

Librairie Dorbon-aîné:

An Inventory of Its Records in the Carlton Lake Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Librairie Dorbon-aîné
Title:	Carlton Lake Collection of Librairie Dorbon-aîné Records
Dates:	1894-1954
Extent:	13 boxes (5.46 linear feet)
Abstract:	The records chronicle the work of Louis Dorbon's bookselling firm, which began in 1900, through manuscripts and proofs of works published by Librairie Dorbon-aîné. Business records and correspondence add additional information about the 20th century French publishing firm.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-04960
Languages:	Material written in English and French.
Note:	We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which provided funds for the processing and cataloging of this collection.
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Gifts and purchases of Carlton Lake 1969, 1970 (R4833, R5161)
Processed by:	Monique Daviau, Richard Workman, and Catherine Stollar, 2004
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Organizational History

Founded in 1900 by Louis Dorbon, Librairie Dorbon-aîné entered the bookselling trade with a remarkable initial stock of 400,000 volumes. As both a publisher and a bookseller, Librairie Dorbon-aîné contributed numerous influential works to the early 20th century French literary scene. Louis Dorbon chose the name Dorbon-aîné to differentiate himself from his younger brother, Lucien Dorbon, who entered the bookselling business about one year after Louis opened his Librairie.

The first works published by Librairie Dorbon-aîné were the serial publications of *Petits Mémoires de Paris* containing etchings by Henri Boutlet and two works by Robida titled *les Vieilles Villes des Flandres* and *Vieilles Villes du Rhin*. Librairie Dorbon-aîné thrived publishing the works of authors such as Xavier Marcel Boulestin, Maurice Des Ombiaux, Claude Farrère, Camille Saint-Saëns, and René Boylesve. Works by Jules Lemaître, Claude Debussy, Francis de Miomandre, and comtesse de Noailles were also published by Dorbon-aîné.

Although Louis Dorbon described the founding of Librairie Dorbon-aîné in 1900 in his article *La Librairie Dorbon-aîné*, the date Librairie Dorbon-aîné actually closed is not documented. The firm actively published books between 1900 and 1939. One of the latest, if not last, books published by the Librairie was available in 1949. Beyond 1949 no accurate record exists detailing the closure of Librairie Dorbon-aîné.

Sources:

Dorbon, Louis. *La Librairie Dorbon-aîné*. Undated page proofs.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, handwritten and typed manuscripts, proofs of creative works, music manuscripts, printed material, and financial, legal and publicity records document the work of bookseller and publisher Librairie Dorbon-aîné. The records are arranged in three series: I. Correspondence, 1894-1954 (5 boxes), II. Works by Authors, 1907-1939 (7.5 boxes), and III. Business Records, 1909-1932 (0.5 boxes). All materials within series are arranged alphabetically by author and/or title except as noted below.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of Series II. Works by Authors, which contains manuscripts of authors published by Librairie Dorbon-aîné. Among the influential authors represented in these records are Xavier Marcel Boulestin, Maurice Des Ombiaux, Claude Farrère, Camille Saint-Saëns, René Boylesve, Lemaître, Claude Debussy, Francis de Miomandre, and comtesse de Noailles. All stages of the publication process, as evidenced by the presence of original manuscripts, proofs with corrections,

and final proofs, are well documented within the Librairie Dorbon-aîné records for some works such as *Aspects sentimentaux du front Anglais* (1917) and *L'Amphitryon d'aujourd'hui: Introduction à la vie gourmande* (1936). Some unpublished works for musical projects are also included in Series II. For example, two projects concerning Schumann and Beethoven styled after *Trois Manuscript par Chopin* were created but never published. Most of the music manuscripts from Caplet, Schmitt, Roger-Ducasse, and Debussy were acquired for a deluxe illustrated album on contemporary French music that was envisioned but never produced. Also present within Series II. are proofs of an unpublished article detailing the founding of Librairie Dorbon-aîné by Louis Dorbon and a few pieces of correspondence from Marc Pincherle, an associate of Librairie Dorbon-aîné.

Series I. Correspondence is subdivided into letters written and received by the firm and a small group of personal correspondence received by Louis Dorbon. This series documents the firm's business with authors and other publishers. Notable correspondents include Maurice Darantière, Xavier Marcel Boulestin, and Ernest Benn Ltd..

Series III. constitutes the smallest portion of the papers but provides crucial information about the internal workings of the Librairie. Included in this series are original designs for the Librairie Dorbon-aîné logo and a dossier of subscription requests for Dorbon-aîné's elite book club, Les bibliophiles fantaisistes.

Related Material

The library of the Librairie Dorbon-aîné was also purchased by Carlton Lake and donated to the Ransom Center's Library where it forms part of the Carlton Lake Collection.

