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# Guide to the Francis William Bourdillon Collection

OSB MSS 165



by Diane J. Ducharme and Olivia Hillmer

July 2010

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 165

**CREATOR:** Bourdillon, Francis William, 1852-1921

**TITLE:** Francis William Bourdillon collection

**DATES:** 1874-1921

**BULK DATES:** 1880-1900

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.83 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English and French.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists almost entirely of printed copies of works by Francis William Bourdillon, especially his narrative poems and occasional verse, along with several versions of his translation of Aucassin et Nicolette. In addition, there are sketchbooks, etchings, and a photograph album containing views of the Swiss Alps.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bourdillon>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bourdillon>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from John Hart on the Hazel M. Osborn Fund, 2002.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Francis William Bourdillon Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Francis William Bourdillon Collection. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing at the time of acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from the detailed list supplied by the dealer, John Hart, a copy of which is in Box 1, folder 1. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are those provided by the dealer. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases.

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## Francis William Bourdillon (1852-1921)

Francis William Bourdillon was born in Buddington, Sussex and educated at Worcester College, Oxford. He served as tutor to the sons of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein at Cumberland Lodge for several years. He later tutored for the University of Eastbourne, and settled in Eastbourne, Sussex.

Bourdillon published thirteen collections of poetry between 1874 and 1921, as well as single poems and narrative verses, many of them privately printed in limited editions. He is best-known today for the short poem "Light" ("The night has a thousand eyes.") Among his other publications were scholarly editions and translations of Old French literature; his translation of *Aucassin et Nicolette* appeared in 1887 and was a popular success.

In addition, Bourdillon was a member of the Alpine Club and campaigned for the preservation of the Alps against excessive development. He died in Eastbourne in 1921.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists almost entirely of printed copies of works by Francis William Bourdillon, especially his poems and occasional verse, along with several versions of his translation of *Aucassin et Nicolette*. In addition, there are sketchbooks, etchings, and a photograph album containing views of the Swiss Alps.

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## Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Verse and Other Publications, 1874-1921. II. *Aucassin et Nicolette* and Related French Romance Publications, 1880-1917. III. Other Papers, 1882-1917. IV. Oversize Material, 1880-1919.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Verse and Other Publications, 1874-1921

1 linear foot (1 box)

Series I contains copies of poems by Bourdillon, chronologically arranged by date of publication, and other publications. Many of these items were privately printed or very limited editions.

Notes below some folder titles are references to *A Bookman's Catalogue: The Norman Colbeck Collection of Nineteenth-Century and Edwardian Poetry and Belles Lettres in the Special Collections of the University of British Columbia*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1987. Additional bibliographic information on many items can be found in the dealer list, Box 1, folder 1.

Organized into two subseries: *Verse* and *Other Publications*. *Verse* is chronologically arranged, and *Other Publications* is in no particular order.

Verse		
b.1	Dealer list	undated
b.1	<i>Gertrude's Love: A Legend of Gloucester Hall</i> Not in Colbeck.	1874
b.1	<i>Two Songs Sung at F.S. Gibbons' Farewell Supper, June 4th, 1875</i> No copy recorded.	[1875]
b.1	<i>In Memoriam. Darmstadt. December 14th, 1878</i> No copy recorded.	1879
b.1	<i>Morn in Mid-April</i>	[circa 1880?]
b.1	<i>Aucassin &amp; Nicolette</i>	[circa 1887]
b.1	<i>Light</i>	[circa 1890?]
b.1	<i>Love Lies Bleeding</i> Colbeck 81.8.	1891
b.1	<i>Love Lies Bleeding</i>	1891
b.1	<i>A Lost God. With Illustrations by H.J. Ford</i> Colbeck 81.6.	1891
b.1	<i>A Lost God. With Illustrations by H.J. Ford</i> Colbeck 81.6.	1891
b.1	<i>Love in a Mist</i> Colbeck 81.10.	1892
b.1	<i>Sursum Corda</i> Colbeck 81.11.	1893
b.1	<i>Chryseis</i>	1894
b.1	<i>Minuscula. Lyrics of Nature, Art and Love</i>	1897

## Verse (continued)

b.1	<i>To the Dear Memory of H.H. Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein</i>	1900 November
b.1	<i>Ailes d'Alouette. (Second Series)</i>	1902
b.1	<i>In Memoriam. The Late John Heywood Johnstone, Esq, MP. of Bignor Park, Sussex and Trewithen, Cornwall</i>	1904
b.1	<i>Quia Agnosco, Credo</i>	1907
b.1	<i>Preludes and Romances</i> Colbeck 81.20.	1908
b.1	<i>Verses by V</i> Colbeck 81.2.	1910
b.1	<i>In Praise of Sussex: An Ode Written for the Ceremonial Opening of the Chichester High School for Girls, October 27th, 1910</i>	1910
b.1	<i>In Praise of Sussex. Written for the Inaguration of Foundation Day. Chichester High School for Girls. June 10th. 1911</i>	1911
b.1	<i>In Memoriam H.A.L. [Lieutenant-Colonel H.A.Lascelles]</i>	1913 July
b.1	<i>A Prayer of Nations during World War. Words and Music</i>	[circa 1915?]
b.1	<i>Easter Lilies for Nineteen Hundred and Fifteen</i> Colbeck 81.23.	[1915]
b.1	<i>Russia Re-Born</i> Colbeck 82.24.	1917
b.1	<i>A Hymn of Hope</i>	[circa 1919]
b.1	<i>A Hymn of Hope</i>	[circa 1919]
b.1	<i>Gerard &amp; Isabel. A Romance in Form of Cantefable</i> Colbeck 82.25.	1921
Other Publications		
b.1	<i>"Beachy Head," A Paper Read before the Eastbourne -- Natural History Society</i>	[1894?]
b.1	<i>Nephele</i> Colbeck 81.13.	1896
b.1	<i>Nephele: A Musical Romance</i> See Colbeck 81.13 for the English edition published in 1896.	1899
b.1	<i>The Smithereens: A Drawing-Room Farce in Three Scenes</i> Colbeck 81.15. Not in NUC or the British Library Catalogue.	1898
b.1	<i>The Smithereens: A Drawing-Room Farce in Three Scenes</i>	[1898]
b.1	<i>[Theatre Programme]. The Smithereens, a Drawing-Room Farce, in Three Scenes</i>	[1898]

