

A Guide to the Richard Watson Gilder Collection

Richard Watson Gilder Collection

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 7135-a
Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library
1997

History

Processed by: Margret Groschel
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Title Statement

A Guide to the Richard Watson Gilder Collection

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Collection: 7135-a

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

7135-a

Language

English

Extent

50 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 Informaiton

Deposit 22 Jul 1964

Funding Note

Funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Preferred Citation

Richard Watson Gilder Collection, Accession 7135-a, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Item Listing

Manuscripts

Poem, " On the Life-Mask of Abraham Lincoln"

Unit Date 1907 Nov 16

Extent

AMsS,
1 p.

Poem, " The Christ-Child"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Initialed]

Poem, " A Letter to John Burroughs"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMsS,
11 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes an initialed note by Gilder stating that the poem was later called " The Building of the Chimney"; begins, "My chimney is builded . . ."]

Poem, " On a Portrait of Servetus"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMsS,
1 p.

Poem, " The Singing River"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMsS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes note on top of page, "This is the original for Mrs. [Aldrich]."]

Poem, " Two Optimists"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Initialed]

Essay, " American Sentiment Concerning Russia and Japan"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
18 p.

Scope and Content

[Missing pages 2-6.]

Editorial, " The Christmas Century"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
5 p.

Editorial, " A Law-Regarding Race"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
2 p.

Essay, " The Only Literary Success Worth Having"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
4 p.

Essay, " A Test of Character"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
3 p.

Scope and Content

[Initialed]

Editorial, " Ten Thousand Manuscripts"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

AMs,
7 p.

Poem, " A Soul Lost and Found"

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

TMSS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes autograph corrections.]

Letters

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Mr. Seymour

Unit Date 1871 Apr 27

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Wonders if he wants any of Scribner's Japan pictures for his series Travel and Adventure.]

Richard Watson Gilder, Bordertown, New Jersey, to Dr. [Robert Bridges]

Unit Date 1876 Oct 13

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Talks about a novel by Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen; says it seems more foreign than Gunnar although it depicts life in an American Western Norwegian settlement; adds that the novel needs work, but that he

considers it worth publishing in the magazine.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Mrs. Foot

Unit Date 1877 May 23

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Says he is sorry about her ill health; mentions a short story she has in the works; says he has been to see Frances Hodgson Burnett and that she is writing a new serial for him; praises Burnett's play, " Esmeralda. "]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen

Unit Date 1880 Jun 26

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Praises his piece " The Lost Hellos"; says that the "Dr." agrees that the piece is in "excellent form -- heathenish but heavenly"; discusses business.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Epes Sargent, New York

Unit Date 1880 Sep 22

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Asks for help in selecting pieces for the "encyclopedia"; suggests several titles, including Charles deKay's Hesperus and Other Poems(1880).]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Dr. William Hayes Ward, New York

Unit Date 1885 Oct 24

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Press copy in secretarial handwriting and signature; discusses a piece that may appear in Century Magazine.]

Amelie Rives Troubetzkoy, Castle Hill, Virginia, to Richard Watson Gilder, New York

Unit Date 1886 Apr 4

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses her piece " Goranne de Savare" which he has sent to her to correct.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Dr. William Hayes Ward, [New York]

Unit Date 1888 Apr 24

Extent

TLS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses poem, " The Innovation" by Ward; Gilder agrees with Lewis Frank Tooker, of the Century staff; criticizes content and style of the poem and suggests changes for both; says poem reminds him of Swinburne and Whitman.]

Charles F. Chichester, New York, to Richard Watson Gilder

Unit Date 1888 Sep 5

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Speaks of an enclosed letter that will interest him; says he has information that Scribner's will send an expedition to Russia; wonders if their own friend in Moscow has definite information on it, but has mixed them up; reports on progress repairing the Century Building on 17th Street; says the mantel in Gilder's office with Dr. Howard's relief was destroyed and wonders if he has taken measures to replace the original carving with a replica; comments in postscript on a book by Peter Cooper on Jefferson which the Century Co. is not going to publish; says he is afraid the family will not make money from the book because of small sales.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Bishop John Fletcher Hurst, Washington, D. C.

