

02.4.5.12

COLLECTIONS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

NAME OF COLLECTION: Wilfred OWEN Papers

SOURCE: Purchase 1979

SUBJECT: British World War I poetry

DATES COVERED: 1917-1965

NUMBER OF ITEMS: 68

STATUS: (check appropriate description)

Cataloged:  Listed:  Arranged:  Not organized:

CONDITION: (give number of vols., boxes, or shelves)

Bound:  Boxed: 1 Stored:

LOCATION: (Library) Rare Book & Manuscript CALL-NUMBER Ms Coll/W. Owen  
(VAULT) 3

RESTRICTIONS ON USE Reader must use published version of Owen's letters  
or photocopies filed with the collection.

DESCRIPTION: A collection of letters and manuscripts by, and relating to, the British World War I poet, Wilfred Owen (1893-1918), who was killed on the battlefield in France, and whose Poems were posthumously edited and published by his friend, Siegfried Sassoon. Included are: seven letters written by Owen to Sassoon, Nov. 5, 1917-Oct. 10, 1918; twenty-one letters from the poet's mother, Mrs. Susan Owen, to Sassoon, 1921-1933; twenty-eight letters written by the poet's brother, Harold Owen, to Sassoon, 1921-1957; two letters written by the poet's cousin, Leslie Gunston, to Sassoon, 1921, and Edmund Blunden, 1930; three letters from the Owen scholar, Denis S. R. Welland, to Sassoon, 1950; and two letters from Chatto & Windus and Oxford University Press to Sassoon, 1946 and 1965. The letters written by Owen to Sassoon date from shortly after Owen left the Craiglockhart War Hospital to a few weeks before Owen's battlefield death on November 5, 1918, and cover the period of Owen's greatest achievement as a war poet; they have been published in The Collected Letters of Wilfred Owen, 1967, edited by Harold Owen and John Bell. The letters written by Mrs. Owen contain a great deal of information about her son, his manuscripts and papers, and the preparations for the 1931 edition of the Poems edited by Edmund Blunden. The Harold Owen letters cover a wide range of subjects and are of particular interest for the information about the writing of his book, Journey from Obscurity: Memoirs of the Owen Family. There are also three poetry

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manuscripts in the collection: autograph manuscript of "The Blind" (published as "The Sentry"), 37 lines, 2pp., September 1918; autograph manuscript of "Spring Offensive", 18 lines, 1p., September 1918, early draft of the poem as published in Poems, 1920, edited by Sassoon; and autograph manuscript of "Shadwell Stair," 16 Lines, 1p., ca. November 1917.