

Guide to the William Ernest Henley Collection

GEN MSS 1131



by Beinecke Staff

May 2014

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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 1131

CREATOR: Henley, William Ernest, 1849-1903

TITLE: William Ernest Henley Collection

DATES: 1736-1941

BULK DATES: 1878-1902

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear feet (12 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of correspondence, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, printed material, and ephemera relating to the life and work of the writer William Ernest Henley. Correspondents include Robert Fitzroy Bell, his future wife Anna Nancy Boyle, and Robert Louis Stevenson.

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

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.henley>.

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.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired by gift and purchase, 1946-2004. For more information consult the appropriate curator.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further

accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit. This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing, in 2014.

The collection is comprised of material formerly classed as MS Vault Shelves Henley, Uncat MS Vault File, Uncat MS Vault 450, Uncat MS Vault 619, Uncat MS Vault 642, Uncat MSS 116.

The finding aid for this collection is partially compiled from individual catalog cards that were created at or around the time of receipt by the library. Information from the catalog cards was repurposed in the finding aid in accordance with current archival descriptive standards. Some catalog cards, copies of which are filed with the collection, include more detailed descriptions of individual items and/or provenance notes. Descriptions for items not represented by catalog cards were derived from accession records, folder labels, or other available descriptive material.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

William Ernest Henley (1849-1903)

William Ernest Henley was a British poet, editor, and critic whose friends included Rudyard Kipling and Robert Louis Stevenson. His works include *A Book of Verses* (1888), *London Voluntaries* (1893), and *Hawthorn and Lavender* (1899).

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, writings, photographs, scrapbooks, printed material, and ephemera relating to the life and work of the writer William Ernest Henley. Correspondents include Robert Fitzroy Bell, his future wife Anna Nancy Boyle, and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Arrangement

Organized into three groupings by dates of accession: I. 1946-1980 Acquisitions. II. 1986-1995 Acquisitions. III. 2001-2004 Acquisitions.

Collection Contents

1: 1946-1980 Acquisitions, 1878-1901

Former call numbers: MS Vault Shelves Henley, Uncat MS Vault File

Letters from William Ernest Henley

b. 1	ALS to "Dear A. M." Purchased from Kingston Galleries on the Library Associates Fund, 1965.	1896 November 8
b. 1	5 ALS to Charles Baxter Purchased from C. A. Stonehill on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1980.	[1879?], 1881
b. 1	ALS to William H. Brett Gift of Bernhard Knollenberg, 1946	1878 February 22
b. 1	ANS to [James Nicol] Dunn Gift of James Marshall Osborn, 1950.	1895 August 1
b. 1	ALS to [Hind?] Removed from <i>Dean Brodie...</i> (London: D. Nutt, 1892)	1897 November 16
b. 1	ALS to Dr. and Mrs. Hutchinson Removed from <i>Henley's Song of the Sword</i> (London: David Nutt, 1892).	1892 April 22
b. 1	ALS to George P. Johnston Purchased from James Thin on the Plain Fund, 1956.	1896 July 20
b. 1	14 ALS to David Nutt Gift of G. C. Lilly, 1948.	1894-1896
b. 1	AL, draft, signed with initials to Robert Louis Stevenson Accompanied by draft of a letter in the hand of Henley and Katharine Stevenson de Mattos to Robert Louis Stevenson, and by draft of a letter, in the hand of Katharine Stevenson de Mattos to Robert Louis Stevenson, both undated. Purchased from C. A. Stonehill on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1980.	1888 May 7
b. 1	ALS To D. Thomson Purchased from H. M. Fletcher on the Edwin F. Beinecke Book Fund, 1958.	1892 November 14
b. 1	AL to [Walter?] signed, W.E.H. Removed from <i>Hensley's Hawthorn and Lavender</i> (London, 1901), the gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. Robert Blum, 1959.	1901 January 12
b. 1	ALS to Gleeson White Purchased from I. K. Fletcher on the William Lyon Phelps Memorial Fund, 1962.	1891 April 24
b. 1	6 ALS to various correspondents Purchased from Goodspeed's Book Shop, Inc., on the William Lyon Phelps Memorial Fund, 1959	1895-1902

Letters from William Ernest Henley (continued)

b.1	5 ALS to various correspondents Purchased from Kingston Galleries on the Albert H. Childs Fund, 1967.	1893-1901
b.1	ALS to unidentified recipient Purchased from H. M. Fletcher on the Beinecke Fund, 1958.	1881 April 29

Writings

b.1	2 notebooks, authograph manuscript draft of poems, with revisions, by William Ernest Henley, including Henley's two series, <i>In Hospital</i> and <i>Life and Death</i> <i>2 Folders</i> Purchased on the Library Associates Fund, 1962.	undated
b.1	"Hospital Incidents," manuscript, by William Ernest Henley, in an unidentified hand Purchased from C. A. Stonehill on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1980.	undated
b.1	"Maternal Ancestry," typescript, by Robert Louis Stevenson, with corrections in Henley's hand. Accompanied by a short history of Henley's childhood in an unidentified hand. Purchased from C. A. Stonehill on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1980.	undated

