

Robert Ridgill Trout (1878-1969)

(MS 862)

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Administrative/Biographical History:

Robert Ridgill Trout was born in 1878 and by career was an antiquarian bookseller, who also carried out regular work valuing the libraries of county houses and institutions. In 1936 he met Alice Vere, a descendant of Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford. It was after conversations with Alice Vere that Ridgill Trout came to believe that Edward de Vere was the author of the plays and poetry attributed to William Shakespeare. Ridgill Trout died on 17 June 1969.

Custodial History:

Material was donated by Alice Vere in 1977. Additional material (MS862/4) was transferred from the University Depository Library in 1995.

Scope and Content:

Papers of Robert Ridgill Trout (1878-1969), including: material created or collected by Ridgill Trout relating to his support for the theory that Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford wrote the poetry and plays attributed to William Shakespeare, including a biography of Edward de Vere, an examination of 'the Cornwallis manuscript', copies of the Shakespeare Authorship Review featuring articles by and about Ridgill Trout and photographs, 1967-1969; typescript draft of work, 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare' by Ridgill Trout, espousing his support for the theory that Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford wrote the poetry and plays attributed to William Shakespeare, c1967; typescript draft of Robert Ridgill Trout's work, 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere' (a different, more lengthy and later work than 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare' held in MS862/2) giving a detailed history of the De Vere Family and espousing his support for the theory that Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, wrote the poetry and plays attributed to William Shakespeare, c1967; material compiled by Robert Ridgill Trout during his career as a bookseller and valuer, including valuation catalogues for books, incunabula and manuscripts held by the Wellcome Foundation and in the library of Sir William Dugdale, an auction catalogue, and miscellaneous notes and sale advertisements concerning books and manuscripts, 1921-1939.

System of Arrangement:

The Ridgill Trout papers are divided into the following sections:

MS862/1: 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare': Working Papers

MS862/2: 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare': Typescript Draft

MS862/3: 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere': Typescript Draft.

MS862/4: Valuations

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Copies may be made, subject to the condition of the original. Copying must be undertaken by the Palaeography Room staff, who will need a minimum of 24 hours to process requests

- MS862/1 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare': Working Papers 1967-1969**
 Material created or collected by Ridgill Trout relating to his support for the theory that Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford wrote the poetry and plays attributed to William Shakespeare, including a biography of Edward de Vere, an examination of 'the Cornwallis manuscript', copies of the Shakespeare Authorship Review featuring articles by and about Ridgill Trout and photographs.
- MS862/1/1 'Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford' c1967**
 Typescript article, 'Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford' by Ridgill Trout (14pp) (c1967)
 1 folder
- MS862/1/2 'The Cornwallis Manuscript' c1967**
 Typescript article, 'The Cornwallis Manuscript' by Ridgill Trout (3pp) (c1967)
 1 folder
- MS862/1/3 Photographs c1965**
 - Three black and white photographs of Robert Ridgill Trout in an unidentified library (Copyright: Henry Grant) (c1965).
 - Black and white photograph of the de Vere family coat of arms and motto, taken from Anthony Munday's 'Zelanto' at the Bodleian Library, Oxford University (n.d.).
 4 items in folder
- MS862/1/4 'Shakespearean Authorship Review' 1967-1969**
 Three editions of the 'Shakespearean Authorship Review'.
 - No 17, containing article 'Edward de Vere to Robert Cecil - An Unpublished Letter, With Commentary by R Ridgill Trout' (Spring 1967).
 - No 20, containing a letter from Robert Ridgill Trout asking for information about what became of de Vere's library after his death (Autumn 1968)
 - No 22, containing an obituary of Ridgill Trout (Christmas 1969).

3 items in envelope

MS862/1/5 Letter from the Duke of St Albans

1967

Letter from the Duke of St Albans to Ridgill Trout thanking him for sending him a synopsis of a work on the Oxford authorship of Shakespeare (possibly 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare') (1p) (11 October 1967).

1 item in envelope

MS862/2 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare': c1967
Typescript Draft.

Typescript draft of work, 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare' by Robert Ridgill Trout, espousing his support for the theory that Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford wrote the poetry and plays attributed to William Shakespeare.

MS862/2/1 Preface c1967

Preface probably intended to be placed at the beginning of 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare.'

1 envelope

MS862/2/2 Foreword c1967

Foreword, entitled 'The Origin of the Veres' (possibly originally intended as a first chapter), annotated by Ridgill Trout (5pp) (c1967).

1 folder

MS862/2/3 Chapters 1- 3 c1967

Typescript drafts of chapters from Ridgill Trout's 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare' (49pp) (c1967), including the following:

Chapter 1: The Origin of the de Vere's AD 47 to 1166

Chapter 2: Aubrey de Vere, First Earl of Oxford 1110 - 1194

Chapter 3: Aubrey, 2nd Earl - Robert, 5th Earl 1164 - 1300

1 folder

MS862/2/4 Chapters 4-6. c1967

Typescript drafts of chapters from Ridgill Trout's 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare' (49pp) (c1967), including the following:

Chapter Four: Robert, 6th Earl - John, 7th Earl; 1164 - 1300

Chapter Five: Thomas, 8th Earl - Robert 9th Earl; 1337 - 1390

Chapter Six: Aubrey, 10th Earl - John, 12th Earl; 1393 - 1461.