Index Terms

Correspondents

Boulestin, X. Marcel (Xavier Marcel), 1878-1943.

Darantière, Maurice.

Ernest Benn Ltd.

Farrère, Claude, 1876-1957.

Guitry, Sacha, 1885-1957.

Noailles, Anna Elisabeth de Brancovan, comtesse de, 1876-1933.

Pincherle, Marc, 1888-1974.

Subjects

Publishers and publishing--France.

Modernism (Literature)--United States.

Booksellers and bookselling--France--Paris--History--20th century.

Document Types

Galley proofs.

Financial records.

Series I. Correspondence, 1894-1954 (bulk 1900-1946)

Subseries A: Firm Correspondence

Letters, 1909-1931	Box-Folder 155.1
Recipient	
A-B	Box-Folder 155.2
Boulestin, Xavier Marcel	
1912	Box-Folder 155.3
1913-1916 June	Box-Folder 155.4
1916 July-1916 Dec.	Box-Folder 155.5
1917-1929, nd	Box-Folder 155.6
C	Box-Folder 156.1
Chambon, Félix, 1903-1909, nd	Box-Folder 156.2
Coninck, J. de, 1928-1929	Box-Folder 156.3
D	Box-Folder 156.4
Darantière, Maurice, 1911-1932	Box-Folder 156.5
Duzéa, Jeanne, 1934	Box-Folder 156.6
E-G	Box-Folder 156.7
Ernest Benn Ltd.	
1924-1925	Box-Folder 157.1
1926-1929	Box-Folder 157.2
Farrère, Claude	
1909-1913	Box-Folder 157.3
1914-1922, nd	Box-Folder 157.4
Ganche, Edouard, 1928-1933	Box-Folder 157.5

Gondrexon, Jean, 1927, nd	Box-Folder 157.6
H	Box-Folder 158.1
Halpérine-Kaminsky, E., 1910	Box-Folder 158.2
Hamon, Augustin, 1910-1911, nd	Box-Folder 158.3
Henriot, Émile, 1909-1910, nd	Box-Folder 158.4
Holroyd-Reece, J., 1926-1927	Box-Folder 158.5
Hoyos y Vinent, Antonio de, 1917, nd	Box-Folder 158.6
I-K	Box-Folder 158.7
Imprimerie Bénard, Liege, 1923-1924	Box-Folder 158.8
Imprimerie La Semeuse, Etampes	Box-Folder 158.9
Jaloux, Edmond, 1910-1912, nd	Box-Folder 158.10
L	Box-Folder 158.11
Laboureur, Jean Emile, 1916-1928	Box-Folder 158.12
M	Box-Folder 158.13
Margueritte, Paul 1904-1917, nd	Box-Folder 158.14
Miomandre, Francis de, 1910-1917, nd	Box-Folder 158.15
Moulié, Charles, 1910-1922, nd	Box-Folder 158.16
N-P	Box-Folder 159.1
Nolhac, Pierre de, 1913-1925, nd	Box-Folder 159.2
Publications Lucien Vogel, 1923-1924	Box-Folder 159.3
Q-R	Box-Folder 159.4
Rassenfosse, Armand, 1911-1923, nd	Box-Folder 159.5
Rouveyre, André, 1912-1913, nd	Box-Folder 159.6
S-T	Box-Folder 159.7
Thomas, Louis, 1909-1912, nd	Box-Folder 159.8

Toussaint, Mme. Adèle Samson, 1911, nd

Box-Folder 159.9

U-Z

Box-Folder 159.10

Subseries B. Personal Correspondence

Recipient

A-K

Box-Folder 159.11

L-Z

Box-Folder 159.12

Series II. Works by Authors 1907-1939

A-B

Box-Folder 160.1

Aubert, Louis

Si l'on cherchait à établir une hierarchie...

Handwritten and typed manuscripts

Box-Folder os57

Proofs

Boulestin, Xavier Marcel

Aspects sentimentaux du front Anglais

Handwritten, typed, and carbon copy manuscripts

**Box-Folder
160.2**

Proofs

Galley

Box-Folder 160.3

Page

Box-Folder 160.4-6

Frontispiece

Box-Folder 160.7*The atnaeum: a collection of atrocities committed at the front***Box-Folder
160.8***Dans le Flandres britanniques*

Handwritten, typed, and carbon copy manuscripts

**Box-Folder
160.9**

Proofs

Box-Folder os58

Subscription file

Box-Folder 160.10*Le frequentations de Maurice***Box-Folder 160.11***Tableaux de Londres*

Composite manuscript with handwritten and printed pages

**Box-Folder
160.12**

Page proofs

Box-Folder 160.13

Boylesve, René

Nymphes dansant avec des satyres

Mock-up

Box-Folder 161.1

Proofs

Box-Folder 161.2*Le pied fourchu***Box-Folder** 161.3Brunner, Henriette. *En Marge d'A rebours***Box-Folder** 161.4

