Catalogue of the Thompson Papers

Date range of material: 1871-2006
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Preface

Creation of catalogue
Catalogued by Jonathan Bush

Contact details

Ushaw College Library
Ushaw College
Durham
DH7 9RH
ark:/32150/s2qv33rw64d/PDF
Collection title: Francis Thompson Papers
Reference code: GB-0298-UC/P39
Dates of creation: 1871-2006
Extent: 2 files
Repository: Ushaw
Creator: Francis Joseph Thompson
Language of material: English

Contents
Papers of, and relating to, Francis Thompson, including photographs, autographed manuscripts of his poems, printed volumes, and an essay by C.S. Breathnach.

About the creator
Francis Thompson was born in Preston, Lancashire, in 1859. Educated at Ushaw College, he left in 1877 to begin medical training at Owens College, Manchester. In 1883, he went to London where he ended up homeless and addicted to opium. His poetry was brought to the attention of William Meynell, the editor of the Catholic literary journal, _Merry England_, and he recuperated in the Premonstratensian priory in Storrington, Sussex. This was where he produced two of his best known literary efforts, the _Ode to the Setting Sun_ and _The Hound of Heaven_. Thompson published several more poems before another bout of opium addiction brought him to the Franciscan friary at Pantasa, Flintshire, where he remained from 1892 until 1896. He continued to publish poetry for the rest of his life which included an anthology _New Poems_ in 1897. Thompson died in November 1907 at the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, London, and was buried at Kensal Green Roman Catholic cemetery.

Conditions of access
Open for consultation.

Copyright and copying
Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from ushaw.library@durham.ac.uk and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

Finding aids
Word processed list of contents

Form of citation
The form of citation should use the code GB-0298-UC/P39, or the collection name Francis Thompson Papers, followed by the _reference number_.
To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0298-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.
Bibliography
The following are biographies of Francis Thompson:


J.E. Walsh, *Strange harp, strange symphony: the life of Francis Thompson* (1968)


E. Meynell, *The life of Francis Thompson* (1913)

V. Meynell, *Francis Thompson and Wilfrid Meynell* (1952)

*The poems of Francis Thompson*, ed. B. Boardman (2001)

J. Thomson, *Francis Thompson, the Preston-born poet* (1912)

Related material - elsewhere
Boston College, Massachusetts
Correspondence and papers

Harris Library, Preston
Commonplace book, poetical MSS, letters; notebooks and literary MSS

Indiana University, Bloomington, Lilly Library
Correspondence and writings

UC/P39/1/1-7  [1870 x 1889] & 18 July 1945
Photographs of Francis Thompson as a young boy and adolescent, with a covering letter from Francis Dobson.
6 photographs and 1 letter

*Provenance*: Presented to Ushaw College by Canon Francis Dobson, 18 July 1945.

UC/P39/2/8   1871
Copy of the 1871 Census schedule for Ushaw College with an entry for Francis Thompson (second from bottom).

1f

UC/P39/3/1-13  [1890 x 1899]
Autographed manuscript of *To the English Martyrs*.
13f

*Provenance*: Presented to Ushaw College by Wilfred Maynall, 1931.

UC/P39/4/1   [?1890 x 1899]
Francis Thompson (Elliott and Fry).
1 photograph

UC/P39/5/1-5  1894
Autographed manuscript of *Prose of Blessed Francis*
5f

*Provenance*: Presented to Ushaw College by Canon Francis Dobson, 1934.

UC/P39/6/1   [early 20th century]
Photograph of a bronze plaque of Francis Thompson.
The original plaque was mounted on Hopton Wood marble. It was commissioned by the Revds R. Bilsborrow and J.L. Prescott, and executed by W. Norris Simm of Preston Art Gallery. It was modelled on a sketch of the poet and a photograph taken years earlier and is located in the Student's Common Room, Ushaw College.

1 photograph

UC/P39/7/1 [1907]
Obituary card for Thompson, commissioned by Francis Meynell.
1f

UC/P39/8/1-16 1908
Text of a slide-illustrated lecture on Francis Thompson by Rev Austin Richmond, parish priest of Ince Blundell.
16f

UC/P39/9/1 May 1936
Printed programme for a production of *The Hound of Heaven* by The Grail, Royal Albert Hall.
xxii, 25p

UC/P39/10/1 1972
29p

UC/P39/11/1-3 [?2000 - 2005]
Photographs of Francis Thompson's grave in St Mary's cemetery at Kensal Green, London.
3 photographs

UC/P39/12/1-23 24 November 2006
23f

UC/P39/13 [?1900]
Draft manuscript of Francis Thompson's "Nisi Dominus"
1 sheet