2: 1986-1995 Acquisitions, 1872-1902

	1986 Acquisition Purchased from Hofmann & Freeman on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Prize Fund, 1986. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault 450	
b. 2	Fifty-two autograph letters signed from Henley to Fitzroy Bell <i>8 Folders</i>	1889-1899, undated
	January 1991 Acquisition Purchased from Pickering & Chatto on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1991. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault 619	
b. 3	Autograph letters signed from Henley to Anna Nancy Boyle <i>3 Folders</i>	1876-1877, undated
	July 1991 Acquisition Purchased from David J. Holmes on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1991. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File	
b. 4	Autograph letter signed from Henley to Mr. Nutt Purchased from David J. Holmes on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1991.	undated
	September 1991 Acquisition Purchased from William Reese Co., on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1991. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault 642	
b. 4	5 notebooks containing autograph manuscript extracts from works of Choderlos Laclos, Lope de Vega, Nicolo Machiavelli and others, as well as miscellaneous notes by Henley <i>5 Folders</i>	1872-1874
b. 5	3 notebooks containing manuscript extracts from works by Heinrich Heine, Victor Hugo, and other notes and writings by Henley <i>3 Folders</i>	1874-1899
	1993 Acquisition Purchased from David A. Holmes on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Prize Fund, 1993. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File	
b. 6	2 ALS to [Alfred] Austin from Henley	1891 June 18 and October 22
b. 6	5 ALS to A. G. Dew-Smith from Henley	1887-1892
b. 6	"Bare Ruined Quires," manuscript in an unidentified hand	1902

1995 Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Prize Fund,
1995.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 6

4 ALS to John W. Gilman from Henley

1896-1902

3: 2001-2004 Acquisitions, 1736-1941

February 2001 Acquisition

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch, Ltd. on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Prize Fund, 2001.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 7	<i>Song of Speed</i> galley proofs, corrected in an unidentified hand; with two copies of the publication (London: David Nutt, 1903), clipping and menu card	1901-1903
b. 7	45 ALS to [Anna Boyle] from Henley	1875-1877

February 2001 Acquisition

Purchased from John Hart on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Prize Fund, 2001.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 116

b. 8	Typed copy of letter to W. E. Henley from Robert Louis Stevenson, dated 1894 July 15	undated
b. 8	2 telegrams to William Ernest Henley and Mrs. Henley from Arthur Morrison and "J.W.G" sending anniversary greetings, and 1 telegram to Mrs. Henley from Gertrude and Vernon Blackburn expressing condolences, presumably on the death of her husband.	1903 January, July
b. 8	Music scores, autograph manuscript, in an unidentified hand, for "The Last Whistle," and "Ave Caesar" <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 8	Henley bookplates designed by William Nicholson	1898
b. 8	Autograph manuscript, in an unidentified hand, of pages of a draft of an unidentified playscript	undated
b. 8	Printed poems by W. E. Henley	1893, undated
b. 8	"Matri Dilectissimae," printed poem by W. E. Henley, for a memorial service	1902
b. 8	Memorial cards for Margaret Mackie Bonle and Margaret Emma Henley	1886, 1894
b. 8	Mrs. W. E. Henley visiting cards	undated
b. 8	Scrapbook containing press clippings relating to the Glasgow Lyrical Society	1862-1902
b. 8	Correspondence between Mr. and Mrs. K. G. Richmond and solicitors in Edinburgh and London regarding papers of W. M. Henley	1930
b. 8	Miscellaneous family correspondence	1890-1941
b. 8	Publisher's flyers for Henley's <i>A Book of Verses</i> , a list of David Nutt's publications, and a printed list of the officers and committee members of the Incorporated Society of Authors, Playwrights and Composers	undated
b. 8	<i>Xenophon: His Ageslaus with Other Opuscula</i> by H. G. Dakyns, corrected page proofs, bound, with autograph note by Dakyns presenting the book to Henley laid in	1902
b. 8	Miscellaneous printed items	1857-1901

February 2001 Acquisition (continued)

b. 9	Photographs of W. E. Henley and family members and friends, most unidentified 7 Folders	circa 1880-1900
b. 10 (Oversize)	Album of newspaper clippings of review of Henley's book "A Book of Verses"	1888
b. 10 (Oversize)	Photograph and prints of the bust of Heny by Rodin	circa 1908
b. 10 (Oversize)	Pages from disbound scrapbook containing newspaper and magazine clippings regarding the life and death of Lord Byron	1736-1824
b. 11 (Oversize)	Photograph case	undated
b. 11 (Oversize)	Scrapbook containing several newspaper clippings regarding Rudyard Kipling's poem, "The Islanders"	1902
<p>July 2001 Acquisition Purchased from Michael Silverman on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2001. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File</p>		
b. 12	2 ALS from William Ernest Henley to R. Fitzroy Bell	1895, 1896
<p>July 2004 Acquisition Purchased from Bernard Quaritch, Ltd. on the Hall Park McCullough Fund, 2004. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File</p>		
b. 12	"Hospital Outlines: Sketches and Portraits" by William Ernest Henley, proof and 3rd corrected proof	1875 April 25, June 15
<p>August 2004 Acquisition Purchased from Christopher Edwards on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2004. Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File</p>		
b. 12	18 ALS to William George Hutchinson from William Ernest Henley	1849-1903, undated
b. 12	Copies of collection catalog cards	

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, English -- 19th century -- Archives

Genres / Formats

Photographs -- England -- 19th century

Occupations

Authors -- England -- 20th Century

Names

Bell, Robert Fitzroy

Henley, Anna Boyle

Henley, William Ernest, 1849-1903

Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1850-1894