



## The Oscar Wilde Collection on microfilm

### Poetic. Critic. Playwright. Novelist. Sensation Artist. Oscar Wilde was all of these — and more

Oscar Wilde once commented to Andre Gide that he had put his genius into his life and only his talents into his writings. Indeed, he remains popularly known through his sparkling aphorisms and through his affair with Lord Alfred Douglas which led to what many consider his martyrdom and rise as a gay icon.

Yet Wilde's genius is very much in evidence in the permanent contributions he made to English literature: "The Importance of Being Earnest," "Picture of Dorian Gray," "The Decay of Lying," "The Soul of Man Under Socialism," "Lady Windmere's Fan," "A Woman of No Importance" and "De Profundis," in which he offered this sober assessment of the complex relationship between his life and work:

"The gods had given me almost everything. I had a genius, a distinguished name, high social position, brilliancy, intellectual daring ... I treated art as the supreme reality and life as a mere mode of fiction ... But I let myself be lured into long spells of senseless and sensual ease ... Tired of being on the heights, I deliberately went to the depths in search for new sensations."

Now Wilde the man and Wilde the artist can be studied together as never before. Primary Source Microfilm takes great pride in announcing the publication of *The Oscar Wilde Collection*. The collection is based upon the holdings of the University of California, Los Angeles's William Andrews Clark Memorial Library and contains:

- Literary manuscripts and typescripts of poems and plays including unpublished poems, personal and lecture notes and drafts of works including "The Picture of Dorian Gray"
- First and rare editions of Wilde's work in English including "The Ballad of Reading Gaol," "De Profundis" and many others
- Autograph correspondence of Wilde and the Wilde family including his wife Constance, his mother Jane and his sister-in-law Lily

### Highlights of The Oscar Wilde Collection at the Clark Library

In 1999 the Armand Hammer Museum built its exhibition on Oscar Wilde from the Clark's collection, calling it "one of the finest such public collections in the world." Based on Clark's early purchases from Wilde's son Vyvyan Holland, bibliographer Christopher Millard, and executor Robert Ross, the holdings include a remarkable group of autograph letters and drafts by Wilde, supported by a nearly complete collection of printed editions of his works.

In the past, any researcher involved in in-depth study of Wilde and his work has had to travel to the Clark Memorial Library. For example, the collection is cited in such major works as Richard Ellmans' biography of Wilde. Now the Clark's holdings of Wilde's manuscripts and rare print editions are represented for the first time in *The Oscar Wilde Collection* on microfilm.

The accessibility of these materials will benefit Wilde studies, helping to complete researchers' understanding of the development of Wilde's style and choice of subjects as well as events in his personal life.

### Availability

The collection is available on approximately 50 reels of 35mm, high quality silver halide film. Printed and Internet-based versions of the accompanying guide are also available. For additional product and pricing information, contact your Primary Source Microfilm Representative. Call 1-800-444-0799 (U.S. and Canada), or send an e-mail to [international@galegroup.com](mailto:international@galegroup.com) (outside the U.S. and Canada). Or visit our Web site at [www.galegroup.com](http://www.galegroup.com).

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