

William Winter:

An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Winter, William, 1836-1917
Title:	William Winter Papers
Dates:	1852-1921 (bulk 1876-1916)
Extent:	4 document boxes (1.68 linear feet)
Abstract:	The William Winter papers include Winter's incoming and outgoing correspondence, manuscripts of works, clippings, photographs and prints, and other printed materials concerning Winter. A few manuscripts by and concerning others are present, most notably those of Winter's son, Jefferson Winter.
Call Number:	Performing Arts Collection PA-00099
Language:	English
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Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gift, 1958, acquired as part of the Messmore Kendall Collection

Processed by: Joan Sibley, 2001; Daniela Lozano, 2017

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

Biographical Sketch

William Winter (1836-1917) was theater critic for the New York *Tribune* from 1865 to 1909, wrote biographies of the Jeffersons, Belasco, Booth, Irving, and Ada Rehan, and published volumes of poems and reminiscences.

Scope and Contents

The William Winter papers include Winter's incoming and outgoing correspondence, manuscripts of works, clippings, photographs and prints, and other printed materials concerning Winter. A few manuscripts by and concerning others are present, most notably those of Winter's son, Jefferson Winter. The papers are arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, 1857-1917, undated; II. Works and Other Papers, 1852-1917, undated; and III. Works and Papers of Others, 1870-1921, undated.

Series I. Correspondence is divided into two subseries: A. Incoming, 1858-1917, undated; and B. Outgoing, 1857-1916. Winter's correspondence consists largely of letters received from a number of theater and literary people concerning reviews, performances, business and social engagements. Correspondents include Viola Allen, Mary Anderson, Wilson Barrett, Edwin Booth, Charles Cohan, Augustin Daly, Minnie Maddern Fiske, John Forbes-Robertson, Daniel Frohman, Sir John Hare, Henry Irving, Lillie Langtry, Julia Marlowe, Tyrone Power, Ada Rehan, Ellen Terry, and Lester Wallack, among others. A slight amount of outgoing correspondence by Winter is also present, most of it addressed to J. B. Clapp.

Series II. Works and Other Papers is divided into two subseries: A. Works, 1852-1898, undated; and B. Other Papers, 1885-1917, undated. The Winter manuscripts present in the first subseries are poems and theatrical writings, most of which are holograph drafts and fragmentary in nature. Subseries B consists of clippings of notices of several actresses, mostly likely of reviews written by Winter. A photograph, some prints, obituaries, and a program for a testimonial to Winter in 1916 complete the Winter materials in this subseries.

Series III. Works and Papers of Others contains works by others, some of which Winter either edited or had plans to work on. Winter's son Jefferson published a testimonial to actor Frank Worthing in 1911, and manuscripts and correspondence document his efforts. Present are letters to Jefferson Winter from several figures who included their reminiscences of Worthing: Viola Allen, Blanche Bates, Acton Davies, Louis V. DeFoe, Julia Marlowe, Hale McAllister, Henry Miller, S. Morris Pentland, Tyrone Power, Augustus Thomas, and Frank Worthing.

Related Material

Additional papers from William Winter can be found in the Theater Arts Manuscripts collection, and over twenty books formerly belonging to Winter can be found in the Ransom Center's Theater Arts Library.

A large collection of Winters' papers can be found at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C.

Series I. Correspondence, 1857-1917, undated

Subseries A. Incoming, 1858-1917, undated

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Aldrich, T. B., 1865-1904	Container 1.2
Allen, Viola, 1905-1917	Container 1.3
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Davidge, Mrs., 1876	Container 1.34
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Dickens, Catherine, 1868	Container 1.37
Dillingham, C. T., 1917	Container 1.38
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Forbes-Robertson, John, 1910-1914	Container 1.45
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Goodale, George P., 1912	Container 1.51
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Howells, William Dean, 1876	Container 1.60
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Irving, Henry, 1890-1895	Container 2.1
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Leigh, Helen, 1888	Container 2.8
Leighton, Albert, 1858	Container 2.9
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Tyler, G. C., 1911	Container 2.61
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Wallack, Lester, 1881-1882	Container 3.5
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Yates, Edmund, 1888-1890	Container 3.14
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Series II. Works and Other Papers, 1852-1917, undated

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Edwin Booth's Early Days in California, 1852	Container 3.20
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Clippings

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Photographs and prints of William Winter, 1885, undated **Container 4.2**

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Series III. Works and Papers of Others, 1870-1921, undated

- Brougham, John. Life, Stories, and Poems of John Brougham, holograph fragment, 1881 **Container**
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- Daly, Joseph Francis. The Life of Augustin Daly, advance sheets, 1917 **Container**
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- Duval, Georges. Frederick LeMaitre et Son Temps, 1800-1876, holograph fragment, English translation, 1876 **Container**
4.6
- Falconer, Edmund. A List of the Dramatic Works of Edmund Falconer, holograph list, 1870 **Container**
4.7
- Winter, Jefferson
- Correspondence to Dorothy M. Nolan, 1920 **Container** 4.8
- In Memory of Frank Worthing, Actor, 1911
- Published item; holograph of Cypress, an Elegy for Frank Worthing; holograph of Prefatory Note, 1911 **Container**
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- Correspondence re Worthing from Viola Allen, Blanche Bates, Acton Davies, Louis V. DeFoe, Julia Marlowe, Hale McAllister, Henry Miller, S. Morris Pentland, Tyrone Power, Augustus Thomas, Frank Worthing, 1911 **Container**
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