## Series II: Aucassin et Nicolette and Related French Romance Publications, 1887-1920

1 linear foot (1 box)

The series contains several editions of Bourdillon's popular translation of *Aucassin & Nicolette*, as well as printed items connected with his work on other French romances.

Versions of *Aucassin & Nicolette*, chronologically arranged, are followed by chronologically arranged works related to other French romances.

Aucassin & Nicolette		
b. 2	<i>Aucassin &amp; Nicolette, a Love Story: Edited in Old French and Rendered in Modern English</i>	1887
b. 2	<i>Aucassin &amp; Nicolette, A Love Story: Edited in Old French and Rendered in Modern English</i>	1887
b. 2	<i>Aucassin &amp; Nicolette, A Love Story: Edited in Old French, and Rendered in Modern English, (With Introduction, Glossary, Etc.)</i> Colbeck 80.3.	1887
b. 2	<i>C'est Daucasi &amp; De Nicolette</i>	1896
b. 2	<i>Aucassin &amp; Nicolette</i>	1897
b. 2	<i>Aucassin &amp; Nicolette</i>	1897
b. 2	<i>Aucassin and Nicolette. Translated from the Old French</i>	1903
b. 2	<i>Aucassin and Nicolette. Translated from the Old French</i>	1903
b. 2	<i>Aucassin and Nicolette. Illustrated by Katharine Cameron</i>	[1908]
b. 2	<i>Aucassin et Nicolette. Edited by F.W. Bourdillon.</i>	1919
Related French Romance Publications		
b. 2	<i>Tote Listoire De France (Chronique Saintongeaise). Now First Edited From the Only Two Mss., With Introduction, Appendices, and Notes. With Prefatory Letter by Gaston Paris</i>	1897
b. 2	<i>The Genesis of a Romance-Hero, as Illustrated by the Development of Taillefer de Leon</i>	1896 September
b. 2	<i>Bibliographical Society. Table and Facsimiles to Illustrate Mr. Bourdillon's Paper on Early Editions of the Roman de la Rose</i>	1904 February 15
b. 2	<i>A Verard Fragment of the Roman de la Rose</i>	1913 July
b. 2	<i>Theseus de Cologne: Notes on a Fragment of a Lost Edition, and an Unknown Version of the Romance</i>	1918
b. 2	<i>Bibliographical Society. Facsimiles of Woodcuts to Illustrate Mr. Bourdillon's Paper: Notes on Some French Romances</i>	1919 December 15
b. 2	<i>Some Notes on Two Early Romances. Huon de Bordeaux and Melusine</i>	1920

**Series III: Other Papers, 1882-1917***11 Folders*

The series contains three sketchbooks, seven etchings, and several folders of printed material related to Bourdillon.

Unarranged.

b. 2	Three pocket sketchbooks	undated
b. 2	Seven loose etchings of Bourdillon's drawings	undated
b. 2	<i>A Border Ballad. Words by F.W.Bourdillon. Music by Oliveria Prescott</i>	1882 April 1
b. 2	<i>Tunes of a Rhymer</i>	1914
b. 2	<i>Five printed settings of Different Poems by Bourdillon</i>	undated
b. 2	<i>'Without are Dogs.' Reprinted from the 'Alpine Journal', May 1913</i>	1913
b. 2	<i>Gait and Style. Reprinted from 'The Alpine Journal,' February 1917</i>	1917
b. 2	<i>The Accidents on the Wetterhorn</i>	1902 November



**Series IV: Oversize Material, 1880-1919***1.83 linear feet (2 boxes)*

The series consists of several oversize printed items and an album containing photographs of landscapes in the Swiss Alps and of several mansions in Sussex.

Unarranged.

b. 3	<i>Aucassin et Nicolette</i>	[circa 1887?]
b. 3	<i>The Night Has a Thousand Eyes. [Light]</i>	undated
b. 3	<i>Return. Song, Words by Robert Bridges, Music by F.W.B.</i>	undated
b. 3	<i>Sweet Primroses. Words by F.W. Bourdillon. Music by Louise Dickes</i>	undated
b. 3	TLS from Arthur Humphreys on Hatchards' notepaper to Bourdillon	1919
b. 4	Photograph album	[circa 1880-1900]

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Preferred Titles**

*Aucassin et Nicolette -- Translations*

### **Subjects**

Authors, English -- 19th century  
English poetry -- 19th century  
English poetry -- 20th Century  
French poetry -- To 1500 -- Translations into English  
Occasional verse, English

### **Geographic Names**

Alps, Swiss (Switzerland) -- Pictorial works

### **Genres / Formats**

Photograph albums

### **Names**

Bourdillon, Francis William, 1852-1921