

# A Guide to the Booth Tarkington Collection

Booth Tarkington Collection 1907-1914

1907-1914

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A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 7416-f

Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

1997

## History

**Processed by:** Special Collections Department Staff

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**Encoded by:** Courtney Boissonnault

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Booth Tarkington Collection

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**Collection:** 7416-f

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## Profile Description

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## Revision Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Collection Number**

7416-f

**Language**

English

**Extent**

24 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**

Purchase [ 1971 Jul 14] 1971 Aug 5

**Funding Note**

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## Item Listing

### Letters

**Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1907 Aug 20

**Extent**

ALS,  
2 p.

**Scope and Content**

[Expresses appreciation for Riley's poem and its dedication to himself; attributes his becoming a writer to Riley's influence; states that only his feeling that his books did not meet Riley's critical standards prevents him dedicating one to him.]

**Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1907 Aug 26

**Extent** ALS,2 p.w/env

**Scope and Content**

[Thanks Riley for an inscribed set of his collected works; writes that he will take them to Paris when he returns; compares the sensation of seeing such a handsome edition of a writer's work to that of an artist seeing all his paintings "well hung in some handsome gallery.]

**Elizabeth B. Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1907 Nov 1

**Extent** ALS,2 p.w/env

**Scope and Content**

[Writes on behalf of the Managers of the Indianapolis Orphans Asylum to ask for financial support; describes the plight of the orphanage whose support has been cut by the General Assembly; hopes the citizens of Indianapolis will help or the children must be "turned out."]

## **Helena Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1907 Nov 28

**Extent** ALS,1 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Expresses appreciation for his tribute to the "Old Glee Club" in The Reader; thanks him for contribution and for friendship in a time of grief.]

## **Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1907 Dec 4

**Extent** ALS,1 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Feels greatly honored that his name will live on in Riley's book; writes it is a comforting thought as he is unsure of the worth of his own books.]

## **Louisa Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** [1908] Jan 20

**Extent** ALS,2 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Requests inscription for photograph for Booth Tarkington to hang by his desk.]

## **John S. Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** [1908 Jul 27]

**Extent** ALS,1 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Writes that he has learned from Cushing that Riley is from Boone, Indiana and wonders if his absence is explained by a trip to Boone. ]

## **Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** [1911] May 2

**Extent** ALS,4 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Expresses pleasure over recent visit; outlines plan for a small party to celebrate the hanging of Riley's portrait by [Wayman ?] Adams in the Tarkingtons' home; suggests inviting Mrs. Holstein, whose relief portrait of Riley he praises, Ed Howland, Hewitt Howland and their father, Carl McCulloch, M. D.; discusses the merits of portraits of Riley by Sargent, Steele, and especially one by Adams.]

## **Unknown to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** [1911 Aug 16]

**Extent** ALS,1 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Describes reading "The Black People" to an invalid who liked everything except the conclusion; encloses last photograph of the deceased Gamin.]

## **Louisa Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** [1912] Jan 14

**Extent** ALS,2 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Thanks him for "the beautiful Lockerbie Book."]

## **Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1913 Apr 14

**Extent** ALS,3 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Thanks him for praise of his work "The Flirt"; recalls his admiration, since boyhood, of Riley as creator

and critic.]

### **[John S.] Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1913 Aug 12

**Extent** ALS,1 p.w/env

#### **Scope and Content**

[Thanks him for gift of candy, saying Linda [Tarkington] is "placated" for his absence while visiting Riley; she disclaims that statement and thanks him for the candy.]

### **Susannah Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1913 Oct 7

**Extent** ALS,5 p.w/env

#### **Scope and Content**

[Describes vacation in Maine, improvement in Booth Tarkington's health, visit of Haute, Donald and his nurse; discusses complications of feeding and housing such a diverse group; comments on Donald's remarkable recovery and Ovid's return; mentions plan to go to New York and Princeton before returning home; notes her pleasure reading " Bag and Baggage" and the " Lockerbie pieces. "]

### **Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** 1914 Mar 16

**Extent** ALS,4 p.w/env

#### **Scope and Content**

[Thanks him for praise and grapefruit; describes conflict between Italian officer and German captain on a ship; comments on Riley's improved health; writes that work on Harper's series prevented travel; outlines Penrod story to appear in Metropolitan and describes movie written for Jimmy Hackett to be filmed in Paris.]

### **Susannah Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** Sep 10

**Extent** ALS,3 p.w/env

#### **Scope and Content**

[Regrets departure for Maine before Riley's return to Indiana; describes Booth Tarkington's good health and their expectation of staying in Maine until November.]

### **Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Extent** ALS,1 p.w/env

#### **Scope and Content**

[Invites him to a formal dinner with Mr. B., Mr. Doubleday and the "home-folks."]

### **Booth Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Extent** ALS,1 p.w/env

#### **Scope and Content**

[Expects him at [The University] Club later in the day; writes they will be joined by Stoker, Dr. Hays, and Laurence Irving. ]

### **John Tarkington to James [Whitcomb Riley]**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Extent**

ALS,  
2 p.

#### **Scope and Content**

[Provides recipe for a fruit drink; sends 2 tumblers, lemons, and oranges; writes that the concoction will put him "knee deep in July"; suggests sharing with Bob Geiger's "Lizzie."]

## **Louisa Tarkington to James Whitcomb Riley**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Extent** ALS,3 p.w/env

### **Scope and Content**

[Thanks him for the package containing " The Raggedy Man" for Laurel and " The Boys of the Old Glee Club" for herself.]

## **Photographs**

### **Home of Booth Tarkington, with car**

**Unit Date** 1911 Jun

**Extent**

Photo

### **View of waves**

**Unit Date** 1913 Oct

**Extent**

Photo

### **Scope and Content**

[Written on verso: "Surf at Kennebunkport. ]

### **John Tarkington, father of Booth Tarkington, seated**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Extent**

Photo

### **Scope and Content**

[Caption: "The most [illegible] Old Man."]

### **River scene**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Extent**

Photo

### **Scope and Content**

[Written on verso: "Sunset Rock -On the river."]

### **Shore scene**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Extent**

Photo

### **Scope and Content**

[Written on verso: "One of the many beautiful coves by the shore."]