Robert Ross Memorial Collection

Miscellanea in boxes

*Transferred to new boxes and envelopes: May 2014. Old Bodleian box marked: ‘Date 2/85…damaged’.

Box 1:

Ross Box 1.1
Contents (3 items): 1 envelope containing: 1 letter; 1 pamphlet.
Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 23rd June 1927.
1.1.ii - Pamphlet (8 leaves, 7 p., sewn): ‘A Few Odd Reflections on Idleness ’ compiled by Vyvyan Holland. Title page: ‘A few odd reflections on idleness Collected by Vyvyan Holland Idler To the sette [sic] of odd volumes and presented by him on Ladies’ Night Jun 22, 1927’. Edition: ‘227 Copies of these Reflections have been printed for presentation only. This is No. 145 [number in manuscript]. Manuscript note on verso of second leaf: ‘Walter Ledger from Vyvyan Holland 23.vi.27’. Includes printer’s mark: ‘Idler’.

Ross Box 1.2
Contents (5 items): 1 envelope containing: 2 photographs; 2 newspaper cuttings.
1.2.i - Photograph (postcard) showing Salomé performed by Tilla Durieux as Salomé and Max Eisfeldt as Jochanaan. Photograph by: ‘Zander & Labisch’. Photograph originally in envelope.

Ross Box 1.3
Contents (1 item): 1 envelope (without letter).
1.3 - Envelope (without letter) addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 19th July 1909; headed stationery with emblem on verso: ‘Hotel Regina, Place Rivoli Paris…’.
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Ross Box 1.4
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.
1.4 - Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves, folded) from Thomas Gavin Hume to Walter Ledger; dated 2nd November 1928. Hume thanks Ledger for receiving him at his home and for their discussions about Wilde and other literary subjects. Letter c/o Colonel Alcock. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 2nd November 1928.

Ross Box 1.5
Contents (2 items): 1 letter in envelope; 1 photograph.
1.5.i - Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves, folded) from Thomas Gavin Hume to Walter Ledger; dated 2nd February 1928. Hume thanks Ledger for his letter regarding Wilde, provides an account of his visit to Wilde’s tomb at Perè Lachaise, and discusses various biographies of Wilde. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 3rd February 1928.
1.5.ii - Photograph showing the tomb of Oscar Wilde at Perè Lachaise. Photograph originally in envelope.

*Ross Box 1.6-1.8 in same envelope*

Ross Box 1.6
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
1.6 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Sunday Times, 22nd January 1928 [printed heading]. ‘Letters to the Editor: Oscar Wilde’s Tomb’. Letter by ‘A.C.E.’ asking who wrote the inscription on Wilde’s tomb?

Ross Box 1.7
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.

Ross Box 1.8
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
1.8 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Sunday Times, 5th February 1928 [printed heading/manuscript note]. Response to [1.6] ‘Letters to the Editor: Oscar Wilde’s Tomb’, 22nd and 29th January 1928. Responses from Leonard Selden and Coleridge Kennard regarding the inscription and published photographs of the tomb.

*Ross Box 1.9-1.10 in same envelope*

Ross Box 1.9
Contents (1 item): 1 bookseller’s postcard.
Robert Ross Memorial Collection

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Ross Box 1.10
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.
1.10 - Letter in envelope: Letter (1 leaf) from Thomas Hume to Walter Ledger; dated 20th October 1928. Hume thanks Ledger for directions to his home and suggests a date and time for his visit. Letter written on headed paper (with accompanying envelope): ‘Cranston’s Ivanhoe Hotel, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1…’ Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 20th October 1928.

Ross Box 1.11
Contents (2 items): Photograph; photograph cover.

Ross Box 1.12
1.12 - Contents (2 items): Photograph; photograph cover. Photograph (on card, with damaged paper cover) of Oscar Wilde. Includes photographer’s mark on front, ‘W. & D. Downey’, and contemporary advertising on reverse. Notes on paper cover: ‘Walter Ledger…’ and ‘from W. & D. Downey…’

Ross Box 1.13
Contents (1 item): Pamphlet.

