Jack Mooney Collection of Rhoda Broughton, 1857-1962
Collection: Mss. 2003:3

Contact information:
Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collections
University of South Carolina Libraries
1322 Greene Street
Columbia SC 29208
(803) 777-3847
email: tclrare@mailbox.sc.edu

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Jack Mooney Collection of Rhoda Broughton, 1867-1952

Collection Number: Mss. 2003:3

Creator: Jack Mooney

Extent: 7 boxes

Administrative Information

Provenance: Gift/Purchase, 2003

Access Restrictions: Open to research

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Scope and Contents Note

"Between us of the mid-Victorian era and our eye-opening successors, there is a ‘great gulf fixed.’” So wrote Rhoda Broughton, once considered a daring young novelist, as she observed the flapper generation from the vantage point of her eightieth birthday in 1920. Rhoda Broughton (1840-1920) became an instant best-selling author with her controversial first two novels about young women and their coming-of-age dilemmas, *Not Wisely But Too Well* and *Cometh Up Like a Flower*, both published in 1867. Her strong heroines and witty, unstuffy dialogue drew critical condemnation but also attracted a new generation of readers. However, by the second decade of the twentieth century, Broughton felt left behind by the suffragettes and flappers to whom she did not seem innovative at all, but rather old-fashioned. The library’s collection documents the huge changes in women’s attitudes and experiences during Broughton’s fifty-year writing career.

Mr. Jack Mooney, of Hilton Head, built the collection and made it available to the library through a gift-purchase agreement. He first became interested in
Broughton while doing graduate work in English at Washington University in the late 1940s. He continued acquiring Broughton materials during his career as a civilian writer and editor for the U.S. Air Force, based in Montgomery, Alabama. When he began his research, many of those who had known Broughton were still alive, and included in his donation are his extensive notes and correspondence with them. The Jack Mooney Collection also includes first or early editions of Rhoda Broughton’s more than forty published books.

Series I of the archive contains several manuscript works of Rhoda Broughton.

Series II of the archive contains 115 manuscript notes and letters to Broughton’s colleagues and friends filed, if available, with copies of Mooney’s transcripts of her often hard-to-read letters.

Series III of the archive contains Mooney’s research materials, including many of Mooney’s transcripts of Broughton’s letters with no matching autograph letters in the collection; note cards; steno notebooks, microfilms, and other miscellaneous information.

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Container List

Series I: Manuscript Works: Novel, Story & Article

Box 1

*Second Thoughts* (1878-1880), 2 vols., 97 pp., 1st draft, 1st manuscript book

*Second Thoughts* (1880), 2 vols., 125 pp., 1st draft, 2nd manuscript book

“The Man with the Nose” (c 1873), Fair copy manuscript

“Girls Past and Present” (c1920), Manuscript of RB’s article, printed in Ladies Home Journal, Sept. 1920

Series II: Manuscript Notes and Letters

This series is organized by recipient. If available Mooney’s transcripts and notations are placed behind the plastic folders holding Broughton’s letters.
Box 2

Broughton, Rhoda to herself, notes, 11 September 1890, no date
Beeching, Henry (Dean of Norwich), May 23
Belloc, Hilaire, 22 January 1911 (postmarked 23 January 1911)
Bentley, Richard, 16 January 1888 - 4 May 1892, 4 December
Boyle, 3 September
Brackenbury, Priscilla, 30 September
Daniel, 18 April 1883 – 9 June 1907, no date
Fielder, 14 February
Hiatt, Charles, 12 August 1902
Lowndes, Marie Belloc, 23 April 1911 – 11 March 1920, no date
Lytton, 4 July
Montefiore, 2 September
Myers, F.W., no date
Nevill, Lady Dorothy, 18 April – 23 December
Newcome, Ellinor, 24 September 1879
Peabody, Marian Lawrence, 14 March
Pinker, James, 1911 -26 April 1919
Rawnesley, 12 - 20 April 1888, no date
Sartoris, Adedlaide, 16 October 1878 – 27 May 1879
Schuster, 14 October
Scott, John H., 13 December 1903
Sichel, Edith, 8 July 1901 – 7 July 1911
Sinclair, 5 September
Steele, 18 July 1874
Sturgis, 11 January
Trubner, 1 December 1870
Unknown recipient, no date
Catherine, 24 March – 13 May
Doly, 12 October
Edgar, no date
Madam, 22 July 1884
Mary, 4 May
Mrs. White, 6 December
Woods, 1891
Zoe, Angelique, 21 October 1896

**Series III: Research Materials**

**Box 3**
Mooney & Cooper Library, correspondence re: Collection
Mooney’s inquires re: Rhoda Broughton letters, manuscripts, etc. (2 folders)
Mooney & book dealers
Mooney’s selected bibliography of Broughton’s books
Mooney’s bibliography of Broughton stories published in Temple Bar Magazine
Mooney’s Broughton studies in the Bodleian Library
Rhoda Broughton biography, general
Rhoda Broughton’s residences in the town of Oxford
Rhoda Broughton’s death & funeral

**Box 4**
Mooney’s tr RB letters to Richard Bentley (1868-1897) [In Part 2—RB’s Ms. Letters by Recipient—there are 4 RB ms. letters (1868-1897) to Richard Bentley, her publisher, usually addressed as “Dear Sir”: titles, length, publication dates, fees paid to author, etc.], 1868-1897, no date (6 folders)

**Box 5**
Friends of RB
Mooney’s tr RB letters to Florence Henniker (U/TX, 1901-1920) (21 letters)
Mooney’s tr RB letters to Marie Belloc Lowndes (1911-1920) (67 letters) [In Part II—RB’s Ms. Letters by Recipient—there are 47 ms. letters (1911-1920) to her good friend and novelist, Marie Belloc Lowndes.]
Mooney’s tr letters to Millais family (34 items)
Mooney’s tr RB letters to misc. recipients
Mooney’s tr Henry James letters to RB (17 items)
Mooney’s tr Anthony Trollope & Anne Thackeray Ritchie letters to RB (8 items)
Mooney’s tr Prefaces to RB’s novels by H. Van Thal & Mrs. Marie Belloc Lowndes
General biographical and critical assessments of RB
RB—Reviews & Criticism (1867-1869)
RB—Reviews & Criticism (1870-1879)
RB—Reviews & Criticism (1880-1889)
RB—Reviews & Criticism (1890-1899)
RB—Reviews & Criticism (1900-1920)
RB—Parodies & Burlesques

Box 6
Microfilms from Harvard & Yale University Libraries
Microfilm from The University of Texas Library
Microfilm from Pierpont Morgan Library, RB letters to Sir John E. Millais, Boston; Miss Mary Millais; Lady Millais; Mr. Stuart Wortley
Microfilm from The University of Illinois Library (Urbana), Bentley Collection
Microfilm from the Huntington Library
2 standard size steno notebooks of Mooney’s tr RB letters to Richard Bentley
3 narrow size steno notebooks of Mooney’s tr RB letters to Richard Bentley
1 packet of Mooney’s 3x5 file cards of misc. notes & bibliography
1 packet of Mooney’s 3x5 file cards of notes, quotes, etc. re RB
1 packet of Mooney’s 3x5 file cards of “people relevant to a study of RB”
1 packet of Mooney’s 3x5 call slips, Library of Congress, Aug. 1952