Unit Date 1890 Jan 30

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Says he would like to see Hurst's paper on the "Salzburg Exiles"; says he is convinced the bishop will make a good thing of it.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Dr. William Hayes Ward, New York

Unit Date 1890 Dec 5

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Sends him some material he requested.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Herbert Dickinson Ward

Unit Date 1893 Nov 29

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Says he is pleased that Ward likes the illustrations by [A.] Castaigne; states that the story will appear in

the February number.]

Sir Charles George Douglas Robertsto Richard Watson Gilder

Unit Date 1896 Aug [1]

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Welcomes him and his wife to Canada; hopes Mrs. Gilder's health is improved; quotes a line of "native Canadian verse."]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Dr. William Hayes Ward, [New York]

Unit Date 1896 Nov 29

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Says he is not sure that Ward will like his frankness; asks for a prompt return of the manuscript.]

Samuel Reynolds Hole, [England], to Richard Watson Gilder, [England]

Unit Date 1898 Jul 22

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Admires the North American Review; appreciates the invitation for literary contribution; says his time is, however, limited because he is writing a book [Our Gardens]; wishes him a successful visit to England.]

Bronson [Crocker] Howardto Richard Watson Gilder, New York

Unit Date 1899 May 25

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Sends him part of a proposed article; says he is very unsure of the piece as he is used to writing dramatic dialogue only; asks for perfect frankness from him; talks about illustrations for the article.]

Laurence Alma-Tadema, London, England, to Richard Watson Gilder, New York

Unit Date 1899 Oct 13

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Offers a short novel for possible publication in 3 parts to Century Magazine.]

George Madden Martin(Mrs. Atwood R. Martin), Louisville, Kentucky, to Richard Watson Gilder, New York

Unit Date 1900 Sep 19

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Thanks him for the verdict on her manuscript; confesses that she had doubts about it herself after sending it off; apologizes for sending it.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Florence Nightingale Levy, New York

Unit Date 1900 Oct 4

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Notifies her that the business proposition relating to the American Art Annual has been rejected; says it would be too expensive for the club; with autograph sentence.]

Richard Watson Gilder, Four Brooks Farm, Lee, Massachusetts, to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Unit Date 1901 Aug 6

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Looks forward to the Aldrich family's visit to Four Brooks Farm; gives directions to farm and description of it; says they will discuss proper attire for Aldrich to appear in at Harvard and Yale[to receive honorary degrees ?] there and then; tells him that Professor Wein's tailor is the one to engage; speaks at length about the academic gowns for both occasions.]

Cyrus Townsend Brady, Cape May, New Jersey, to Editor of Century Magazine[Richard Watson Gilder], New York

Unit Date 1901 Aug 23

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Returns galley to " Under the Ban of the Redbeard"; says the story should be called "Barbarossa," a more captivating name for a book as well as a play, which he intends to do; defends his usage of the words "King" and "Kaiser," citing Caesar and the Roman Empire; explains his attitude toward the use of capital and lower case letters for titles; wishes to put under his name in galley 1, "author of The [Guiberon] Touch and Colonial Fights and Fighters, " the titles of his last books to be published in the fall; asks for a set of proofs of the illustrations.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to [Elizabeth Stuart Phelps] Ward, [Massachusetts]

Unit Date 1902 Feb 25

Extent

ALS,
3 p.

Scope and Content

[Says he is locked up at home with a "blooming" cold; speaks about a letter he has sent her; gives her permission to use the letter as she pleases; says he will sign what she sends him; pleads with her not to overexert herself for the cause.]

Richard Watson Gilder, East Gloucester, Massachusetts, to Herbert Dickinson Ward

Unit Date 1902 Aug 29

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Says Ward has been mentioned as one author who may have written " The Confessions of a Wife"; asks him to assist in the concealment of authorship by returning to affirm or deny the rumor; says he heard of Ward's possible authorship from the "traveler."]

Bertha Reunkle, [New York], to Richard Watson Gilder, New York

Unit Date 1902 Nov 11

Extent

ALS,
3 p.