Ross Box 1.14
Contents (1 item): Copy of Oscar Wilde work.
1.14 - Copy of Oscar Wilde work (88 leaves, 44 sections, of thin paper between 2 pieces of card). Tracings made by Walter Ledger of Oscar Wilde’s alterations and corrections to the original manuscript of The Duchess of Padua. 2 leaves unnumbered followed by pp. 13-23, 26-41, 44-47, 51-79, 86-101, 106-109, 112-113, 120-121. Note on first section: ‘Note: The alterations and corrections shewn [sic.] on the thin paper pages in this volume, were traced by me from Oscar Wilde’s The Duchess of Padua, the property of Mr. Robert Ross. Walter E. Ledger. Wimbledon 13 June 1907.’

Ross Box 1.15
Contents (7 items): 1 exhibition catalogue; 1 advertisement/prospectus; 5 newspaper cuttings.
Robert Ross Memorial Collection

Miscellanea in boxes

1.15.ii - Advertisement/prospectus (1 leaf, folded, inserted loose into pp.2-3 of the exhibition catalogue) for the Dante Memorial Volume produced by the University of London Press. Includes details of the book and celebratory dinner.

*1.15.iii-vii were originally inserted loose into back leaf/cover of exhibition catalogue*


1.15.iv - Newspaper cutting: The Daily Telegraph. 3rd May 1921 [printed heading]. ‘Dante.’ Article about the 600th birthday of Dante and the Dante exhibition at University College, London.


1.15.vi - Newspaper cutting: The Daily Telegraph. 3rd May 1921 [printed heading/manuscript note]. ‘Genius of Dante. “Spirit of the Middle Ages”’ Article about a tribute to Dante with speakers including ‘Viscount Bruce and other distinguished speakers’.


Ross Box 1.16
Contents (2 items): 1 leaf of manuscript notes; 1 leaf with title page design.

Fragile: Handle with care. Items within 1 fold of thin paper and 2 pieces of card. Includes 2 loose bookplates: 1 Robert Ross Memorial Collection bookplate; 1 Walter Edwin Ledger bookplate.


1.16.ii - Leaf with title page design: Pencil design (fragile) for ‘The Daisy and Other Poems by Rennell Rodd also an Introduction by Oscar Wilde. Philadelphia. Printed for J. M. Stoddari & Co. (Published by) 1882’.

Ross Box 1.17
Contents (4 items): 1 section of paper with manuscript notes; 1 letter; 1 envelope; 1 leaf from a magazine.

1.17.i - Folded section of paper: Entitled ‘Mecure de France. 15 Mars. 1926. Une Lettre de M. Frank Harris. from Dr. Travers Smith. 23 April, 1926’.

1.17.ii - Letter (1 leaf), dated 22nd April from Travers Smith. Smith suggests that the enclosed article from the Mercure de France may be of interest.

1.17.iii - Envelope: Addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 22nd April 1926.

1.17.iv - Leaf from magazine (pp. 759-760) from the Mercure de France, 15th May 1926. Article of interest marked with red Xs: ‘Une Lettre de M. Frank Harris (pp. 759-760). Manuscript note in Ledger’s hand: ‘From Dr. Travers Smith. 23 April 1926’
Robert Ross Memorial Collection

Miscellanea in boxes

Ross Box 1.18
Contents (1 item): 1 bookseller’s catalogue.

*Ross Box 1.19-1.20 in same envelope*

Ross Box 1.19
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.
1.19 – Letter in envelope: Letter (1 leaf, typescript) from C. W. Stewart, Manager at Faber & Faber, to Walter Ledger; dated 5th June 1930; typed on headed paper: ‘Faber & Faber Limited Publishers 24 Russell Square London, W.C.1’. Stewart thanks Ledger for his letter dated 29th May 1930 and explains that he has sent a copy to Professor Rothenstein. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 5th June 1930.

Ross Box 1.20
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.
1.20 - Letter in envelope: Letter: (2 leaves, folded) from Dalhousie Young to Walter Ledger; dated 7th April 1905; written on headed notepaper: ‘16, Pembroke Road, Kensington, W.’. Young suggests that a bookseller such as Wright & Jones of Chelsea would be able to tell him more than she about Wilde’s books; that a particular translation about which Ledger had asked had been published in the Spirit Lamp but was possibly not republished; and that an almost complete translation of Oscar Wilde’s works and several pamphlets about him had lately been published by a German from J. C. C. Bruns of Minden in Westfalen. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated: 10th April 1905; manuscript note in Ledger’s hand: ‘answered 10 April 1905’.