C

Box-Folder 161.5Caplet, André. *Forêt***Box-Folder** os59

Capus, Alfred

Le théâtre

Page proofs

Box-Folder 161.6

Proof copy

Box-Folder 161.7Chopin, Frédéric. *Trois manuscrits de Chopin...**Étude des Variantes* par Alfred Cortot**Box-Folder** 161.8*Les éléments de la création musicale chez Frédéric Chopin*, par Edouard
Ganche**Box-Folder**
161.9

Notes

Box-Folder 161.10

Proofs

Complete set

Box-Folder 161.11-13

Miscellaneous sections

Box-Folder 162.1-2

D-E

Box-Folder 162.3

Des Ombiaux, Maurice

L'Amphitryon d'aujourd'hui: Introduction à la vie gourmande

Handwritten manuscript

Box-Folder 162.4

Page proofs

Box-Folder 162.5-8

<i>Le partissier françois</i>	Box-Folder 162.9
Écorcheville, Jules	Box-Folder 163.1
F-I	Box-Folder 163.2
Farrère, Claude	
<i>Contes chinos</i>	Box-Folder 163.3
<i>Contes d'oultre et d'autre mondes</i>	
Handwritten manuscript	Box-Folder 163.4
Typed and carbon copy manuscript	Box-Folder 163.5-6
Page proofs	Box-Folder 163.7-9
<i>Fin de Turquie</i>	Box-Folder 164.1
Oú? document	Box-Folder 164.2
<i>Tripolitaine</i>	Box-Folder 164.3
Guitry, Sacha	Box-Folder 164.4
Jaloux, Edmond	
<i>Le boudoir de Proserpine</i>	Box-Folder 164.5-6
<i>Fleurs de néflier</i>	Box-Folder 164.7
L-N	Box-Folder 165.1
Litschfousse, Victor	
<i>Alain, ou les vertus guerrières</i>	
Handwritten manuscript	Box-Folder 165.2
Galley proofs	Box-Folder os 89
Contract	Box-Folder 165.3
Miomandre, Francis de	Box-Folder 165.4
Noailles, Anna Elisabeth de Brancovan, comtesse de	
A-Z	Box-Folder 165.5

De la rive d'Europe à la rive d'Asie

Page proofs

1912, 96 pp **Box-Folder** 165.61912-1913, 132 pp **Box-Folder** 165.71913, 122 pp **Box-Folder** 165.8

Nolhac, Pierre de

Le dernier amour de Ronsard

Page proofs

79 pp, with extensive revisions and handwritten corrections **Box-Folder**
165.984 pp **Box-Folder** 165.1092 pp **Box-Folder** 165.1192 pp, with handwritten corrections **Box-Folder** 165.12Preface, handwritten manuscript **Box-Folder** 165.13O-R **Box-Folder** 166.1

Rassenfosse, Armand

En relisant Le fleurs de mal de Charles Baudelaire **Box-Folder**
166.2Original container **Box-Folder** 166.3Régnier, Henri de. *Pour les moins d'hiver* **Box-Folder** 166.4Roger-Ducasse **Box-Folder** os59Roussel, Albert. *L'Accueil de muses* **Box-Folder** os60

Saint-Saëns, Camille

*Au courant de la vie*Carbon copy and typed manuscripts **Box-Folder** 166.5

Frontispiece	Box-Folder 166.6
Proofs	
114 pp, 128 pp with handwritten corrections and a note by Saint-Saëns	Box-Folder 166.7
129 pp with handwritten corrections and a note by Louis Dorbon	Box-Folder 166.8
<i>Feuilles Mortes</i>	Box-Folder 166.9
<i>Germanophile: Prière d'insérer</i>	Box-Folder 166.10
Schmitt, Florent. <i>Sonate libre en deux parties enchaînées</i>	Box-Folder os59
Schumann, Robert. <i>Fantaisies et Finale</i>	Box-Folder os61
Sénac de Meilhan, Gabriel	Box-Folder 167.1
Silvain	Box-Folder 167.2
Thomas, Louis	
<i>André Rouveyre</i>	
Proofs	
114 pp, with handwritten corrections, emendations, printer's notes, and paste-ups by Rouveyre	Box-Folder 167.3
125 pp, 108 pp, with handwritten emendations	Box-Folder 167.4
Various authors, Manuscripts par Beethoven	Box-Folder 167.5
Unidentified	Box-Folder 167.6

Series III. Business Records, 1909-1932

A-Z

Box-Folder 167.7

Contract, Farrère, Claude

Box-Folder 167.8

Publicity documents

Box-Folder 167.9

Subscription file, Les bibliophiles fantaisistes

Box-Folder 167.10