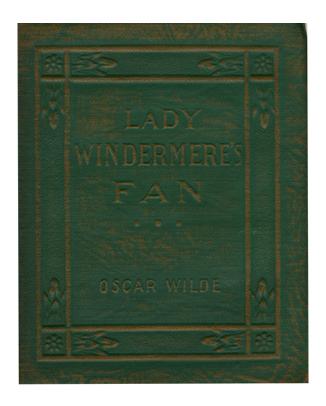
Guide to the Little Leather Library Collection, 1920-1924



http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/specialcollections/findingaids/ms160

Little Leather Library, 1920-1924

Processed by Ken Kenyon, 2008; encoded by Byte Managers, 2008

Special Collections Department

Robert E. Kennedy Library

1 Grand Avenue

California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407 Phone: 805/756-2305 Fax: 805/756-5770

Email: archives@lib.calpoly.edu

URL: http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/specialcollections/

© 2008 Trustees of the California State University. All rights reserved.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY	3
TITLE: COLLECTION NUMBER: CREATOR: ABSTRACT: EXTENT: LANGUAGE: REPOSITORY:	
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	3
Provenance:	
RESTRICTIONS ON USE AND REPRODUCTION:	3
INDEXING TERMS	4
SUBJECTS:	
RELATED MATERIALS	4
RELATED COLLECTIONS:	
CORPORATE NOTE	4
Sources	5
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE	6
SERIES DESCRIPTION/FOLDER LIST	7
A. SERIES 1. BOOK VOLUMES, REDCROFT EDITION, 1920-1924	

Descriptive Summary

Title:

Little Leather Library Collection, 1920-1924

Collection Number:

MS 160

Creator:

Little Leather Library Corporation of New York

Abstract:

The Little Leather Library Collection consists of 101 books, 3-1/4" x 4," published by the Little Leather Library Corporation of New York. The miniature books are brownish green in color, of imitation leather, and characteristic of the Redcroft edition published between 1920-1924. There were over 100 miniature book titles published in the various editions of the Little Leather Library, but it is not known if all of these titles were included in the Redcroft edition. The collection was donated in 2008.

Extent:

The Little Leather Library Collection consists of 101 books, 3-1/4" x 4," and is housed in two flat boxes.

Language:

English

Repository:

Special Collections, Robert E. Kennedy Library California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

Administrative Information

Provenance:

Donated by John Helps in 2008.

Access:

Collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only. For more information on access policies and to obtain a copy of the Researcher Registration form, please visit the Special Collections Access page.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

In order to reproduce, publish, broadcast, exhibit, and/or quote from this material, researchers must submit a written request and obtain formal permission from Special Collections, Cal Poly, as the owner of the physical collection.

Photocopying of material is permitted at staff discretion and provided on a fee basis. Photocopies are not to be used for any purpose other than for private study, scholarship, or research. Special Collections staff reserves the right to limit photocopying and deny access or reproduction in cases when, in the opinion of staff, the original materials would be harmed.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of Item]. Little Leather Library Collection, Special Collections, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects:

Literature – Collections American Literature English Literature Hubbard, Elbert, 1856-1915 Kipling, Rudyard, 1865-1936 Morris, William, 1834-1896 Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616

Genres and Forms of Material:

Miniature books, 3-1/4" x 4"

Related Materials

Related Collections:

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Rare Books Collection Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Fine Printing Graphic Arts Collection

Corporate Note

The Little Leather Library Corporation of New York was the first company to mass-market inexpensive books in the United States. The corporation, founded in 1916 by Albert Boni, Harry Scherman and Maxwell Sackheim, made available a wide variety of classics by authors including Rudyard Kipling, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, William Morris, William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, Robert Louis Stevenson, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Henry James, Leo Tolstoy, Oscar Wilde and William Butler Yeats in miniature editions. The 101 books in this collection are brownish green in color, bound in imitation leather, and characteristic of the Redcroft edition published between 1920-1924. Only the first two editions were bound in real leather.

When first published, the little books were sold at the Woolworth's chain. By the early 1920s, the books were advertised in popular magazines, selling in National Geographic from 1922 to 1924. Sometimes a miniature classic might appear in a cereal box as a promotion. Robert K. Hass, Inc., Publishers took control of the Little Leather Library Corporation in 1924. Boni later established Modern Library Publishing Company, of which Random House

Publishers would become a subsidiary company. Scherman and Sackheim as well as Hass were later involved in the establishment of the Book of the Month Club.

Sources

"Arts and Crafts Movement." Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arts and Crafts movement>

Hamilton, Charles F. *As Bees in Honey Drown: Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters*. New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., 1973.

Helps, John. Personal interview. 26 Jun 2008.

Hubbard, Elbert. *The Tale of Two Tailors: Which the Same Has the Quality of Being TRUE*. East Aurora, N.Y.: Roycrofters, 1909.