*Ross Box 1.21-1.22 in same envelope*

Ross Box 1.21
Contents (2 items): 1 letter & 1 copy of letter in 1 envelope.  
*Both letter & copy in same envelope. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated: 14th June 1930; manuscript note in Ledger’s hand: ‘answered 22 June 1930’.
1.21.i - Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves) from John Rothenstein [Sir John Knewstub Maurice Rothenstein] to Walter Ledger; dated 14th June 1930 [date written by Ledger in pencil]; written on headed paper with heading replaced by manuscript address: ‘13, Airlie Gardens, W.8 Park 3008, c/o Count Kessler 15. Cranachstrasse Weimar, Germany’. Rothenstein explains that Mr Stewart of Faber & Faber, has written to him regarding Ledger’s Oscar Wilde collection and that, upon the suggestion of his father [Sir William Rothenstein], he suggests that an Oxford College house the collection. His particular suggestion is that Worcester College (of which he is an Old Member) house the collection. Rothenstein extends an invitation to Ledger should he wish to see their personal collection of Oscar Wilde relics.
1.21.ii – Copy of letter in envelope: Copy of letter (2 leaves) from Walter Ledger to John Rothenstein; dated 14th June (1930). Ledger thanks Rothenstein for his suggestion of Worcester College but indicates that he first wishes to investigate current feeling regarding Oscar Wilde at Magdalen College. He says that he would like to see Rothenstein’s Oscar Wilde relics and should be pleased if Rothenstein wished to see his own. Ledger also relates the news of his sister’s recent death and his subsequent ill health.

Ross Box 1.22
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.
1.22 - Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves, folded) from Vyvyan Holland to Walter Ledger; dated 19th April 1910; written on headed paper: ‘37, Kensington Palace Mansions, W.’. Holland thanks Ledger for postal orders to the value £3-12-6 and explains that he is sending ‘Reading Gaol’ and a ‘manuscript book’ that Ledger lent him along with the coffin plate from Bagneux. Holland wishes Ledger a speedy recovery from his illness. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 19th April 1910.

*Ross Box 1.23-1.24 in same envelope*

Ross Box 1.23
Contents (3 items): 1 letter & 2 copies of letters in 1 envelope.
*All letters/copies in same envelope. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated: 7th April 1930; manuscript notes in Ledger’s hand: ‘Faber & Faber, answered 8 April 1930 Second answer 29 May, 1930’.
1.23.i - Letter in envelope: Letter (1 leaf, typescript) from C. W. Stewart (Manager at Faber & Faber) to Walter Ledger; dated 7th April 1930; typed on headed paper: ‘Faber & Faber Publishers…24 Russell Square…’. Stewart explains that he has spoken to John Rothenstein who believed his father [William Rothenstein] would be happy to help find a home for the Oscar Wilde collection and asks whether Ledger could send a list of the main items to help them identify the most suitable location for it.
1.23.ii - Copy of letter in envelope: Copy of letter (1 leaf) from Walter Ledger to C. W. Stewart; dated 8th April 1930. Ledger thanks Stewart for his interest and explains that he will be happy to provide the information requested but that illness will prevent him from doing so immediately.
1.23.iii - Copy of letter in envelope: Copy of letter (2 leaves) from Ledger to C. W. Stewart; dated 29th May 1930. Ledger responds in full to Stewart’s letter of 7th April 1930, having recovered from his illness. Ledger suggests that it is easier to list what is not in the collection rather than what is, explaining that the collection is quite comprehensive and providing details of what is lacking. He suggests that current feeling may prevent the collection from being housed at Magdalen but notes that, considering the rehabilitation of Shelley at University College, anything may yet happen and asks Stewart to forward this information to Rothenstein.

Ross Box 1.24
Contents (1 item): 1 envelope.
1.24 - Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 5th May 1909.

*Ross Box 1.25-1.27 in same envelope*
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Ross Box 1.25
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.

1.25 - Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves, folded) from Thomas Gavin Hume to Walter Ledger; dated 7th February 1928; written on headed paper: ‘10 East Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh’.

Hume thanks Ledger for his letter and the information contained therein and for the book ‘Selected Prose’. Hume explains that he intends to ‘tackle the works of Wilde seriously’ and comments on his appreciation of The Duchess of Padua. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 8th February 1928.

Ross Box 1.26
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.