Scope and Content

[Sends him the manuscript of a story she has not quite finished; reminds him that he asked to see it some time ago.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Mr. Chambers

Unit Date 1903 Jan 14

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Refuses to publish his piece in Century Magazine; says the story regards suicide and is controversial.]

Clarence Clough Buel, New York, to Richard Watson Gilder, New York

Unit Date 1903 Sep 28

Extent ALS,1 p.w/AN

Scope and Content

[Discusses the December issue of Century Magazine; informs him that there is room for [John] Burroughs, [Henry Cabot] Lodge, and [George Henry] Sargentas well as [" The Bigoudines"], an illustrated article; asks for his wishes and ideas; mentions the pleasant news of Gilder's progress. Includes initialed AN by Gilder and autograph note, initialed by Gilder, remarking on the contents and looks of the December issue of Century Magazine;]

Richard Watson Gilder, [New York], to Herbert Dickinson Ward

Unit Date 1903 Dec 30

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Says he is at home on the mend; tells him it might be necessary to see Mr. [Robert Underwood] Johnson who is running things at Century Magazine; expresses New Year's wishes.]

Richard Watson Gilder, Lee, Massachusetts, to Robert Underwood Johnson, New York

Unit Date 1904 Oct 13

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses poetic work by Gilder which Johnson has looked at and made suggestions about; compliments him for devoting so much attention to details of composition, etc., even though he is busy as an editor.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, [Boston]

Unit Date 1904 Nov 3

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses a book she wrote expressing her anti-vivisection views; discusses her following of homeopathic medicine and vegetarianism; speaks of his own revulsion to hunting, fishing, even eating mutton; leans toward a vegetarian diet; speaks accusingly of landlords near his farm in Massachusetts, Trinity Church, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and of Abraham Lincoln; says that "Gentle Lincoln" assisted in the vivisection and maiming of myriads, without anesthesia, and destroyed millions of human lives to free the slaves.]

Richard Watson Gilder, [New York], to Harry Thurston Peck

Unit Date 1904 Dec 29

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Tries to meet with him to speak about a print in the current chapter of his history.]

Richard Watson Gilder, Lee, Massachusetts, to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Unit Date 1905 Sep 4

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Talks about a woman writer whose "charming" novel Four Ways to Paradise was published by the Century Co., but who does not write much any more these days; hopes the rainy weather will stop for

Aldrich's visit; says they had a reading the night before of favorite pieces by Aldrich, of which a verse was appreciated by their old friend, the Marquis di Rosalis, though he is not familiar with it; gives directions for coming by trolley from Pittsfield to Lee, should he miss the connection.]

William Webster Ellsworth, New York, to Richard Watson Gilder, Tyringham, Massachusetts

Unit Date 1906 Jul 30

Extent

TLS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses a trip to California, a meeting with Mary Austin in San Francisco, the possibility of serializing one of her books [Isidro]; mentions her other books and poetry, published by Houghton, Mifflin, and Co.; mentions writing of Bret Hart and George Washington Cable; says he dissuaded Austin from moving to the east coast; discusses other Century Co. business; includes autograph note.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, [Massachusetts]

Unit Date 1907 Dec 28

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Talks about a fine copy of the praying hands by [Albrecht] Durer and a book about Durer that he owns; mentions Christmas; says he is very happy with a household of children; says he has had a setback in his health and is still at home because of it; says she is the kindest person he knows.]

Richard Watson Gilder, New York, to Florence Nightingale Levy, New York

Unit Date 1909 Apr 22

Extent

TLS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses an old mantelpiece in his house, 13 East 8th Street, which he considers poor architecture, not a good Colonial example; says she is welcome to look at; includes autograph sentence.]

Fanny Heaslip Lea, New Orleans, to Richard Watson Gilder, New York

Unit Date 1910 Jan 14

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Discusses her short story, " Little Anna and the Gentleman Adventurer" which she sent to Century Magazine; says it has not been acknowledged; written after Gilder's death in November 1909.]

Miscellaneous

Proof of poem, " Hymn"

Unit Date 1881 Jul

Extent

Proof,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Includes autograph notes, initialed.]

Picture

Portrait of Richard Watson Gilder, with caption, clipped from a magazine

Unit Date n. d.

Extent

Engraving