

A Guide to the Papers Pertaining to the Printing of Christopher Morley's "Apology for Boccaccio", 1923

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1923

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History

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Descriptive Summary

Accession number
6254-m

Language
English

Physical Characteristics
This collection consists of 4 items.

Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Acquisition Information

This collection was transferred on 1989 August 21.

Preferred Citation

Papers Pertaining to the Printing of Christopher Morley's "Apology for Boccaccio", Accession #6254-m, Special Collections Dept., University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

Scope and Content Information

The collection contains two sets of page proof, 1923, of "An apology for Boccaccio." One set of proofs on modern paper is corrected by Morley. A second set, presumably that of printer James S. Bates, is on 18th century paper obtained by James Shields for a limited edition of Morley's essay.

With these are two sets of proof for Shields' editorial "Note" for the "Apology," one on modern paper with corrections addressed to Bates, and one on 18th century paper.

Accompanying the proofs are a letter to Shields from Morley concerning the essay and a letter to Shields from Smart Set Company, Inc., granting permission to reprint.

Contents List

Manuscripts

An Apology For Boccaccio 1923

Extent Page Proofs

Scope and Content

By Christopher Morley, apparently the printer's (James S. Bates) own copy of a rare Morley item, which was printed in an edition of eighteen copies on 18th Century handmade paper with an original deckle edge obtained from booksellers Bernard S. Foster and John Highlands in May 1922. The essay was originally written while Morley was an undergraduate at Oxford where it was read at a meeting of a literary club called "The Midwives" in 1912. "The Apology for Boccaccio" first appeared as an article in *Smart Set* in 1916. Morley was going to include the essay in *Shandygaff* but withdrew the corrected galleys before publication because he felt it was too "juvenile." These galleys came to the attention of James Shields, an editor at *The Evening Ledger*, Philadelphia, in August 1919 where Morley wrote a column under the by-line "Socrates." He left the galleys with Shields who kept them until he could find enough 18th Century paper to privately publish a limited edition of the essay. This collection includes two complete sets of page proofs, one on very thin modern paper with Morley's corrections in pencil and Shields' corrections in ink, and the other on the 18th Century paper secured by Shields for his limited edition.

An Apology For Boccaccio by Christopher Morley, an editorial note by James Shields 1923 Sep 17

Extent Page Proofs

Letters

Christopher Morley to Jamie [James Shields] [1923] Jul 30

Extent ALS. 2 p.

Scope and Content

Informs Shields that he has corrected the proofs in pencil, suggests that they note it was published in *Smart Set* in 1916 and that the dedication was written by Shields, agrees to the copyright in Shields name and remarks "yours - with sorrow that the little juvenile piece isn't worthier of the trouble you're taking."

Smart Set Company, Inc. to James Shields 1923 Sep 19

Extent TLS. 1 p.

Scope and Content

Gives Shields permission to reprint Morley's essay on "An Apology For Boccaccio," with proper credit.