Rothenstein explains that when first asked for his advice, he had suggested Magdalen College for the collection but had thought that some there were still hostile to Oscar Wilde. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger: ‘45 Wilton Grove Wimbledon S.W. Yacht Blue Bird c/o Messrs Moody Bros. Swanwick Shore, Southampton’; postmark dated 17th September 1930; headed stationery: ‘The Berkeley’; manuscript note in Ledger’s hand: ‘answered 19 Sept. 1930 from Blue Bird at Moodys’.

Ross Box 1.27
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.

1.27 - Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves, folded) from Thomas Gavin Hume to Walter Ledger; dated 15th October 1928; written on headed paper: ‘10 East Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh’.

Hume asks whether he might call on Ledger. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 15th October 1928.

Ross Box 1.28
Contents (1 item): 1 bookseller’s auction catalogue.


Ross Box 1.29
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting in envelope.

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Ross Box 1.30
Contents (1 item): 1 magazine.

Note on front cover in Ledger’s hand: ‘Rec’d 3 April 1926’. Note on t.p in Ledger’s hand: ‘From Laura Vulda, 3rd April 1926.’

*Ross Box 1.31-1.32 in same envelope*

Ross Box 1.31
Contents (1 item): 1 envelope.
1.31 - Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger from Laura Vulda; postmark dated: [1906?].

Ross Box 1.32
Contents (1 item): 1 envelope.

*Ross Box 1.33-1.34 in same envelope*

Ross Box 1.33
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.

1.33 – Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves, folded) from an unknown correspondent to Walter Ledger; dated 11th April [1926]; written on headed paper: ‘…Julian Way, Harrow on the Hill’. The unknown correspondent discusses Laura Vulda and explains that they have so far been unable to find the publication ‘Kosmos’ that Ledger was looking for. Note on envelope in Ledger’s hand: ‘answered 12 April 26’. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark dated 11th April 1926; manuscript note in Ledger’s hand: ‘answered 12 April 26’.

Ross Box 1.34
Contents (1 item): 1 letter in envelope.

1.34 - Letter in envelope: Letter (2 leaves) from Laura Vulda to Walter Ledger; dated 9th May 1926. Vulda thanks Ledger for his letter and payment and hopes he can help her by interesting people in her work. She identifies the details of a particular issue of ‘Kosmos’ and offers to provide a delineation of Ledger or anyone else’s writing (although she notes that this can be difficult with people one knows). Throughout the letter Vulda talks of her impoverished circumstances. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; postmark removed.
Robert Ross Memorial Collection

Miscellanea in boxes

*Transferred to new envelopes; box retained: August 2014.

Box 2:

Ross Box 2.1
Contents (1 item): 1 painted drawing.
2.1 - Painted drawing (1 leaf) of a stained glass window depicting Oscar Wilde holding a white lily and a book of ‘Poems by Oscar Wilde’. A sunflower and buildings are shown in the background. Oscar Wilde is wearing a halo inscribed ‘Sanctus Oscar’ and a banner down the right-hand side of the page is inscribed ‘Wishing ye a joysome Noel and a bitter-sweet New Year’. Manuscript note on bottom of recto: ‘Sketch design of a window to be erected in the Home of Culture, at…’ [note incomplete].

Ross Box 2.2
Contents (1 item): 1 illuminated poem.
2.2 - Poem with illuminated border (1 leaf) entitled ‘To the Apostle of Decay: A Rhapsody in Blue and Yellow’. Manuscript note on verso: ‘From Mr F Shepherd of …13 June 1910, with letter’.

Ross Box 2.3
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes.
2.3 - Set of manuscript notes (8 leaves; folded unsewn section) comprising the author’s recollections of their first meeting with Oscar Wilde. Entitled ‘Esquisses. Oscar Wilde. To Alexander [Sava?]’. See Box 2, Item 3 transcription.

Ross Box 2.4
Contents (1 item): 1 envelope.

Ross Box 2.5
Contents (1 item): 1 manuscript transcription of a published work.

Ross Box 2.6
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
2.6 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Evening Standard, Tuesday 11th December 1928 [manuscript note/printed heading]: [Title missing]. Article with cartoon considering whether Oscar Wilde was ‘the last great conversationalist in England’. Manuscript note on top of recto: ‘From D.’
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Miscellanea in boxes

Ross Box 2.7
Contents (1 item): 1 design of bookplate.

