

University of Victoria Special Collections and University Archives

Finding Aid - Kidman family fonds (SC624)

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<https://uvic2.coppul.archivematica.org//index.php/kidman-family-fonds>

Kidman family fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Victoria Special Collections and University Archives
Title:	Kidman family fonds
Title [statRep]:	Kidman Family
ID:	SC624
Date:	1829- 1930, predominant 1895- 1912 (date of creation)
Language:	English
Physical description:	3 albums

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Henry Oscar Kidman (1833-1918) was born in Biscot, in the county of Bedfordshire, England, to parents James Kidman (1799-1886) and Mary Ann Elliott Lines (1811-1968). Henry Kidman became a farmer, and by 1851 he was working at Porters End Farm in Kimpton, Hertfordshire. In 1876, he married Louisa Rosetta Coxall (1844-1929) in the village of Chesterton, Oxfordshire. The couple had four children: Walter James Kidman (1878-?), Lilian Leigh Kidman (1879-?), Ella Kidman (1880-?), and Lester A. Kidman (1882-1939). In 1881, the family resided at Nast Hyde Farm in St Albans, Hertfordshire. By 1901, they had moved to Buttermere, in Wiltshire, where Henry Kidman was lord of Buttermere Manor and continued to work as a farmer.

Henry Kidman and his two daughters, Lilian and Ella, were all artistically inclined. They drew and painted in a variety of mediums (including watercolours, ink, and pencil) and worked collaboratively on several art projects: notably, autograph albums and art albums.

Little more is known about the Kidman sisters. Lilian Kidman seems to have resided at Bateman House, Bateman Street, Cambridge in 1895, during which time Ella Kidman sent her many elaborately illustrated letters. Ella Kidman had moved to Sutton by 1911, and she immigrated to New York on 19 April 1914. Later, she married John Patrick Millington (1882-?) who, although born in Essex, was living in Winnipeg, Manitoba by 1911. The Kidman family art albums were presented to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria in 1979 by a Mr. Millington, suggesting that Ella Kidman and John Millington or their family may have eventually moved to Victoria, British Columbia.

By 1911, Henry Kidman had retired from farming, and he and Louisa Kidman moved to Sutton, Surrey, and then to Chiswick, Middlesex.

Custodial history

Gift of Mr. Millington to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, December 1979. Transferred to University of Victoria Libraries, date unknown.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of three family-owned albums. Each album was produced with different degrees of collaboration between Henry Kidman, Lilian Kidman, Ella Kidman, as well as their other family members and friends. The collection includes one art album: a scrapbook consisting mostly of art created by the Kidman family. Additionally, the scrapbook contains original artwork by non-family members, greeting cards, and some family memorabilia—including a letter addressed to Mary Ann Elliot Lines, Henry Kidman's mother, written on the evening before her wedding. The collection also contains two autograph albums: one owned by Lilian Kidman and one owned by Ella Kidman. Given to the two sisters as Christmas gifts in 1897, the two commercially made albums match aside from the colour of their covers. Both Lilian and Ella Kidman employed their albums to collect autographs, inscriptions, and artwork from their family and friends. The sisters had many mutual friends, and their respective autograph albums contain similar entries from their shared connections.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Transferred from the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, date unknown.

Alternative form available

Digitized version of the Lilian L. Kidman autograph album is available here: https://vault.library.uvic.ca/concern/generic_works/16f2576c-505a-4c54-9c49-00c3eeae444?locale=en

Digitized version of the Ella Kidman autograph album is available here: https://vault.library.uvic.ca/concern/generic_works/4b95b147-6a2d-4d0c-9392-9f3d585f1d6a?locale=en

Finding aids

This finding aid for the Kidman Family fonds provides fonds-level and item-level descriptions.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- Kidman, Lilian L. (subject)
- Kidman, Ella (subject)
- Kidman, Henry Oscar (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- scrapbooks (documentary form)
- albums (books) (documentary form)
- autograph (signature) (documentary form)
- Autographs--Collections (subject)
- Autographs--Great Britain--19th century (subject)
- Scrapbooks (subject)
- Art--Great Britain--19th century (subject)
- England (place)

