

Omar Khayyam:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

- Creator:** Omar Khayyam, 1048-1122
- Title:** Omar Khayyam Collection
- Dates:** 1810-2009 (bulk 1892-1930), undated
- Extent:** 5 document boxes, 1 oversize box (osb) (2.10 linear feet), 1 oversize folder (osf)
- Abstract:** The Omar Khayyam Collection documents the British and American craze for Omar, the Rubaiyat, and all things Persian following the 1859 publication of Edward FitzGerald's translation of the quatrains. Included are articles; correspondence; illuminated manuscripts; printed ephemera such as calendars, a card game, clippings, menus, and programs; and translations by other authors. The archive is complemented by a collection of over 1,000 printed books in the Ransom Center's Library; a plaque from the Omar Khayyam Club of America in the Personal Effects Collection; 52 lantern slides created by Elihu Vedder to illustrate the Rubaiyat in the Photography Collection; and related materials in the Eastern Manuscripts Collection.
- Call Number:** Manuscript Collection MS-03103
- Language:** English, Esperanto, French, Manx, Persian
- Access:** Open for research. 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.

Administrative Information

- Preferred Citation** Omar Khayyam Collection (Manuscript Collection MS-03103).
Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.
- Processed by:** Joan Sibley and Richard Workman, 2019 **Note:** This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
- Repository:** [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)
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Works and Documents:

Unidentified author, L., M. The bard & the bibliophile, initialed Ams, 2 pages, undated. **Container**
1.1

Unidentified editor. Papers on the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám. 32 papers by various authors bound together with hand-lettered and illustrated title page, contents pages, and chapter titles, 400 pages bound, 1857-1904. The papers are either typed copies or printed and are arranged in chronological order:

Aldrich, Thomas Bailey, 1836-1907. A Persian poet, 1878. **Container**
1.2

Cadell, Jessie E. (also known as Cadell, H. M., Mrs., 1844-1884). The true Omar Khayam, 1879.

Chadwick, John White, 1840-1904. The rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám, 1872.

Clodd, Edward, 1840-1930. Edward FitzGerald, 1894.

Conway, Moncure Daniel, 1832-1907. The Omar Khayyám cult in England, 1893.

Cornhill magazine. Omar Khayyám's ruba'iyat, 1890.

Cowell, Edward B. (Edward Byles), 1826-1903. Omar Khayyám, the astronomer-poet of Persia, 1858.

Fidelis, pseudonym of Machar, Agnes Maule, 1837-1927. An old Persian poet, 1876.

Fraser's magazine. Omar Khayyám, the astronomer-poet of Persia, 1870.

Garcin de Tassy, M. (Joseph-Héliodore-Sagesse-Vertu), 1794-1878. Note sur les Rubâ'iyât de Omar Khaïyâm, 1857.

Gautier, Théophile, 1811-1872. Les quatrains de Kèyam traduits du persan, 1867.

Gosse, Edmund, 1849-1928. Edward FitzGerald, 1889.

Groome, Francis Hinds, 1851-1902. Edward FitzGerald: An aftermath, 1889.

Holland, Bernard, 1856-1926. The present popularity of Omar Khayyam, 1899.

Houghton, Arthur Boyd, 1836-1875. A study in despair, 1885.

Keene, H. G. (Henry George), 1825-1915. Loose stanzas, 1895.

Keene, H. G. (Henry George), 1825-1915. Omar Khayyam, 1887.

Literature. The translations of Omar Khayyám, 1898.

McCarthy, Justin H. (Justin Huntly), 1860-1936. The 1859 edition of FitzGerald's Omar Khayyám, 1886.

Murphy, Charles Perez. Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám paraphrased, for the most part, from the literal version of Mrs. Jessie E. Cadell, 1899.

Murray, James A. Omar Khayyam, 1896.

Norton, Charles Eliot, 1827-1908. Review of Nicolas' edition, 1867, and FitzGerald's second edition, 1868; 1869.

Phelps, William Lyon, 1865-1943. Schopenhauer and Omar Khayyam, 1888.

Pickering, Charles J. 'Umar of Nishâpûr, 1890.

Schinz, Albert, 1870- . Omar Khayyam et son culte en Angleterre et aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique, 1900.

Scudder, Horace Elisha, 1838-1902. Vedder's accompaniment to the song of Omar Khayyám, 1884.