2.7 - Design of bookplate: Pencil drawing of the Robert Ross Memorial Collection bookplate. Drawing on 1 loose leaf of paper originally found inside the writing pad but removed to accompanying folder for safekeeping, August 2014.

Ross Box 2.8
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Wilde bibliography.

2.8 - Set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography (12 leaves; 1 folded unsewn section; in ink) comprising a list in Walter Ledger’s hand of English works by Oscar Wilde. List entitled ‘Works. English 1’ on recto of first leaf various pencil annotations throughout.

Ross Box 2.9
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Wilde bibliography.

2.9 - Set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography (10 leaves; 1 folded unsewn section; in ink) comprising a list in Walter Ledger’s hand of English works by Oscar Wilde. List is entitled ‘Works. English 2’ on recto of first leaf with various pencil annotations throughout.

Ross Box 2.10
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Wilde bibliography.

2.10 - Set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography (12 leaves; 1 folded unsewn section; in ink) comprising a list in Walter Ledger’s hand of works by Oscar Wilde in various languages. List is entitled ‘Works. French. Italian. Spanish. Esperanto. Greek.’ on recto of first leaf with various pencil annotations throughout. List organised by language.

Ross Box 2.11
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Wilde bibliography.

2.11 - Set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography (12 leaves; 1 folded unsewn section; in ink) comprising a list in Walter Ledger’s hand of works by Oscar Wilde in various languages. List is entitled ‘Works. German. Dutch. Danish. Swedish.’ on recto of first leaf with various pencil annotations throughout. List organised by language.

Ross Box 2.12
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Wilde bibliography.


Ross Box 2.13
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Wilde bibliography.

2.13 - Set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography (10 leaves; 1 folded unsewn section; in ink) comprising a list in Walter Ledger’s hand of works by Oscar Wilde in various languages. List is entitled ‘Misc. 1. Rodd. Douglas etc. Langaard. Sherard. Harris. In
Memoriam.’ on recto of first leaf with various pencil annotations throughout. List organised by author.

**Ross Box 2.14**
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Wilde bibliography.

*2.14 - Set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography* (10 leaves; 1 folded unsewn section; in ink) comprising a list in Walter Ledger’s hand of works by Oscar Wilde in various languages. List is entitled ‘Misc. 2.’ on recto of first leaf with various pencil annotations throughout. List organised by author.

**Ross Box 2.15**
Contents (1 item): 1 leaf from prospectus.

*2.15 - Leaf from prospectus* (1 leaf) for ‘The Irish Collector and Book Review. Monthly… No. 1. Ready June 1st’. Listed in the contents is an article written by Stuart Mason (Christopher Sclater Millard) entitled ‘Oscar Wilde and the Aesthetic Movement, Illustrated…’ Leaf is illustrated.

**Ross Box 2.16**
Contents (1 item): 1 letter.

*2.16 – Letter* (1 leaf; typescript) from Townley Searle to Christopher [‘Townley Searle. Book and Print Seller, 18a Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin, Ireland.’] to Christopher Millard; dated May 28th 1919; Letter folded to form envelope. Searle thanks Millard for his letter and says that the ‘specimen contents page was only tentative’ and that he would be ‘pleased to use the “Wilde” article in my July number’. Searle asks whether Millard has a book written by [Frank] Harris [‘Oscar Wilde: His Life and Confessions’, New York, privately printed, 1918] and says that he can sends details if not. Searle also asks whether Millard’s bibliography is new and, if not, whether he can send Searle a review of it.

**Ross Box 2.17**
Contents (1 item): 1 offprint.

*2.17 - Offprint* (5 leaves) of article by Stuart Mason (Christopher Sclater Millard) entitled ‘Oscar Wilde and the Aesthetic Movement’. Leaves have been trimmed.

*Transferred to new envelopes; box retained: August - October 2014.*
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Box 3:

Ross Box 3.1
Contents (2 items): 1 letter in envelope; 1 set of manuscript notes/catalogue records.

3.1 - Envelope addressed to ‘Stephen Wright Esq. Bodleian Library’ containing 1 typescript letter and a set of manuscript notes or catalogue records for the various editions Wilde’s works in Ledger’s collection.