Collection holdings

Item: Kidman family art album

Title: Kidman family art album

Date: 1829- 1895 (accumulation) (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This item is a scrapbook primarily consisting of art created by the Kidman family. The artwork includes pencil drawings, ink drawings, and watercolour paintings with many different subjects: portraits, animals, plants, and a variety of fantasy scenes (including Ella Kidman's ink illustration of the witches from Shakespeare's Macbeth). Some of the scrapbook's contents capture different elements of the Kidman family's history. One page features a pasted-in ink sketch (1867) by Henry Kidman, depicting Porters End Farm in Kimpton, Hertfordshire—the estate where he lived and worked in the 1850s and 1860s before getting married and having children. Another page includes a pasted-in letter addressed: "To Mary Ann Elliot Lines, the evening before her marriage April 29th 1829." Lines was Henry Kidman's mother, and the letter was written by Jane Kingston, Henry Kidman's grandmother. Other notable features of the scrapbook are four cut-out, decorative address sections of envelopes, addressed to "Miss Kidman, Bateman House, Bateman Street." These envelope cut-outs are likely from letters sent by Ella Kidman to Lilian Kidman. The scrapbook also contains greeting cards and a variety of loose leaf paintings and drawings.

Physical description: 1 album

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Kidman (family)
 - Kidman, Henry Oscar
 - Kidman, Lilian L.
 - Kidman, Ella
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - scrapbooks (documentary form)
 - albums (books) (documentary form)
 - England (place)
-

Item: Lilian L. Kidman autograph album

Creator: Kidman, Lilian L.

Title: Lilian L. Kidman autograph album

Title [statRep]: Lilian L. Kidman 1/5/1898

Date: 1898- 1928 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This item is an autograph album owned by Lilian Leigh Kidman, the second eldest of the Kidman family children. The album was received by Lilian Kidman as a Christmas gift in 1897, and on January 1, 1898 she designed a cover page that features a popular album inscription beginning with the following lines: “Yes, this is my album / But learn ere you look / That all are expected / To add to my book.” The contents of the album include ink drawing designs by Lilian Kidman, often depicting fantastical elements such as elves, or moons and suns with faces. These designs also feature deliberately blank spaces and compartments for the addition of signatures and inscriptions. Artwork, inscriptions, and autographs from Lilian Kidman’s friends and family are collected in the album. The album also features many inkblot signatures—a fad that became popular among students in the late nineteenth century. Notably, Lilian Kidman’s autograph album matches the one owned by her younger sister, Ella. The sisters both had artistic abilities, and there are many similarities in their custom page designs; this suggests that they worked collaboratively on their albums. Additionally, Lilian and Ella Kidman had many mutual friends, and their respective autograph albums contain similar entries from their shared connections.

Physical description: 1 album

Language of the material:

Arabic

English

French

German

Spanish

Alternative form available:

Digitized version of the Lilian L. Kidman autograph album is available here: https://vault.library.uvic.ca/concern/generic_works/16f2576c-505a-4c54-9c49-00c3eeae444?locale=en

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Kidman (family)
 - Kidman, Ella
 - Kidman, Henry Oscar
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - scrapbooks (documentary form)
 - albums (books) (documentary form)
 - autograph (signature) (documentary form)
 - England (place)
-

Item: Ella Kidman autograph album

Creator: Kidman, Ella

Title: Ella Kidman autograph album

Title [statRep]: Ella Kidman. From May. Xmas 1897.

Date: 1897- 1930 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This item is an autograph album owned by Ella Kidman, the third eldest of the Kidman family children. The album was received by Ella Kidman as a Christmas gift in 1897, and soon after, she designed a title page featuring an ink drawing of seagulls flying over the ocean. Her name is featured in the top centre of this title page. The contents of the album include ink drawing and pencil designs by Ella Kidman, often depicting flowers or other plants. These designs often feature deliberately blank spaces and compartments for the addition of signatures and inscriptions. Artwork, inscriptions, and autographs from Ella Kidman's friends and family are collected in the album. The album features many inkblot signatures—a fad that became popular among students in the late nineteenth century. Notably, Ella Kidman's autograph album matches the one owned by her older sister, Lilian. The sisters both had artistic abilities, and there are many similarities in their custom page designs; this suggests that they worked collaboratively on their albums. Additionally, Ella and Lilian Kidman had many mutual friends, and their respective autograph albums contain similar entries from their shared connections.

Physical description: 1 album

Language of the material:

English

Dutch

Alternative form available:

Digitized version of the Ella Kidman autograph album is available here: https://vault.library.uvic.ca/concern/generic_works/4b95b147-6a2d-4d0c-9392-9f3d585f1d6a?locale=en

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Kidman (family)
 - Kidman, Lilian L.
 - Kidman, Henry Oscar
 - Graphic material (documentary form)
 - Textual record (documentary form)
 - scrapbooks (documentary form)
 - albums (books) (documentary form)
 - autograph (signature) (documentary form)
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