

Thomas James Wise:

Literary File Photography Collection

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wise, Thomas James, 1859-1937

Title: Thomas James Wise Literary File

Dates: undated

Extent: 0.5 document box (.21 linear feet)

Abstract: Thomas James Wise was an English book collector and biographer who became known for literary forgeries and stolen documents that were resold or authenticated by him. The collection of 163 items, which include photographic portraits of Wise and various other people, negatives of correspondence to and from him and of articles on literary forgeries, and lantern slides of frontispieces and portraits.

Call Number: Photography Collection PH-002636

Language: English

Access: Open for research. Please note: Transparencies may be accessed but require 24 hours advance notice. Negatives cannot be accessed without curatorial approval. To make an appointment or to reserve photography materials, please contact the Center's staff at photography@hrc.utexas.edu.

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Internal transfer

Processed by: Susan McClellan, 2006, and Sarah Sauri and Kait Dorsky, 2016

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of 163 items by and related to the English book collector and biographer Thomas James Wise. Included are portraits of Wise and various other people, such as Joseph Conrad, Harry Buxton Forman, Herbert E. Gorfın, Edmund Gosse, Thomas Hardy, Clement King Shorter, and James Patterson Smart. There are also negatives of correspondence to and from Wise and of articles on literary forgeries from the Symington Collection at Rutgers University, and lantern slides of frontispieces and portraits. An index at the end of this guide lists photographers whose work is featured in this file.

This file forms a part of the Literary Files photography collection, which is comprised of photographs and albums withdrawn from the libraries and/or papers of literary figures and businesses, and generally include portraits and images taken or collected by and/or of those people and businesses.

Related Material

Additional materials by and about Wise can be found in the Ransom Center's Thomas James Wise Collection and Thomas James Wise Art Collection.

Index Terms

People

Wise, Thomas James, 1859-1937.

Subjects

Authors, English--19th century--Portraits.

Authors, English--20th century--Portraits.

Literary forgeries and mystifications.

Portraits.

Document Types

Acetate negatives.

Gelatin silver prints.

Lantern slides.

Nitrate negatives.

Accession Number: 982:0019:0001-0005 Portraits of Wise as a middle-aged man.	Location 1.1
Accession Number: 982:0019:0006-0007 Enlarged photographic reproductions of half-tone prints of portraits of Wise.	Location osb
Accession Number: 982:0019:0008 Negative for 982:0019:0001.	Location Cold storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0009 Negative for 982:0019:0002.	
Accession Number: 982:0019:0010 Negative for 982:0019:0004.	
Accession Number: 982:0019:0011 Negative of a portrait of Wise as a middle-aged man.	
Accession Number: 982:0019:0012-0014 Portraits of Wise as a middle-aged man sitting at his desk.	Location 1.2
Accession Number: 982:0019:0015 Negative for 982:0019:0012.	Location Cabinet storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0016-0022 Portraits of Wise as an older man, including Wise wearing a cap and gown and Wise in his library.	Location 1.3
Accession Number: 982:0019:0023 Photographic reproduction of a half-tone print made from a portrait of Wise as an older man, wearing a cap and gown.	Location osb
Accession Number: 982:0019:0024 Photographic reproduction of a half-tone print of a drawing of Wise.	Location 1.4
Accession Number: 982:0019:0025 Negative for 982:0019:0024.	Location Cabinet storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0026-0028 Images of Wise as an older man with unidentified women.	Location 1.5
Accession Number: 982:0019:0029 Negative for 982:0019:0026.	Location Cold storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0030-0037 Portraits of Herbert Athol Wise (brother of Thomas James Wise), Joseph Conrad, Herbert E. Gorfin, Harry Buxton Forman, James Patterson Smart, Clement King Shorter, Thomas Hardy and Edmund Gosse.	Location 1.6

Accession Number: 982:0019:0038 Negative for 982:0019:0032.	Location Cabinet storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0039 Portrait of two unidentified men.	Location 1.7
Accession Number: 982:0019:0040 Negative for a portrait of an unidentified man seated at a desk.	Location Cold storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0041 Portrait of an unidentified man.	Location Cabinet storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0042 Portrait of an unidentified woman.	
Accession Number: 982:0019:0043-0044 Views of Wise's library in Hampstead.	Location 1.8
Accession Number: 982:0019:0045-0048 Color snapshots and photographic postcard of the exterior of Wise's house, Heath Drive, London.	Location 1.9
Accession Number: 982:0019:0049-0051 Color transparencies for 982:0019:0045-0047.	Location Cold storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0052-0055 Photographic reproductions of a letter and postcard to Wise.	Location 1.10
Accession Number: 982:0019:0056-0063 Negatives of correspondence.	Location Cabinet storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0064-0065 Negatives of Wise obituaries.	Location Cold storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0066-0071 Negatives of letters to editors about Wise's forgeries.	
Accession Number: 982:0019:0072-0107 Negatives of an articles on Wise's literary forgeries.	
Accession Number: 982:0019:0108-118 Lantern slides of book plates and frontispieces.	Location Cabinet storage

Accession Number: 982:0019:0119-0120 Photographic reproductions of bookplates.	Location 1.11
Accession Number: 982:0019:0121-0140 Lantern slides of book plates, frontispieces, and portraits.	Location Cabinet storage
Accession Number: 982:0019:0141-0148 Images pertaining to Carter and Pollard's research on the Wise forgeries.	Location 1.12

Index of Photographers

- Chappuis, P. E. (Paul Emile), 1816-1887--982:0019:0041
- Elliott & Fry--982:0019:0033-0034
- Gorfin, Herbert E. (Herbert Edwin), 1877 or 1878-1942--982:0019:0001-0003, 0010
- Hughes & Mullins--982:0019:0035
- J. Russell & Sons--982:0019:0016-0019
- Swanwick, Peter--982:0019:0013-0014, 0020
- Walker, Emery, 1851-1933--982:0019:0016-0019
- Wrightson, Hay--982:0019:0036