3.1.i - Letter: Letter (1 leaf) on headed notepaper (‘The Master’s Lodgings. University College Oxford’) from [Sir] Michael Ernest Sadler [Master of University College, Oxford, 1923-1934] to Stephen Wright [Bodleian Library]; dated 12th May 1932; written on headed notepaper: ‘The Master’s Lodgings. University College. Oxford…’ Sadler explains that he has received additional items from the executors of Walter Ledger’s estate. He encloses the manuscript notes and has two parcels to deliver, one containing music and the other containing a complete set of a ‘humorous magazine’.

3.1.ii - Set of manuscript notes/catalogue records (41 leaves, loose) written in Walter Ledger’s hand recording the editions of Oscar Wilde’s works in his collection. Entries are listed under title with full publication and binding details, and details of when, where, and for how much each edition was bought.

*Ross Box 3.2-3.3 in same envelope*

Ross Box 3.2
Contents (1 item): 1 auction catalogue.


Ross Box 3.3
Contents (1 item): 1 publisher’s catalogue.

3.3 - Publisher’s catalogue (31 p.) dated January – March 1908. Text on front cover: ‘Methuen’s Bulletin. January – February – March 1908.’ Front cover also includes sonnet by Oscar Wilde entitled: ‘On the sale by auction of Keats’ love-letters’. There are 3 references to Oscar Wilde: Wilde’s prose poem, ‘The artist’, is reproduced (p. 4); the new collected works of Oscar Wilde are described (pp. 8-9); the life and works of Oscar Wilde are reviewed by ‘P.R.A.’ (pp.27-28).

Ross Box 3.4
Contents (1 item): 1 portrait of Oscar Wilde.

3.4 - Portrait of Oscar Wilde mounted on black board with manuscript notes on bottom left-hand corner: ‘Frank Miles [George Francis ‘Frank’ Miles, artist], del.’ and bottom right-hand corner: F. Hollyer [Frederick Hollyer, photographer], photo.’ Manuscript notes on verso of mount: ‘To Walter Ledger from Robert Ross. May 15th 1909. Photograph of…Wilde…1882…From the original in possession of Robert Ross. The photographer is
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Fred Hollyer’ [writing difficult to decipher]. Robert Ross Memorial collection bookplate also on verso.

Ross Box 3.5
Contents (3 items): 1 envelope containing: 2 bookplates (attached); 1 offprint.
Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger; headed stationery; postmark dated 16th February 1928.
3.5i - Bookplates of Walter Edwin Ledger and the Robert Ross Memorial Collection (attached).
3.5ii - Offprint (5 leaves) [possibly from the Mercure de France], pp.69-78, of an article entitled: ‘Sur des lettres inédites d’Osac Wilde’. Manuscript notes in Walter Ledger’s hand on the recto of the first leaf: ‘From C.S.M. 6 Jan. 1926.’

Ross Box 3.6
Contents (1 item): 1 copy of Walter Ledger’s preface to De Profundis with revisions by Christopher Millard.
3.6 - Copy of Walter Ledger’s preface to De Profundis (7 leaves (numbered) and 1 small paper slip attached) with revisions by Christopher Millard in blue ink. Title on recto of first leaf: ‘Copy of my preface as revised by C.S.M. 14 June 1920. Preface.’

Ross Box 3.7
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography.
3.7 - Set of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography (10 leaves of squared paper with 1 leaf detached; 1 folded sewn section) comprising a list in Walter Ledger’s hand of works relating to Oscar Wilde in various languages. Various pencil annotations throughout.

Ross Box 3.8
Contents (1 item): 1 set of manuscript notes/desiderata.
3.8 - Set of manuscript notes/desiderata (6 leaves of lined paper; numbered; 1 folded sewn section) comprising a desiderata of works relating to Oscar Wilde written in Walter Ledger’s hand. Title on recto of first leaf: ‘July 1925. O.W. Desiderata.’

*Ross Box 3.9-3.17 in same envelope*

Ross Box 3.9
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.9 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf) mounted on paper: John o’ London’s Weekly [literary magazine published by George Newnes Ltd. of London], 29th December 1928 [manuscript note]. Article regarding ‘the sale in London…of a number of unpublished manuscripts and letters of Oscar Wilde…[including] poems and other literary works, a series of letters to intimate friends during and after his imprisonment, and also the last letter written on his death-bed’.
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Ross Box 3.10
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.

