grim's Dyke, Harrow Weald Enclosing a circular reply which he always sent to applicants who wanted to play his pieces at a reduced price or without a fee at all	1908 May 29
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to Godfrey Reiss, Esq., Grim's Dyke, Harrow Weald Concerning royalty payment	1908 Jun 02

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**II. Writings by W. S. Gilbert, [1867]**

b. 1, f. 3	"Allow Me to Explain" A farce; intended for production at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Saturday, 1867 Nov 2; carbon typescript of the original unpublished manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's office	[1867]
b. 1, f. 4	"Committed For Trial" A farcical comedy in two acts; carbon typescript of original unpublished manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's office; at head of title: Globe Theatre; originally produced under pseudonym of F. L. Tomline; then re-written and produced under Gilbert's own name	1874
b. 1, f. 5	"Foggerty's Fairy" An entirely original fairy farce in three acts; typescript of privately printed copy filed in the Lord Chamberlain's office, London	[1881]
b. 1, f. 6	"Great Expectations," London Drama in three acts and prologue; Royal Court theatre; carbon typescript of the original manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's office; "an unpublished play"; adapted from the story by Charles Dickens	[1871]
b. 1, f. 7	"Highly Improbable," [London] An original impossibility; New Royalty Theatre; carbon typescript of the original unpublished manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's office	[1867]
b. 1, f. 8	"Mountebankes" Manuscript of the Finale, Act I and a mimeographed copy of the New Finale, Act 1st; with the music; Finale, Act I, signed: Chas. Puerne	n.d.
b. 1, f. 9	"Ought We to Visit Her?" Co-authored with Mrs. A. Edwards. Royalty Theatre, 1874 Jan 17; carbon typewritten copy of the original manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's vaults	[1874]
b. 1, f. 10	"Our Island Home" [London] Royal Gallery of Illustration, 1870; carbon typescript of the unpublished manuscript	[1870]
b. 1, f. 11	"The Realm of Joy" Being a free and easy version of "Le Roe Candeuill[!]" (Royalty Theatre, 1873 Oct 18); carbon typescript of the original manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's office; this play was produced under the pseudonym of F. L. Tomline; the title was later changed to "Realms of Joy"; adapted from Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy's "Le Roi Candaule"	[1873]
b. 1, f. 12	"Robinson Crusoe," [London] Co-authored with: Henry James Byron, Thomas Hood, Henry Sambroke Leigh, William Jeffery Prowse, and George Rose; burlesque; carbon typescripts of the original manuscript	[1867]
b. 1, f. 13	"Topsy-Turvydom," [London] Original extravaganza; Criterion Theatre, 1874; carbon typescript of the original manuscript in the Lord Chamberlain's vaults	[1874]

## **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.

### **Names**

Gilbert, W. S. (William Schwenck), 1836-1911

Lewis, W. S. (Wilmarth Sheldon), 1895-1979