1 folder

MS862/2/5 Chapters 7-10

c1967

Typescript drafts of chapters from Ridgill Trout's 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare', annotated by him (93pp) (c1967-1969), including the following:

Chapter 7: John, 13th Earl; 1442-1512

Chapter 8: John, 14th Earl - Edward, 17th Earl, 1499-1604.

Chapter 9: Henry, 18th Earl; 1593-1625

Chapter 10: Robert 19th Earl - Aubrey 20th and last Earl of Oxford, 1575-1703.

1 folder

MS862/3 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere': Typescript Draft. **c1967**

Typescript draft of Robert Ridgill Trout's work, 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere' (a different, more lengthy and perhaps later work than 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare' held in MS862/2) giving a detailed history of the De Vere Family and espousing his support for the theory that Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, wrote the poetry and plays attributed to William Shakespeare.

MS862/3/1 Preface and Chapters 1-2 **c1967**

Typescript drafts of preface and chapters 1-2 of Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (64pp) (c1967).

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MS862/3/2 Chapters 3-6 **c1967**

Typescript draft chapters 7-10 of Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (94pp) (c1967).

1 folder

MS862/3/3 Chapters 7-10 **c1967**

Typescript draft chapters 7-10 of Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (94pp) (c1967).

1 folder

MS862/3/4 Chapters 11-13 **c1967**

Typescript draft chapters 11-13 of Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (52pp) (c1967).

1 folder

- MS862/3/5 Chapters 14-18** **c1967**
Typescript draft chapters 7-10 of Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (135pp) (c1967).

1 folder
- MS862/3/6 Chapters 19-22** **c1967**
Typescript draft chapters 19-22 of Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (136pp) (c1967).

1 folder
- MS862/3/7 Bibliography and Index** **c1967**
Typescript draft bibliography and name index for Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (13pp) (c1967).

1 folder
- MS862/3/8 Suggested Chapter Headings** **c1967**
Typescript draft paper of suggested chapter headings for Ridgill Trout's work, entitled 'Twenty Earls and Shakespeare. The background of the Historical Plays with the life story of Edward de Vere', annotated (2pp) (c1967).

1 envelope

MS862/4 Valuations 1921-1939

Material compiled by Robert Ridgill Trout during his career as a bookseller and valuer, including valuation catalogues for books, incunabula and manuscripts held by the Wellcome Foundation and in the library of Sir William Dugdale, an auction catalogue, and miscellaneous notes and sale advertisements concerning books and manuscripts.

MS862/4/1 Wellcome Foundation Valuation 1938

- Letter to Mr Villette from Robert Ridgill Trout regarding valuation on material in the Wellcome libraries, with attached typescript paper, 'The Wellcome Institute Library' by Ridgill Trout (4pp) (5 January 1938)
- Typescript catalogue of books, incunabula, manuscripts and pamphlets in the library of Sir Henry Wellcome, sorted by their location at the Wellcome Foundation, with a valuation by Ridgill Trout next to each item (c150pp) (n.d.)

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MS862/4/2 Sir William Dugdale Valuation 1939

- Typescript valuation of the library of Sir William Dugdale listing the individual items within the library, sorted by their location at Dugdale's home at Merevale Hall, Warwickshire, with price valuation by Ridgill Trout at the side (13pp) (2 May 1939)
- Typescript valuation of the books of Sir William Dugdale listing the individual items within the library, sorted by their location at Blyth Hall, Colesville, with price valuation by Ridgill Trout at the side (5pp) (25 May 1939)

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MS862/4/3 Auction Catalogue 1937

Typescript catalogue for a book auction held by Arber, Rutter, Waghorn and Brown at Kimble, Cirencester, annotated by Ridgill Trout (57pp) (7-15 April 1937).

1 envelope

- Ninety three pages, cards and scraps of paper containing unidentified handwritten and typescript lists of books and manuscripts compiled by Ridgill Trout in his work as bookseller and valuer (n.d.)
- Typescript advertisement for the sale of correspondence concerning the work of the Marquis de Ruvigny and Raineval by Ridgill Trout (2pp) (May 1935)
- Typescript notes on Greek sheet music (3pp) (n.d.)
- Typescript advertisement for the sale of a Report on the History of the Colonial Theatre by Ridgill Trout (n.d.)
- Handwritten paper, 'A Census of Books' by Ridgill Trout (6pp) (n.d.)
- Typescript biographical and exhibition notice for sketches by Alfred Elmore, possibly by Ridgill Trout (2pp) (n.d.)
- Typescript notes on a lecture, 'Jeremiah and Lachish in 1935' given by Harry Torczyner at the Wellcome Research Institution, possibly by Ridgill Trout (2pp) (n.d.)
- Typescript note on bookseller John Dunton (1p) (n.d.)
- Typescript paper, 'Early Lithographs on Sheet Music', possibly by Ridgill Trout (4pp) (n.d.)
- Syllabus for a course of lectures entitled, 'Aspects of the Life and Literature of the Nineteenth Century' by Arthur Compton-Rickett at the University of London (n.d.)
- Extracted title page, preface and appendix from a small book entitled, 'Raymond Lull: The Illuminated Doctor' (n.d.)
- Typescript bibliography of books and pamphlets concerning paper making, possibly compiled by Ridgill Trout (2pp) (n.d.)
- Typescript advertisement for a sale of books by Daniel Defoe at Chancery Lane, possibly written by Ridgill Trout (2pp) (n.d.)
- Handwritten note by Ridgill Trout on a lecture by George Santayana at University College London (3pp) (September 1921)

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