Ross Box 3.11
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.11 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Weekly Dispatch, 29th July 1923 [manuscript note]: ‘Oscar Wilde “Talks.” John Drinkwater’s Criticism. Spirit Epigrams.’ Article regarding the claim of Mrs. Travers Smith [Hester Dowden, 1868-1949, Irish Spiritualist], that she received ‘a number of messages purporting to come from the late Oscar Wilde’ [see ‘Oscar Wilde from Purgatory’ by Hester Travers Smith].

Ross Box 3.12
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.12 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Daily Telegraph, Friday 10th January 1930 [manuscript note]: Obituary of Mr. Carl Hentschel [1884-1930, inventor of the Hentschel-Colourtype process, founder of the Playgoers’ Club and O.P. Club,].

Ross Box 3.13
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.

Ross Box 3.14
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.14 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Daily Telegraph, Thursday 14th November 1929 [printed heading]: ‘Ghosts that can be smelt. Finger-prints of the dead. Sir Lawrence Jones’ claims.’ Article about the ways in which ghosts can be detected and about the authenticity of the Oscar Wilde scripts [from Hester Travers Smith’s ‘Oscar Wilde from Purgatory’].

Ross Box 3.15
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.15 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Daily Telegraph, Monday 2nd December 1929 [manuscript note]: ‘Wilde’s Epigrams. To the Editor of “The Daily Telegraph.” Letter from ‘G. I. Whitham. Clovedon, Somerset, Nov. 29’, disputing the claim of A. A. Milne that ‘“Wilde’s epigrams are as good to read as ever, but are now almost unbearable to hear”’.

Ross Box 3.16
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.16 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Sunday Times, Sunday 27th April 1930 [manuscript note]: Letter to the Editor from De V. Payen-Payne’, Paris, regarding the source of the stanza
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on Oscar Wilde’s tomb (‘And alien tears will fill for him / Pity’s long-broken urn; / For his mourners will be outcast men, / And outcasts always mourn’).

Ross Box 3.17
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.

*Ross Box 3.18-3.24 in same envelope*

Ross Box 3.18
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.

Ross Box 3.19
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.19 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Daily Express, Thursday 30th September 1926 [printed heading]: ‘Famous Modern Authors’ Confessions. “Dorian Gray” by Aldous Huxley. The author of “Antic Hay” (which has just been burned by the Alexandria Library) gives his impressions of “The Picture of Dorian Gray”, in continuance of the series of articles by famous living writers on certain of the Victorian classics which they recently read for the first time.’

Ross Box 3.20
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.

Ross Box 3.21
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.21 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): The Sunday Times, Sunday 4th May 1930 [manuscript note]: ‘Oscar Wilde’s Tomb.’ Response from G. D. Summers, Lincoln, to a letter to the editor from De V. Payen-Payne’, Paris, regarding the source of the stanza on Oscar Wilde’s tomb [18]. The respondent explains that the stanza is from the ‘Ballad of Reading Gaol’ and discusses the tomb more generally. Printed note beneath states that ‘Replies have also been received from James Herbert (Southport), A. E. Hanford (Scarborough), C. F. M. (Northam), R. (London), Frederick M. S. Blight (Cardiff), and Maude Annessley Brownlow (Sudbury, Middlesex).

Ross Box 3.22
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
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3.22 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf comprising 2 leaves attached): Newspaper cutting: The Daily Mail, 30th July 1923 [manuscript note]: “‘Messages’ from Oscar Wilde. Queer Story of Spiritualism. Medium’s Account of ‘Spirit Writing.’” Article about the claim of Mrs. Travers Smith [Hester Dowden, 1868-1949, Irish spiritualist], that she received ‘a number of messages purporting to come from the late Oscar Wilde’ [see ‘Oscar Wilde from Purgatory’ by Hester Travers Smith].

Ross Box 3.23
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.
3.23 - Newspaper cutting (1 leaf): Newspaper cutting: The Globe, Saturday 12th October 1912 (p.5) [manuscript note]: ‘Oscar Wilde Monument’. Article about the dispute between Jacob Epstein and the Pere la Chaise Cemetery authorities and the upcoming unveiling of the monument.

Ross Box 3.24
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper cutting.

Ross Box 3.25
Contents (1 item): 1 leaf of manuscript notes.
3.25 - Leaf of manuscript notes for Oscar Wilde bibliography (1 leaf of squared paper) entitled: ‘O.W. BRIT: MUS: CAT:’ [formerly of a larger set of manuscript notes].

