

Oscar Wilde:

An Inventory of His Art Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900
Title:	Oscar Wilde Art Collection
Dates:	1840s-1890s
Extent:	8 items
Abstract:	The collection consists of portraits of Wilde and his parents by various artists, and a portrait by Wilde of Florence Balcombe Stoker.
Call Number:	Art Collection AR-00296
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Please note that a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to pull Art Collection materials to the Ransom Center's Reading and Viewing Room. Some materials may be restricted from viewing. To make an appointment or to reserve Art Collection materials, please contact the Center's staff at art@hrc.utexas.edu . Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials.
Use Policies:	Ransom Center collections may contain material with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those individuals may have legal ramifications (e.g., a cause of action under common law for invasion of privacy may arise if facts concerning an individual's private life are published that would be deemed highly offensive to a reasonable person) for which the Ransom Center and The University of Texas at Austin assume no responsibility.
Restrictions on Use:	Authorization for publication is given on behalf of the University of Texas as the owner of the collection and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder which must be obtained by the researcher. For more information please see the Ransom Centers' Open Access and Use Policies.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation Oscar Wilde Art Collection (AR-00296). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

Acquisition: Purchases, 1960-1966

Processed by: Ransom Center Staff; Jill Morena, 2019

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

Biographical Sketch

For a short biography of Oscar Wilde (Irish, 1854-1900), see the finding aid for the Oscar Wilde Collection (MS-04515).

Sources:

Holland, Vyvyan. *Oscar Wilde, A Pictorial Biography*. New York: Viking Press, 1960.

Holland, Vyvyan. *Son of Oscar Wilde*. London: R. Hart-Davis, 1954.

Scope and Contents

The majority of items in the collection consists of pencil, ink, and watercolor drawings. The collection is divided into two sections, Series I. Portraits of Oscar Wilde, 1870s-1890s, and Series II. Other Portraits, 1840s-1870s. Series I. consists of two portraits of Oscar Wilde, including a study for a seated portrait by James Edward Kelly, commissioned to promote Wilde's American lecture tour. The drawing was formerly accompanied by a handwritten manuscript and envelope in Wilde's hand ("and many an Afghan chief..."), dedicated to Kelly, that can be found in Box 1, Folder 1 of the Oscar Wilde Collection (MS-04515). Also included in this series is a caricature of Wilde, which was originally published in *Punch* magazine, that depicts him as an unlikely French soldier, a reference to his inevitable conscription into military service should he take action on his short-lived consideration to renounce his British citizenship for French. Series II. includes two youthful portraits of Wilde's parents, William Wilde and Lady Wilde. Most notable in this series is a portrait by Oscar Wilde of a young Florence Balcombe, before her marriage to author Bram Stoker. An accompanying mat, currently unlocated, was signed by Wilde and indicated that the drawing was created in August 1876.

Related Material

Works by and correspondence to and from Wilde can be found in the Oscar Wilde Collection (MS-04515). Photographs of and related to Wilde are located in the Oscar Wilde Literary File Photography Collection (PH-02635). A caricature of Wilde and his brother, William Charles Kingsbury ("Willie") Wilde, can be found in the Sir Max Beerbohm Art Collection (AR-00022).

Index Terms

People

Stoker, Florence Balcombe, 1858-1937.

Wilde, Lady, 1821-1896.

Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900.

Wilde, William Robert, 1815-1876.

Subjects

Caricatures--1890-1900.

Portraits--1840-1890.

Document Types

Pen and ink drawings.

Pencil drawings.

Watercolors.

Series I. Portraits of Oscar Wilde, 1870s-1890s

Accession Number: 65.59 Kelly, James Edward, 1855-1933. Oscar Wilde, 1882.
Pencil on paper, 34.3 x 29.2 cm.

Location
Flat Files

Accession Number: 65.88 Miles, George Francis, 1852-1891. Oscar Wilde, 8
December 1875. Pencil on paper mounted on board, 9.2 x 8.5 cm (image);
45.5 x 35.4 cm (mat).

Accession Number: 66.66 Partridge, Bernard, 1861-1945. A Wilde Idea, circa
1890s. Ink on paper matted on board, 23.1 x 12.4 cm (image); 35.3 x 27.6 cm
(mat).

Series II. Other Portraits, 1840s-1870s

Accession Number: 65.78.2a Mulrenin, Bernard, 1803-1868. Lady Jane Francesca Elgee Wilde, circa 1850s. Watercolor and pencil on paper, 30.5 x 22.8 cm (irregular) (image); 51 x 40.7 cm (mat). **Location**
Flat Files

Accession Number: 65.78.2b Frame for 65.78.2a, 19th or 20th century. Gold paint on wood, 36 x 28.6 cm. **Location**
Wilde,
O., Box
1

Accession Number: 65.78.3a Mulrenin, Bernard, 1803-1868. William Wilde, circa 1846. Watercolor and pencil on paper, 30.4 x 22.6 cm (irregular) (image); 43.8 x 39.3 cm (mat). **Location**
Flat Files

Accession Number: 65.78.3b Frame for 65.78.3a, 19th or 20th century. Gold paint on wood, 36 x 28.6 cm. **Location**
Wilde,
O., Box
1

Accession Number: 65.326 Wilde, Oscar, 1854-1900. Florence Balcombe, 1876. Pencil on paper, 17.8 x 15.6 cm (image); 35.8 x 28.3 cm (mat). **Location**
Flat Files