

Edwin Markham Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82076081>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009215>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2019 December

Collection Summary

Title: Edwin Markham Papers

Span Dates: 1893-1937

ID No.: MSS76081

Creator: Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940

Extent: 115 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82076081>

Summary: Poet and educator. Correspondence, notes, drafts and published versions of poems, and printed matter concerning Markham's writing and poetry.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Burr, Amelia Josephine, 1878- --Correspondence.

Colver, Frederic Lathrop, 1863- --Correspondence.

Griffith, William, 1876-1936--Correspondence.

Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Poetry.

Markham, Anna Catherine, 1859-1938--Correspondence.

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940 The man with the hoe.

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940.

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940. Ballad of the gallows bird.

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940. Lincoln & other poems. 1901.

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940. Lincoln, the man of the people.

Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956.

Viereck, George Sylvester, 1884-1962--Correspondence.

Subjects

American poetry.

Poetry.

Religion.

Titles

American mercury.

Occupations

Educators.

Poets.

Provenance

The papers of Edwin Markham, poet and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by various individuals and organizations from 1927 to 1956. Several items were transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Rare Books Room between 1929 and 1945. Additional materials were purchased from 1944 to 2019.

Processing History

The papers of Edwin Markham were arranged and described by Karen Femia in 2009. An addition to the papers was processed and the finding aid revised by Andrea J. Briggs in 2019.

Related Material

The Manuscript Division also holds the Florence Hamilton Collection relating to Edward Markham (see <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007095>).

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edwin Markham is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edwin Markham are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Edwin Markham Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Edwin Markham was born April 23, 1852 in Oregon City, Oregon. He grew up in central California, the son of pioneer parents. He became a school teacher and administrator but gained fame in 1899 with the publication of his most famous poem, "The Man with the Hoe." After the success of this poem, he spent his career as a writer and lecturer. He died March 7, 1940, in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edwin Markham (1852-1940) span the years circa 1893-1937. Included are correspondence, autobiographical notes, drafts and published versions of poems, an annotated typescript with a cover note by H. L. Mencken and page proofs from the *American Mercury* of "The Ballad of the Gallows-bird," printed matter, and notebooks containing handwritten notes on poems and religion. Notable correspondents include Amelia Josephine Burr, Frederic Lathrop Colver, William Griffith, Robert Underwood Johnson, Anna Catherine Markham, and George Sylvester Viereck.

The 2019 Addition comprises correspondence, poems in fair copy and working draft form, broadsides, photographs, a book of Markham's poetry, and other printed matter. Many of the fair copies have dedications; inscriptions include Andrew Carnegie, Charles Gallup, Mary Hurst Gould, John McSweeney, Jr., and Bromley Oxnam. Notable correspondence includes a letter from John Burroughs.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1904-1930, undated
BOX 1	Notebooks
BOX 1	Notes on poems, circa 1899-circa 1917
BOX 1	Notes on religion, circa 1893
BOX 1	Poems
BOX 1	"The Ballad of the Gallows-bird," circa 1926
BOX 1	Miscellaneous, 1907, 1930, undated
BOX 2	2019 Addition
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX 2	Burroughs, John, 1902
BOX 2	Markham, Edwin, 1893-1922, 1930-1937
BOX 2	Photographs, 1907, 1924-1935
BOX 2	Writings
BOX 2	Miscellany
BOX 2	Fragments, prose, undated
BOX 2	Original notes for Markham's 80th birthday celebration at Carnegie Hall, 1932
BOX 2	<i>The Real America in Romance: Art Edition</i> , undated
BOX 2	"Thomas Bailey Aldrich," 1907
BOX 2	Poems
BOX 2	"Boy Scout Song," undated
BOX 2	"The Christmas Marvel," 1930
BOX 2	"The Crowning Hour," fragment, 1915
BOX 2	"The Father's Business," 1935
BOX 2	"The Flying Mist," undated
BOX 2	"The Friendly Door," 1914
BOX 2	"The Gray Norns," 1910
BOX 2	"Inbrothered," 1928
BOX 2	"Lincoln, Man of the People," 1919-1922, 1930
BOX 2	<i>Lincoln and Other Poems: Second Book of Verse</i> , book and dust jacket, 1901
BOX 2	"The Man with the Hoe," 1899, 1924
BOX 2	"The Ode to Columbus," undated
BOX 2	"Our Israfel," undated
BOX 2	"Power," 1932
BOX 2	"To the Top of the World," 1926
BOX 2	"The Twin Flags," 1929
BOX 2	"Washington the Nation Builder," 1932
BOX 2	"The Wharf of Dreams," 1916
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Scrapbook, 1894-1903, 1932-1937, undated