"Little Leather Library" < http://home.earthlink.net/~littlelibrary/>

"Roycroft." Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roycroft

Wolfe, Richard J., and Paul McKenna. Louis Herman Kinder and Fine Bookbinding in America: A Chapter in the History of the Roycroft Shop. Newtown, PA.: Bird & Bull Press, 1985.

Scope and Content Note

The Little Leather Library Collection consists of 101 books, 3-1/4" x 4," published by the Little Leather Library Corporation of New York. The miniature books are brownish green in color, of imitation leather, and characteristic of the Redcroft edition published between 1920-1924.

There were over 100 miniature book titles published in the various editions of the Little Leather Library, but it is not known if all of these titles were included in the Redcroft edition. Only the first two editions were bound in real leather.

The production of the Little Leather Library enabled the masses to read inexpensive classics. The cheap imitation leather Redcroft edition, published between 1920-1924, appears to have been a take-off on the well-crafted books published by Elbert Hubbard's Roycroft Press.

Elbert Hubbard, who was inspired by William Morris' Arts and Crafts movement in England, became an important Reformist in the United States, beginning the Roycroft movement and community in East Aurora, New York in 1895.

Hubbard's Roycroft Press was modeled after Morris' Kelmscott Press. Books made from handmade paper were printed on the Roycrofter's Golding Pearl letterpress. There is a marked difference between the finely bound, hand-crafted Roycroft volumes of Emerson, Edgar Allan Poe, Robert Louis Stevenson and Coleridge and their Redcroft edition counterparts.

Although the Arts and Crafts Movement was a reaction to the mechanization of the Industrial Revolution, there were those in the movement who felt that objects should be affordable.

Roycrofters supported those who did fine personal work in all endeavors, including design work in factories, but it is doubtful that the Roycroft seal would be applied to the volumes of the Little Leather Library.

The volumes of the Little Leather Library are stored in two boxes. The provenance, or original organization, of the books has been preserved for the most part and the collection is in one series.

Series Description/Folder List

Series 1. Book volumes, 1920-1924

Contains one subseries: A. Book volumes, Redcroft edition

A. Series 1. Book volumes, Redcroft edition, 1920-1924

Contains 101 Little Leather Library books, arranged alphabetically by author's last name, with the first five books arranged alphabetically by book title for collected works.

Box 1 Volume 1 Fifty Best Poems of America

Box 1 Volume 2 Fifty Best Poems of England

Box 1 Volume 3 Mother Goose Rhymes

Box 1 Volume 4 Words of Jesus, Vol. I

Box 1 Volume 5 Words of Jesus, Vol. II

Box 1 Volume 6 Allen, James As a Man Thinketh

Box 1 Volume 7 Andersen, Hans Christian Fairy Tales

Box 1 Volume 8 Balzac, Honoré de *Christ in Flanders and Other Stories*

Box 1 Volume 9 Barrie, J.M. A Tillyloss Scandal

Box 1 Volume 10 Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Sonnets from the Portuguese

Box 1 Volume 11 Browning, Robert Pippa Passes

Box 1 Volume 12 Browning, Robert Poems and Plays Box 1 Volume 13 Burns, Robert The Poems and Songs of Robert Burns

Box 1 Volume 14 Burton, Richard F. – trans. Tales from the Arabian Knights, Vol. I

Box 1 Volume 15 Burton, Richard F. – trans. Tales from the Arabian Knights, Vol. II

Box 1 Volume 16 Carroll, Lewis Alice in Wonderland

Box 1 Volume 17 Carroll, Lewis Through the Looking Glass

Box 1 Volume 18 Coleridge, Samuel Taylor The Rime of the Ancient Mariner and Other Poems

Box 1 Volume 19 Dante Inferno, Vol. I

Box 1 Volume 20 Dante Inferno, Vol. II

Box 1 Volume 21 De Quincey, Thomas Confessions of an Opium Eater, Vol. I

Box 1 Volume 22 De Quincey, Thomas Confessions of an Opium Eater, Vol. II

Box 1 Volume 23 Dickens, Charles A Christmas Carol

Box 1 Volume 24 Doyle, Arthur Conan, Sir Tales of Sherlock Holmes

Box 1 Volume 25 Drummond, Henry The Greatest Thing in the World Box 1 Volume 26 Dumas, Alexandre The Comtesse de Saint-Géran

Box 1 Volume 27 Emerson, Ralph Waldo *Essays*

Box 1 Volume 28 Emerson, Ralph Waldo Uses of Great Men

Box 1 Volume 29 Fitzgerald, Edward – trans. The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Box 1 Volume 30 Gilbert, W.S. The "Bab" Ballads

Box 1 Volume 31 Hale, Edward Man Without a Country

Box 1 Volume 32 Hubbard, Elbert A Message to Garcia

Box 1 Volume 33 Hugo, Victor Last Days of a Condemned Man

Box 1 Volume 34 Ibsen, Henrik A Doll's House

Box 1 Volume 35 Ibsen, Henrik *Ghosts*

Box 1 Volume 36 Irving, Washington Old Christmas

Box 1 Volume 37 Irving, Washington Rip Van Winkle

Box 1 Volume 38 Kielty, Bernardine The Sidewalks of New York Box 1 Volume 39 Kipling, Rudyard At the End of the Passage and The Mutiny of the Mavericks

