

British Author Collections
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Title of Collection: Dorothy L. Sayers Collection

Date Range: 1916-2015

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Finding Aid Created By: Kendra Smalley, Special Collections & Research Coordinator

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Collection Description

The Dorothy L. Sayers Collection features a variety of rare books, pamphlets, and articles written by and about Sayers (1893-1957). These include multiple first editions of her poetry books, crime novels, and reflection on theology.

Related Collections

C. S. Lewis Collection

Using the Collection

Rights Statement

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Citation Information

In addition to standard citation information, please include the item's Ref. ID and Series number as well as "Special Collections & University Archives, Taylor University" in each citation.

Collection Inventory

- *Table references to Dorothy L. Sayers are abbreviated as DLS*
- *“n.d.” indicates publication date unknown*
- *“n.a.” indicates author name is unknown*
- *Please note that “inscribed” could indicate a signature and/or other inscription or annotations*
- *Any materials that are entirely identical copies are listed under a single entry with the total number of copies. Materials that vary due to inscriptions are listed under separate entries.*

Series 1: First and Rare Editions Authored by Sayers

This series consists of various original and special editions of works by Dorothy L. Sayers, including books and published booklets. This series is organized by date published.

Series 2: Articles, Essays, and Serial Contributions by Sayers

This series contains various news clippings, introductions, anthologized essays, and short poems by Dorothy L. Sayers. This series is organized by date published.

Series 3: Personal Library of Sayers

This series contains books that were part of Sayers’ personal library and includes volumes with annotations or inscriptions. This series is organized by author’s last name.

Series 4: Scholarship and Secondary Sources about Sayers

This series contains various essays, reflections, biographies, and analyses of the life and works of Dorothy L. Sayers. Reviews of her published works written by her contemporaries are also included here. This series is organized by date published.

Series 1: First and Rare Editions Authored by Sayers

Book Title	Date	Additional Information	Ref. ID
Creed or Chaos?	n.d.	Address delivered on May 4, 1940 at Biennial Festival of the Church Tutorial Classes Association in Derby	524
The Story of Easter	n.d.	DLS retelling of Easter	197
The Story of Noah's Ark	n.d.	Booklet of DLS retelling of Noah's ark	560
OP. I.	1916		549
Oxford Poetry 1914-1916	1917		546
Catholic Tales and Christian Songs	1918		527
Whose Body?	1923		555
Tristan in Brittany	1929 (Jul)	First edition	552
The Omnibus of Crime	1929 (Aug)	First edition	545
The Documents in the Case	1930	First edition	531
Gaudy Night	1936	First American edition	512
Tales of Detection	1936	Front flyleaf inscribed by DLS	553
The Zeal of Thy House	1937		557
The Greatest Drama Ever Staged	1938	First edition	535
The Devil to Pay	1939	Acting edition for the Festival of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral	530
He That Should Come: A Nativity Play in One Act	1939	First edition	536
In the Teeth of the Evidence	1939	First edition	537
Strong Meat	1939 (Jun)	First edition	551
Begin Here: A War-Time Essay	1940		526
In the Teeth of the Evidence and Other Stories	1940		538
In the Teeth of the Evidence and Other Stories	1940	First American edition	561
The Mind of the Maker	1941	First edition [2 copies]	523, 543

Series 1: First and Rare Editions Authored by Sayers, continued

The Mysterious English	1941	Part of the Macmillan War Pamphlets; speech originally given in London; first edition	544
Why Work?	1942	Address delivered Apr 23, 1942; first edition	556
The Man Born to be King	1943	First edition	542
The Man Born to be King	1943	Uncorrected proof	541
The Other Six Deadly Sins	1943	Speech delivered Oct 23, 1941 at Caxton Hall, Westminster; first edition	550
Suspicious Characters	1943		1054
Even the Parrot: Exemplary Conversations for Enlightened Children	1944		533
The Just Vengeance	1946	With program and ticket for play	539
Unpopular Opinions: Twenty-one Essays	1946		554
Four Sacred Plays	1948		534
The Lost Tools of Learning	1948	Paper read at a Vacation Course in Education, Oxford 1947; first edition	540
The Emperor Constantine: A Chronicle in Three Acts, a Prologue, and an Epilogue	1951		532
Introductory Papers on Dante	1954		511
The Story of Adam and Christ	1955		181
Further Papers on Dante	1957		510
The Days of Christ's Coming	1960	First edition	529
The Divine Comedy: Hell	1962	Translated by DLS	562
The Divine Comedy: Purgatory	1962	Translated by DLS	563
The Divine Comedy: Paradise	1962	Translated by DLS	564
The Sayers Holiday Book	1963		513

Series 2: Articles, Essays, and Serial Contributions

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Title	Date	Format	Additional Information	Ref. ID
Oxford Poetry 1918	1918	Serial		547
Oxford Poetry 1919	1920	Serial		548
The Church Looks Ahead	1941	Book	Broadcast talks by multiple people, including DLS	528
A Time is Born	1945	Book	Foreword by DLS	559
Radio Times	1945 (Mar 23)	Newspaper Clipping	Article "The Execution of God" by DLS	403
Essays Presented to Charles Williams	1947	Book		907
The Indispensable Murder Book	1951	Book		558
Punch	1954 (Jan 20)	Serial	"The Polar Synthesis" section edited by DLS	1369
"Charles Williams"	1955 (May 10)	Newspaper Clipping	Calls for tribute to Charles Williams on 10th anniversary of his death	159
The Scoop and Behind the Screen	1983 (Feb)	Book	Second impression	525
The Surprise	2002 (Oct 19)	Drama	Preface by DLS; edited for staged reading by Paradox Players at Taylor University	1228

Series 3: Personal Library of Sayers

Series 3: Personal Library of Sayers

Title	Author	Date	Additional Information	Ref. ID
The Splendid Century	Lewis, Warren H.	1953		1044
The Sunset of the Splendid Century	Lewis, Warren H.	1955		1045
He Came Down from Heaven	Williams, Charles	1938	Inscribed by DLS	522

Series 4: Scholarship and Secondary Sources

Title	Author	Date	Format	Additional Information	Ref. ID
The Christian Century: clippings	n.a.	n.d.	Newspaper Clipping		1374
[Only "xpress" visible for newspaper name]	n.a.	1943 (May 24)	Newspaper Clipping	Brief review of DLS's "Man Born to Be King"	179
Nine: A Magazine of Literature and the Arts	n.a.	1950 (Dec)	Serial	Vol. 3, no. 1; review of DLS's Dante translation	504
Encounter	n.a.	1963 (Jan)	Serial	Vol. 18, no. 2, issue 101; C. S. Lewis letter to John Wain and Wain's reply in "Wain's Oxford", clarifying Lewis's relationships with DLS, among others	162
Dorothy L. Sayers: Nine Literary Studies	Hall, Trevor H.	1980	Book		509
The Armchair Detective	Scott, William M.	1980 (summer)	Serial	Vol. 13, no. 3; essay "Lord Peter Wimsey of Piccadilly: 'His Lordship's Life and Times' part 2"	273
The Armchair Detective	Reynolds, William	1981 (spring)	Serial	Vol. 14, no. 2; essay "Dorothy L. Sayers' Detective Short Fiction"	274
Dorothy L. Sayers: A Careless Rage for Life	Coomes, David	1992	Book	First edition	565
The Importance of Being Dorothy L. Sayers	Reynold, Barbara	2004 (Mar 13)	Lecture	Keynote Address at 2004 Lewis & Friends Colloquium, inscribed by Reynolds	264
Christian History	n.a.	2015	Serial	Issue 113; article on DLS	178