Ross Box 3.26
Contents (13 items): Fold of card containing 3 newspaper cuttings; 2 calling cards; 1 envelope (without letter); 1 prospectus; and 5 sets of manuscript notes on lined paper. Fold of card entitled: ‘O.W. Bibliography. English. German, Polish, Russian Translations. Swedish, Italian, Translations.’
3.26.iv - Calling card (1 leaf): Calling card of Dr. Max Meyerfeld [1875-1945, journalist and translator who translated some of Oscar Wilde’s works into German]. Typescript note on recto: Lützow-Ufer 29’; manuscript note on recto: ‘17 Montague Place, W.C.’; manuscript note on verso: ‘Parker [?] & Holman. St. …Cornhill’.
3.26.v - Calling card (1 leaf): Calling card of Michael Lykiardopoulos. Typescript note on recto: ‘Literary Consultant and Secretary to the Moscow Art Theatre’; manuscript note on
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recto: 14, Neglinny…2, Moscow, Russia’; manuscript note on verso: ‘Mayfair Chambers, 13 Little Grosvenor Str., Mayfair.’


3.26.viii - Set of manuscript notes (1 leaf): Draft of introductory material for the Millard/Ledger bibliography. Leaves of lined paper with manuscript notes entitled ‘A Chronological Bibliography. List of the Writings of Oscar Wilde.’ Manuscript note in top left-hand corner: ‘Copy of this sent to Millard for opinion 5 Dec. 1907’.

3.26.ix - Set of manuscript notes (1 leaf): Draft of introductory material for the Millard/Ledger bibliography. Leaves of lined paper with manuscript notes entitled ‘O.W. Bibliography. List of Countries.’ The remaining text comprises a list of countries and languages in which Wilde’s works have been identified.


3.26.xii - Set of manuscript notes (3 leaves): Draft of introductory material for the Millard/Ledger bibliography. Leaves of lined paper with manuscript notes entitled ‘II’. Part II outlines the structure of the bibliography. Manuscript note in top left-hand corner: ‘3rd. draft.’ Includes cumulative word count and total.

Ross Box 3.27
Contents (3 items): 1 envelope containing 2 off-prints.


3.27.ii - Off-print (8 leaves): ‘La Vie Prison en Angleterre. Jugee Par Oscar Wilde.’ translated by Henry-D. Davray [as above], from L’ermitage, July 1904[?], pp. 65-76. Manuscript note in top left-hand corner of first leaf: ‘From Henry D. Davray. 10 August 1927’. Contains some underlining in blue pencil. [This was originally folded into envelope. Now unfolded separate from envelope].
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Ross Box 3.28
Contents (1 item): 1 envelope containing 1 typescript.

3.28 - Envelope containing 1 typescript. Envelope addressed to Walter Ledger, postmarked 16th May 1926, and headed ‘Mercure de France…’.

3.28.i - Typescript (5 leaves) entitled ‘Introduction to De Profundis, written by Frank Harris [James Thomas Harris, 1856?-1931, journalist], and dated December 1925. Contains annotations, omissions, and additions. Annotation indicates that the final paragraph was omitted in the later version. Manuscript note on recto of first leaf: ‘From H. D. Davray. 15 May 1926. See letter No.27. Sent to Davray by Frank Harris.’; manuscript note on recto of fifth leaf: ‘Three more pages in the book signed at end: Frank Harris. February, 1926.’

Ross Box 3.29
Contents (1 item): 1 empty envelope.


Ross Box 3.30
Contents (3 items): 3 newspaper cuttings.


Ross Box 3.31
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper.

3.31 - 1 newspaper (12 p.): Greek periodical ‘O Noumas’, 17th September 1906, 4, No. 213 (6 leaves, 12 p.). Manuscript note in top left-hand corner of the recto of the first leaf: ‘Ballad in Greek. Millard Sale. 9 May 1907.’ The first part of ‘The Ballad of Reading Gaol’ appears in Greek on pp.4-5.

Ross Box 3.32
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper.

3.32 - 1 newspaper: Greek periodical ‘O Noumas’, 24th September 1906, 4, No. 214 (6 leaves, 12 p.). The second part of ‘The Ballad of Reading Gaol’ appears in Greek on p.11. Small round sticker attached annotated: ‘410a/6’.
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Ross Box 3.33
Contents (1 item): 1 newspaper.