Siddons, J. H., pseudonym of Stocqueler, J. H. (Joachim Hayward), 1800-1885. A Persian poet, 1876.

Spectator. The influence of Omar Khayyám, 1899.

Stokes, Whitley, 1830-1909. A translation: Quatrains from 'Omar Khayyám, 1885.

Torrey, Bradford, 1843-1912. Edward FitzGerald, 1904.

Whalley, P. Metrical translations from the quatrains of 'Umar Khayyám, 1877.

Wilson, H. Schütz (Henry Schütz), 1824-1902. The rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám, the astronomer-poet of Persia, 1876.

Ashraftli, Mirza. Description of MS No 1548 of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, signed Ams, 6 pages, 10 June 1901. Includes a copy of a Note on the subject by Pringle, A. T., 27 May 1898.

Container
1.3

Baff, William E. (William Edward), 1888- . Rubáiyát de Omar Kajam, signed A & Tms / translation into Esperanto, 46 pages bound, July 1909.

Container
1.4

- Barton, Bernard, 1784-1849. On the press, signed Ams, 2 pages, undated. **Container**
1.5
- Cochran, G. Franklin and Freter, T. H., Jr. Obscure translations and paraphrases of
the quatrains of Omar Khayyam, Tms, 107 pages, September 1935. **Container**
1.6
- Cowell, Edward B. (Edward Byles), 1826-1903. Key to the Calcutta manuscript of
the quatrains of Omar Khayyám, A & Tms, 109 pages bound with 1 page laid in, 10
June 1901. **Container**
1.7
- Dooman, Isaac. The rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, A & Tms / introduction, English
translation, and notes, 37 pages, 1909. **Container**
2.1
- Ganz, Charles. Materials prepared for the publication of The Golden Cockerel
Rubaiyat, A & Tms, 116 pages, undated. Includes correspondence among Ganz;
Ross, E. Dennison, Sir; and Rutter, Owen. **Container**
2.2
- George III, King of Great Britain, 1738-1820. Signed document commissioning Sir
Gore Ouseley as ambassador to Persia, 11 July 1810. Included with this: clipping,
undated. **Container**
osf 1
- Gooden, Stephen, 1892-1955. Print of tailpiece illustration for an unidentified
edition of the Rubaiyat, undated. **Container**
2.3
- Julius, Katherine G. Colet. A vision of Omar, signed Ams, 32 pages, presented to
Potter, Ambrose George, 21 December 1913. **Container**
2.4
- Kneen, J. J. (John Joseph), 1873-1938. Rubáiyát Omar Khayyám, Tms / translation
into Manx, 11 pages bound, undated. **Container**
2.5
- Omar Khayyam. Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, translated by FitzGerald, Edward:
- Coley, Louis B. for Burrage, Charles D. Ams / hand-lettered and illuminated, 53
pages bound, January 1903. **Container**
2.6
- Hill, Edwin B. of Ysleta, Texas, printer, 1940 and Burkhart, Emerson C., 1941,
illustrator, for Sloan, Charles H. Private printing, 42 pages bound, 1941, in
edition of only two copies. Includes 2 TLS from Hill to Sloan, 23 April and 27
November 1940 and 2 sample proofs, all pasted down in the bound volume. **Container**
2.7
- Johnston, Edward, 1872-1944. Calligraphic rendering on vellum of eight
rubaiyat, 2 pages, undated. **Container**
2.8
- McLaughlin, M. Louise (Mary Louise). Ams / hand-lettered and illuminated, 72
pages bound, 1901. **Container**
2.9
- Marsh, Lydia. Ams / hand-lettered and illuminated, 21 pages bound, March
1915. **Container**
3.1

Trew, Cecil G. (Cecil Gwendolen). Ams / hand-lettered and illustrated, 88 pages
bound with 1 page laid in, undated. **Container**
osb 1

Powys, Llewellyn, 1884-1939. Omar Khayyám, Tms, 17 pages, 29 May 1936. **Container**
3.2

Prideaux, W. F. (William Francis), 1840-1914. The lay of the Himyarites, initialed
Ams, 11 pages, and page proofs with handwritten corrections, 16 pages, August
1909. **Container**
3.3

Correspondence:

