

**Seymour Montefiore Robert Rosso de Ricci
(1881-1942)**

(MS 901)

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Stefan Dickers
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MS901 Ricci, Seymour Montefiore Robert Rosso de- (1881- 1902-1955 1942)

Name of Creator

Ricci, Seymour Montefiore Robert Rosso de- (1881-1942) academic

Extent

34 boxes; 1 volume

Administrative/Biographical History

Bibliographer, papyrologist, collector, and historian of Merovingian tapestries. De Ricci was an expert on the provenance of rare books. He created three reference books of manuscripts and rare books: *Catalogue raisonné des premières impressions de Mayence, 1445-1467*, *Guide de l'amateur de livres à gravures du XVIIIe siècle*, and *Census of Medieval Manuscripts in the United States and Canada*. In the field of Egypt papyrology, De Ricci travelled throughout Egypt, North America, and Europe to study works in various collections, publishing a bibliography of Egyptology in *Revue Archéologique* (1917-1918), and the *Receuil Champollion* (1922). He compiled specific and detailed information on each collection that he studied which included the maiolica pottery and signed bookbindings in the Mortimer L. Schiff collection, and the Merovingian tapestries in the Pierpont Morgan collection in New York City. On completion of his *Census of Medieval Manuscripts in the United States and Canada* in 1934, De Ricci approached the Institute of Historical Research in London with the possibility of conducting a similar survey of manuscript sources in the British Isles. De Ricci was continuing the process of listing and gathering information, begun in 1902, when he died in 1942.

(For more information on the 'Bibliotheca Britannica Manuscripta' project, please consult Joan Gibbs, 'Seymour de Ricci's Bibliotheca Britannica Manuscripta' in *Calligraphy and Palaeography: Essays presented to Alfred Fairbank on his 70th Birthday* (Faber, London, 1965)

Custodial History

Transferred from the Institute of Historical Research, 7 July 1953.

Scope and Content

Papers of Seymour Montefiore Robert Rosso de Ricci (1881-1942) comprising: Volume of letters from various correspondents and notes concerning the compilation of de Ricci's Bibliotheca Britannica Manuscripta, a proposed comprehensive work on manuscript material in Great Britain, which was never completed, 1934-1955; thirty-four boxes containing over 64,000 index cards giving bibliographic references to archive and manuscript collections in the United Kingdom, listed alphabetically by town, institution and/or college, along with cards giving details of manuscripts held by collectors and dated sales, arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

System of arrangement

The collection is divided into four sections:

MS901/1 - Correspondence

MS901/2 - Library/Archive Boxes

MS901/3 - Collector Boxes

MS901/4 - Other Boxes

Access conditions

Access to the items in the collection is unrestricted for the purpose of private study and personal research within the controlled environment and restrictions of the Library's Palaeography Room. Uncatalogued material may not be seen. Please contact the University Archivist for details.

Copying conditions

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

MS901/1 Correspondence

1934-1955

Volume of letters from various correspondents and notes concerning Seymour de Ricci's *Bibliotheca Britannica Manuscripta*, a proposed comprehensive work on manuscript material in Great Britain, which was never completed (1934-1955).

1 volume

MS901/2 Library/Archive Boxes 1902-1938

Eighteen wooden boxes containing index cards with assorted bibliographic references concerning manuscript collections, listed by town, library/archive and collection, compiled by Seymour de Rossi in preparation for his work 'Bibliotheca Britannica Manuscripta'.

MS901/2/1 Abbey-Cambridge (Corpus Christi) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/2 Cambridge (Emmanuel)-Dureford 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/3 Durham-Kyme 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/4 Lacock Abbey-London, BM (Royal and Sloane) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/5 London, BM (Sloane and Add -11999) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/6 London, BM (Add 12000-24999) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/7	London, BM (Add 25000-, and Add Charters)	1902-1938
	1 box	
MS901/2/8	London, BM (Arundel, Burney and Cotton)	1902-1938
	1 box	
MS901/2/9	London, BM (Cotton and Egerton)	1902-1938
	1 box	
MS901/2/10	London, BM (Harleian 1-7000)	1902-1938
	1 box	
MS901/2/11	London, BM (Harleian 7001-Lansdowne, Stowe, Various)	1902-1938
	1 box	
MS901/2/12	London, PRO (State Papers) Allhallows-King's Coll	1902-1938
	1 box	
MS901/2/13	London, PRO (State Papers) Foreign Office	1902-1938
	1 box	

MS901/2/14 London, PRO (Accounts-Exchequer Pipe Rolls) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/15 London, Lambeth-Oxford 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/16 Oxford, Bodleian 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/17 Oxford, Bodleian and colleges-Sandbach 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/2/18 Sandwich-Voughal (Commonwealth and unplaced mss) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3 Collectors Boxes 1902-1938

Eleven wooden boxes of index slips listing dated sales of archives and manuscripts (arranged chronologically from 1684 to 1909, with a few sales up to 1938) and collectors, filed alphabetically under collector's name, compiled by Seymour de Ricci in preparation for his 'Bibliotheca Britannica Manuscripta'.

MS901/3/1 Collectors (A-BI) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/2 Collectors (Boa-Cok) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/3 Collectors (Col-Eyt) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/4 Collectors (Fag-Hay) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/5 Collectors (Hea-Leg) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/6 Collectors (Lei-Mol) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/7 Collectors (Mon-Philips) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/8 Collectors (Phillipps-Ryp) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/9 Collectors (S-Sys) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/10 Collectors (T-Whi) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/3/11 Collectors (Wic-Z) (Dated sales) 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/4 Other Boxes

Five wooden boxes of index slips listing other areas of interest and research, compiled by Seymour de Ricci in preparation for his 'Bibliotheca Britannica Manuscripta'.

MS901/4/1 Bibliography 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/4/2 Bibliography and periodicals 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/4/3 Exhibitions and topography 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/4/4 Miscellaneous supplement 1902-1938

1 box

MS901/4/5 Topography, cartularies, facsimilies 1902-1938

1 box