

The Irving Bacheller Papers MSS Collection #1

Scope & Content

This collection, numbering approximately 400 items, and was acquired by St. Lawrence University from various sources through gift and purchase. The letters, both personal and business, record the thoughts and activities of the author during the years 1890 through 1947. The manuscripts provide insight into what and how Irving Bacheller wrote and include several unpublished works. In addition to these, the collection contains photographs of Bacheller, his family and friends, and numerous newspaper clippings relating to Bacheller and his works.

Dates

1887-2006

Availability

The collection is open for research.

Biographical Note

Addison Irving Bacheller was born in Pierrepont, N.Y., on September 26, 1859 and died in White Plains, N.Y. on February 24, 1950. While attending St. Lawrence University, from which he received his B.S. in 1882, he founded the Alpha Omicron Chapter of Alpha Tau Omega. After his graduation, he proceeded to have a 20-year career in journalism, where he introduced American readers to Stephen Crane, Joseph Conrad, Rudyard Kipling, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Bacheller began writing fiction while he was still working for newspapers; *Master of Silence* was published in 1892, followed by *Still House of O'Darrow* in 1894. However, it was not until he became a full-time writer that his real success began -- with the best seller *Eben Holden* published in 1900. His fame as a novelist placed him in demand, and he joined the lecture circuit, reading selections from his novels, essays and short stories. Also, he served as a war correspondent during the First World War in France.

Extent

5 linear ft.

Language of the Materials

English

Arrangement

Box 1

- Series 1, Correspondence 1887-1918

Box 2

- Series 1, Correspondence, 1919-1924

Box 3

- Series 1, Correspondence, 1925-1936

Box 4

- Series 1, Correspondence, 1937-1943

Box 5

- Series 1, Correspondence, 1944-1951

Box 6

- Series 1, Correspondence, undated
- Series 1, Microfilmed copies of letters from other repositories

Box 7

- Series 2, Manuscripts: essays, short stories, poems

“Box 8” (Bound in leather and shelved with the mss. collection before container 9).

- Series 2, Manuscripts: complete monographs

Box 9

- Series 2, Manuscripts: monograph fragments

Box 10

- Series 2, Manuscripts: notebooks

Box 11

- Series 2, Manuscripts: speeches, miscellaneous

Box 12

- Series 3, Non-manuscript items by Bacheller
- Series 4, Critical material on Bacheller

Box 13

- Series 5, Biographical material on Bacheller

Box 14

- Series 6, Bibliographical material on Bacheller
- Series 7, Bacheller’s friends, associates, and characters
- Series 8, Miscellaneous

Box 15

- Series 8, Miscellaneous

Box 16

- Series 8, Miscellaneous

Provenance

The initial donation of Bacheller materials was by Bacheller’s niece, Mrs. Dora Bacheller Haines, and arrived on August 24, 1955. Further acquisitions to the collection came from various sources through gift and purchase over a span of many years. Important acquisition and curation work to shape the collection can be credited to Andrew Peters (University Librarian 1946-1972), Mahlon "Pete" Peterson (University Librarian 1972-1986), and Lynn Case Ekfelt (University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian 1971-2003).

Repository Details

Part of the St. Lawrence University Libraries manuscript collection.

Contact:

Paul Doty, Special Collections and Archives Librarian, pdoty@stlawu.edu

Briana Dianno, Special Collections Assistant and ILL Technician, bfelice@stlawu.edu

St. Lawrence University Libraries Special Collections
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Collection Organization

The Irving Bacheller collection is housed in the St. Lawrence University Special Collections area.

The collection is divided into eight series.

Series 1. Correspondence. These letters begin in 1887 and end in 1951, with some undated. They are either to or from Irving Bacheller and range in length and purpose (personal and business). Notable persons with whom Bacheller corresponded are authors Mark Twain and Stephen Crane; architect Frank Olmsted; and those affiliated with the university, Charles Kelsey Gaines and Richard Eddy Sykes.

Series 2. Manuscripts. These manuscripts consist of completed works and fragments by Bacheller in various formats including monographs, essays, short stories, poems, and speeches.

Series 3. Non-Manuscript Items by Bacheller. This series includes a scrapbook of Bacheller's "Art of Living" column from the *Watertown Daily Times*, transcriptions of articles and poems by Bacheller, and *A Few Songs*, a songbook with lyrics by IB.

Series 4. Photocopies of published reviews of Bacheller's books.

Series 5. Biographical Material on Bacheller. Biographical material includes photographs of Bacheller and his homes, and information about his life from various papers, journals, and newspaper articles.

Series 6. Bibliographical material on Bacheller. There is a bibliography compiled by A.J. Hanna 1939, book jackets, a copy of an article on how to determine a first edition of "Eben Holden," and information pertaining to copyrights after his death in 1951.

Series 7. Material on Bacheller's friends, associates, & the people he used as characters in his writings. There are folders in James Gannon, Nick Goodall, and Philo (Fide) Scott.

Series 8. Miscellaneous. Miscellaneous items include publicity and programs for dramatizations of Bacheller's works, advertisements for lectures, posters, pamphlets, and news clippings. There are items that once belonged to Bacheller, including his ATO fraternity pin, as well as articles he has written.