A Guide to the Edgar Wilson Nye ["Bill Nye"] Collection

Edgar Wilson Nye ["Bill Nye"] Collection 1870-1900

1870-1900

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 7949-b

Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

1997

History

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A Guide to the Edgar Wilson Nye ["Bill Nye"] Collection

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number
7949-b

Language
English

Extent

27 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

See the University of Virginia Library's use policy.

Acquisition Information

Deposit [1963 Dec 17] 1966 Jul 7

Funding Note

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Preferred Citation

Edgar Wilson Nye ["Bill Nye"] Collection, Accession 7949-b, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Item Listing

Manuscripts

Short Story: " An Unfinished Poem"

Unit Date 1870

Extent

AMsS,
3 p.

" A Father's Letter to his Son"

Unit Date 1893

Extent

AMsS,
11 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes book dealer's note.]

" Pall Mall St. "

Unit Date 1894 Jan 12

Extent

AMsS,
8 p.

Scope and Content

[Signed Wm. Pauncefoot Nye.]

Poem beginning "The autumn leaves is falling . . ."

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMsS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[For Miss May Smillie.]

Beginning, "This is a reading from one of my unpublished works . . ."

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMsS,
5 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes typed transcript; gives account of the first money he ever earned and a visit to the circus.]

" The Autobiography of a Justice of the Peace"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
3 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes pencil notation "Regular galley matter follows here" in an unknown hand.]

Letters

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Leon Meare

Unit Date 1882 Sep 17

Extent ALS,1 p.w/env

Scope and Content

[Encloses "Unfinished Poem" in letter; mentions Mr. [Roshacher].]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Frank Hatton

Unit Date 1884 Oct 15

Extent ALS,4 p.w/env

Scope and Content

[Includes typewritten dealer's comment and original pen and ink drawing by Nye; as former postmaster of Laramie, he congratulates him on appointment as United StatesPostmaster General.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to "Friend Scott"

Unit Date 1885 Oct 17

Extent

ALS,
3 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes dealer's note; hopes to meet him in person on Nye's upcoming trip to Boston, having been acquainted with him for years in spirit only; accepts Scott's invitation to help him "destroy a chicken"; says he will stop on the way to Bostonto deliver a lecture in Altoona, Pennsylvania; mentions his uncle, B. S. Nye.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Samuel Sidney McClure

Unit Date 1885 Aug 28

Extent

ALS,
3 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes small magazine photo of Nye; indicates his readiness to do all his humorous writing for McClure's syndicate; suggests that it would be more profitable for both the writer and the paper; says that copyright would prevent his articles from being "stolen" by other papers as frequently is the case now.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Samuel Sidney McClure

Unit Date 1885 Oct 21

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Agrees to write exclusively for the syndicate if conditions can be met, starting with $60 per week; asks the publisher to pay him whatever is fair for the material that has already been published.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to James Newton Matthews

Unit Date 1887 Dec 28

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Relates how James Whitcomb Riley"secured the Metropolitan Pelt at the Author's Reading"; says Riley was not given a chance but was very convincing in introducing his own style of humor; states that the audience, press, as well as the critics were enthusiastic.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Walter Hugh McDougall

Unit Date 1889 May 1

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes typewritten dealer's note; begins "Sir. You cannot scare me with your hot words," and ends "I do not seek a quarrel but the widows and orphans of those who has monkeyed with me agree that I am no slouch. Defiantly yours."]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Mr. Chambers

Unit Date 1889 Aug 28

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Sends a piece that appeared in the Journalistand asks him to paste it in his scrapbook.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to John R. Clements

Unit Date 1890 Sep 22

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Informs him that from now on he intends to publish his own books, starting with an Almanac for 1891.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to "My dear Edward"

Unit Date 1890 Dec 17

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes original pen and ink self-portrait caricature waving goodbye to ships; humorously commiserates with a friend who has shattered a foot; relates at length his own experience with a broken leg; says his after-dinner speeches at club have become much better since he took to drinking goat's milk and Vichy; says the speeches aren't as witty as before, but they read better in the papers.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to "My dear fellow"

Unit Date 1890 Dec 17

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes pen and ink self-portrait at top of page; informs him that he will come to the Author's Club; gladly accepts offer to spend the night at his home.]

Edgar Wilson ["Bill Nye"] Nyeto Mr. Kemble

Unit Date 1891 Jan 27

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Looks forward to meeting him at the Emporium of Major James B. Pond; agrees to look at a manuscript with Kemble.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to "Dear Sir"

Unit Date 1891 Sep

Extent

ALS (facsimile),
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Announces opening of his new play The Cadion September 21, 1891, at the Union Square Theaterin New York City; declares that the expense for the production would be appalling to him had he to furnish the money himself; says the play relates to his own experience as a Justice of the Peace on the frontier.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Samuel Sidney McClure

Unit Date 1893 Jul 8

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Turns down a request to do an interview "between me and myself" for the paper; claims that readers would not be interested and that he is pressed for time; suggest instead an interview between James Whitcomb Rileyand himself.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to "Dear Boy"

Unit Date 1895 Nov 21

Extent

ALS,
5 p.

Scope and Content

[Humorous description of an accident he and his wife had.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to B. G. Brown

Unit Date 1895 Jul 31

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Thanks him for a letter expressing regard and generous applause.]

"Doe" to "My dear Harry"

Unit Date 1900 Nov 13

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Sends on request an old Bill Nyeletter dealing with an injured foot; announces a visit to Philadelphiawhere he hopes to see Harry; promised letter is probably to "My dear Edward" from 1890 December 17.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to "Dear Leon"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Extends an invitation to visit him at his home.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to unknown

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Fragment praising the music of his friend [Richard] Wagner, stating that it is much better than it sounds; sends James Whitcomb Riley's address.]

Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] to Richard Watson Gilder

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Assures him of his readiness to write for him again.]

Photographs and prints

Four magazine photos on one page of Edgar Wilson Nye["Bill Nye"] at ages 20, 28, and at the present day

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

Photos,

Scope and Content

[Includes 5 photos of George Washington Cableon verso.]