Box 1 Volume 40 Kipling, Rudyard Barrack Room Ballads

Box 1 Volume 41 Kipling, Rudyard City of Dreadful Night and Other Stories

Box 1 Volume 42 Kipling, Rudyard Finest Story in the World

Box 1 Volume 43 Kipling, Rudyard The Man Who Was and Other Stories

Box 1 Volume 44 Kipling, Rudyard The Mark of the Beast and the Head of the District

Box 1 Volume 45 Kipling, Rudyard *Mulvanney Stories*

Box 1 Volume 46 Kipling, Rudyard The Phantom Rickshaw and My Own True Ghost Story

Box 1 Volume 47 Kipling, Rudyard Vampire and Other Verses

Box 1 Volume 48 Kipling, Rudyard Without Benefit of Clergy

Box 2 Volume 49 Lamb, Charles Dream Children

Box 2 Volume 50 Lincoln, Abraham Speeches and Addresses

Box 2 Volume 51 Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth *Evangeline* Box 2 Volume 52 Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth *Hiawatha, Vol. I*

Box 2 Volume 53 Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth *Hiawatha, Vol. II*

Box 2 Volume 54 Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth The Courtship of Miles Standish

Box 2 Volume 55 Macaulay, Thomas Lays of Ancient Rome

Box 2 Volume 56 Maeterlinck, Maurice *Pelleas and Melisande*

Box 2 Volume 57 Maupassant, Guy de Short Stories

Box 2 Volume 58 Mérimée, Prosper *Carmen*

Box 2 Volume 59 Moore, Thomas *Irish Melodies*

Box 2 Volume 60 Morris, William A Dream of John Ball

Box 2 Volume 61 Plato The Trial of Socrates

Box 2 Volume 62 Poe, Edgar Allan The Gold Bug

Box 2 Volume 63 Poe, Edgar Allan The Murders in the Rue Morgue

Box 2 Volume 64 Poe, Edgar Allan The Raven and Other Poems Box 2 Volume 65 Schreiner, Olive Dreams

Box 2 Volume 66 Shakespeare, William As You Like It

Box 2 Volume 67 Shakespeare, William A Comedy of Errors

Box 2 Volume 68 Shakespeare, William Hamlet

Box 2 Volume 69 Shakespeare, William Julius Caesar

Box 2 Volume 70 Shakespeare, William *King Lear*

Box 2 Volume 71 Shakespeare, William *Macbeth*

Box 2 Volume 72 Shakespeare, William Merchant of Venice

Box 2 Volume 73 Shakespeare, William Merry Wives of Windsor

Box 2 Volume 74 Shakespeare, William Midsummer Night's Dream

Box 2 Volume 75 Shakespeare, William Othello

Box 2 Volume 76 Shakespeare, William Romeo and Juliet

Box 2 Volume 77 Shakespeare, William Sonnets Box 2 Volume 78 Shakespeare, William The Taming of the Shrew

Box 2 Volume 79 Shakespeare, William *The Tempest*

Box 2 Volume 80 Shakespeare, William Twelfth Night

Box 2 Volume 81 Shaw, George Bernard On Going to Church

Box 2 Volume 82 Shaw, George Bernard Socialism for Millionaires

Box 2 Volume 83 Stevenson, Robert Louis A Child's Garden of Verses

Box 2 Volume 84 Stevenson, Robert Louis The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Box 2 Volume 85 Stevenson, Robert Louis Will O' the Mill and Markheim

Box 2 Volume 86 Tennyson, Alfred Coming of Arthur

Box 2 Volume 87 Tennyson, Alfred *Enoch Arden*

Box 2 Volume 88 Tennyson, Alfred The Holy Grail

Box 2 Volume 89 Tennyson, Alfred Lancelot and Elaine

Box 2 Volume 90 Thoreau, Henry David *Friendship and Other Essays* Box 2 Volume 91 Tolstoy, Leo *The Bear Hunt and Other Stories*

Box 2 Volume 92 Turgenev, Ivan Mumu and Kassyan of Fair Springs

Box 2 Volume 93 Washington, George Speeches and Letters

Box 2 Volume 94 Whitman, Walt Memories of President Lincoln

Box 2 Volume 95 Whittier, John Greenleaf Snow-bound and Other Poems

Box 2 Volume 96 Wilde, Oscar Ballad of Reading Gaol and Other Poems

Box 2 Volume 97 Wilde, Oscar The Happy Prince

Box 2 Volume 98 Wilde, Oscar *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Box 2 Volume 99 Wilde, Oscar Lady Windermere's Fan

Box 2 Volume 100 Wilde, Oscar Salomé

Box 2 Volume 101 Yeats, William Land of Heart's Desire