- Unidentified author (bookseller). TccL to Bond, Mrs., 23 June 1939. **Container**
3.4
- Agnew, Liagette. ANS to unidentified recipient, undated.
- Butt, Beatrice May. ALS signed Beatrice Allhusen to Thompson, Eben Francis,
undated. **Container**
3.5
- Clodd, Edward, 1840-1930. Concerning Edward FitzGerald / scrapbook containing
clippings, letters, menus, pamphlets, illustrations, etc., 1892-1920. Correspondents
and authors of original manuscripts include George Doughty, Edmund Gosse, John **Container**
Hay, A. Holmes, William Holman Hunt, Justin Huntly McCarthy, George Meredith,
Henry Nevinson, Owen Seaman, William Simpson, W. Thiselton-Dyer, and
Theodore Watts. 3.6
- Crawley, A. E. (Alfred Ernest), 1869-1924. 2 ALS to Dole, _____, 13 November
and 10 December no year. Included with these: 2 galley proofs of Greek text with
handwritten corrections, undated. Withdrawn from book: PK 6514 G7 C7. **Container**
3.7
- Dodge Publishing Company. TNS to unspecified recipient, 14 July 1910.
Withdrawn from book: PK 6513 A1 1896e.
- Ewing, Juliana Horatia, 1841-1885. ALS to Brown, Mrs., 6 April 1877. **Container**
3.4
- FitzGerald, Edward, 1809-1883:
- ALS to unidentified recipient Captain, 20 April 1871. With this: Tcc
transcription. **Container**
3.8
- ALS to Birkhell, _____, 16 September 1879. With this: Tcc transcription.
- ALS to Groome, Francis Hindes, undated.
- ALS to Smith, Elder, and Co., 28 November 1876.
- Furniss, Harry, 1854-1925. 5 ALI, with several drawings, to Heron-Allen, Edward, **Container**
1888, 1902, undated. 4.1
- Greene, Herbert Wilson, 1857-1933. 2 ALS to Dole, Nathan Haskell, 14 October
and 18 November 1897. Included with these: Unidentified author, empty envelope
with handwritten note on outside, undated. Withdrawn from book: PK 6514 L3 G7. **Container**
3.7
- Hill, Edwin B. ALS to Clem, John G., 9 July 1938. **Container** 3.4

- Jackson, A. V. Williams (Abraham Valentine Williams), 1862-1937. 2 ALS to Thompson, Eben Francis, 18 September 1920, 16 March 1923. Withdrawn from book: DS 49.5 J2. **Container** 3.7
- Lang, Andrew, 1844-1912. ANS to unidentified recipient Walker, 27 May no year. **Container** 3.4
- Lister, Henry Bertram, 1869- . TLS, ALS to Clem, John G., 12 July 1935, 11 April 1944.
- Mosher, Thomas Bird, 1852-1923. ALS to Thompson, Eben Francis, 3 April 1905. Withdrawn from book: PK 6513 A1 1859m copy 2. **Container** 3.7
- New Amsterdam Book Co. 2 TLS to Macy, Arthur, 5 March and 11 July 1902. Includes clipping. Withdrawn from book: PK 6513 A1 1901 copy 1.
- Pain, Barry, 1864-1928. ALS to Furniss, Harry, 6 April 1907. **Container** 4.1
- Pain, Barry, 1864-1928. ALS to Heron-Allen, Edward, 22 July 1902.
- Partridge, Bernard, 1861-1945:
- 2 ALS to Heron-Allen, _____, Mrs., 14 and 19 November 1899. **Container** 4.1
- 6 ALS to Heron-Allen, Edward, 1899-1904.
- ALS to Heron-Allen, Edward, 21 December 1901. Included with this: Heron-Allen, ALS in French to unidentified recipient Madame, 26 January 1901. Also included: printed prospectus for Heron-Allen's translation of the Rubaiyat. Withdrawn from book: PK 6511 E5 H5. **Container** 3.7
- Potter, Ambrose George:
- ANS to Clem, John G., 22 April 1934. Enclosed with this: Photograph of one page of the William Morris/Edward Burne-Jones manuscript of the Rubaiyat. Also included: 2 postcards illustrated with photographs of collections of various editions of the Rubaiyat. **Container** 4.2
- ALS to Clem, John G., 16 November 1935. **Container** 3.4
- ALS to Thompson, Eben Francis, 28 March 1903.
- Roe, George, 1861- . ALS to Burrage, Charles D., 28 July 1910. Includes drawing. Withdrawn from book: PK 6516 R7 1906. **Container** 3.7
- Roe, George, 1861- . ALS to Thompson, Eben Francis, 21 March 1923. Withdrawn from book: PK 6516 R7 1910 copy 1.

- Rogers, Samuel, 1763-1855. ANS to unidentified recipient Lord John, undated. **Container**
3.4
- Shaw, Byam, 1872-1919. 5 ALS to Heron-Allen, Edward, 1910. **Container**
4.3
- Sickert, Walter, 1860-1942. 3 ALS to Heron-Allen, Edward, 30 April 1901, 17
October 1905, undated. **Container**
4.1
- Thompson, Eben Francis, 1859-1939. Correspondence and clippings re publication
of Thompson's *The rose garden of Omar Khayyām*, Worcester, MA: Hamilton
Brooks Wood, 1932 (claimed at the time to be the smallest book ever printed). **Container**
Includes APCS, APCI, 10 ALS Thompson to Stone, Wilbur Macey, 1923-1934, and
4.4
TLS Vail, Robert W. G. to Stone, 1933. Included with these: Original binding for
the collection of documents titled *Data re the smallest book* - 1933.
- Walton, Clarke W. FL to Clem, John G., 18 December 1934. Included with this:
printed bookmark. **Container**
4.5

Printed Ephemera:

Unidentified author:

The Omar Khayyam calendar, 1916 / printed, with illustrations by Seal, Ethel Davis, published by Barse & Hopkins, New York City, 1916. **Container** 4.6

The Omar Khayyam calendar, 1920 / printed, with illustrations by Seal, Ethel Davis, published by Barse & Hopkins, New York City, 1920. **Container** 4.7

Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam: A calendar / printed, published by George Sully & Co., New York City, 1921. **Container** 4.8

Unidentified collector:

Collection of documents re the 150th anniversary of the publication of Edward FitzGerald's translation of the Rubaiyat, 2009. **Container** 4.9-10

Collection of parodies from newspapers and magazines, Tms / copied, 53 pages, 1902-1905, undated. **Container** 4.11

Collection of published articles and ephemera related to the Rubaiyat, 1896-1957, undated. **Container** 4.12

Unidentified organization. The pageant play of "Omar Khayyam," printed programme, 3 copies, 9 September 1920. **Container** 4.13

Chromatic Club (Troy, N.Y.). Vocal performances, printed programme, 5 December 1898.

Omar Khayyam Club of America:

Four souvenir illustrated cards and menus, some signed by attendees, from meetings of the club, 1916-1922. **Container** 5.1

Menu of dinner at Pagani's, printed, 15 November 1928. Includes signature of John Drinkwater beneath his poem, Gentlemen: The chairman! **Container** 5.2

Printed FL, undated. Withdrawn from book: PK 6513 A1 1859ℓ. **Container** 3.7

Souvenirs and menus from annual meetings, 1900-1936. **Container** 5.3-6

Omar Tea Rooms. Extracts from The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyám, translated by FitzGerald, Edward, in printed pocket calendar form, 4 copies, 1910. **Container** 4.13

Rice, Charles I. 2 FPC / parody rubaiyat addressed To the chorus, 2 copies, 7
May 1910.

South Place Ethical Society (London, England). Omar Khayyam--Edward
FitzGerald Festival, programme, 21 March 1930. Two copies, one with
handwritten note by Ambrose George Potter.

Thompson, Eben Francis, 1859-1939. Collection of clippings of parodies and other
items related to the Rubaiyat, 1894-1919, undated. **Container**
5.7

Thompson, Eben Francis, 1859-1939. Collection of published ephemera related to
the Rubaiyat, 1910-1918, undated. **Container**
5.8

Walton, Clarke W. (Clarke Willis), 1885-1938. Omar: A game of the Rubaiyat /
printed card game, 54 cards, 1936. **Container**
5.9

Worcester Music Festival. The fifty-fourth annual festival of the Worcester County
Musical Association / program book, 1911. Includes program for Granville
Bantock's composition, Omar Khayyám, performed 27 September 1911. **Container**
5.10

Empty envelopes:

Empty envelope with handwritten note on outside, undated. Withdrawn from book: **Container**
PR 4703 P7. 3.7

Empty envelope with handwritten note on outside, undated. Withdrawn from
book: PR 4703 J3.

Empty envelope with handwritten notes on outside, undated. Withdrawn from
book: PS 3523 A775 P6 1938

Empty envelope with handwritten title, Japanese Omar, 1910. Withdrawn from
book: PK 6515 J3 1910.

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date