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Summary

Roger G. Swearingen is a leading authority on the life and works of Robert Louis Stevenson. He is a graduate of the University of California-Berkeley (A.B., 1965) and of Yale University (Ph.D., 1970). From 1969 until 1983 he taught English Literature, Robert Louis Stevenson, and scientific and technical writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of California-Davis.

At the end of October 2007 he retired from his position as a web site architect and designer at Agilent EEsof EDA (Electronic Design Automation) in Santa Rosa, California, originally part of Hewlett-Packard Company and since August 2014 known as Keysight Technologies. Hired as a contract technical writer by Hewlett-Packard in January 1984, he worked almost twenty-four years at various information-management tasks for HP and for Agilent Technologies after it became a separate company.

Publications

Books

The Sea Fogs. Text edited with an Introduction. Illustrations by Gary Alphonso. Santa Rosa, California: Nawakum Press/David Pascoe, 2016.

The Hair Trunk or The Ideal Commonwealth: An Extravaganza. Edited with an introduction and notes from the manuscript in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California. Kilkerran, Scotland: Humming Earth / Zeticula, 2014.

Robert Louis Stevenson in Australia: Treasures in the State Library of New South Wales. Commentaries created in support of an exhibition of Stevenson items by the State Library of New South Wales coordinated with 'RLS 2013: Stevenson, Time and History', the Seventh Biennial Robert Louis Stevenson Conference, hosted by the University of New South Wales, Sydney, 8 - 10 July 2013. Distributed as a keepsake to Conference participants. 88 pages. July 2013.

The Bottle Imp in English and Samoan. Introduction by Roger G. Swearingen. English text edited by Robert Hoskins. Samoan text prepared by Ben Taufua and Galumalemana Alfred Hunkin. Wellington, New Zealand: Steele Roberts, 2011.

Robert Louis Stevenson's Edinburgh: A Concise Guide for Visitors and Residents. Edinburgh: City of Edinburgh Museums and Galleries, 2001. ISBN 0 905072 98 7. 84 pages, illustrated.

The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature, Volume 4: 1800-1900. Third Edition. Ed. Joanne Shattock, University of Leicester. Cambridge, January 2000. Entries for: Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Alan Mowbray Stevenson.

"Individual author entries include sections on manuscript locations, bibliographies, collected

works, details of all individual works, contributions to periodicals, letters, journals, translations, pseudonymous works, imitations and attributed or spurious works. The Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature is accepted internationally as the single most important reference work in its field."

Robert Louis Stevenson and Samoa After 100 Years. Apia, Samoa: Robert Louis Stevenson Museum/Preservation Foundation, November 1999. 132 pages.

Expanded and annotated version of December 1997 talk given at Vailima.

The Prose Writings of Robert Louis Stevenson: A Guide. Archon, USA; Macmillan, London; 1980.

A complete scholarly account of the more than 300 prose works--novels, stories, essays--that Stevenson wrote. Each entry describes the manuscripts, publishing history, and composition of each work, often in great detail.

Robert Louis Stevenson: The New Lighthouse on the Dhu Heartach Rock, Argyllshire. St. Helena, California: Silverado Museum, 1995. Published jointly with the Northern Lighthouse Board, Edinburgh, and Scotland's Lighthouse Museum, Fraserburgh.

First publication of this 4,800-word essay written in 1872. Edition also includes previously unpublished sketches of people and landscapes by RLS made in 1870 during his trip to see the progress of the work and a full-color reproduction of Sam Bough's painting of the lighthouse and the rock during construction.

Robert Louis Stevenson: An Old Song/Edifying Letters of the Rutherford Family. Wilfion Books, Scotland; Archon, USA; 1982.

First publication of these two works, with an introduction. *An Old Song* appears for the first time under Stevenson's name. It was published anonymously in 1877 and was never reprinted.

Robert Louis Stevenson: The Amateur Emigrant.
1879-80. 2 vols. Ashland, Oregon: Lewis Osborne,
1976-77.

First complete publication from the original
manuscript, with introductions to each volume.

Articles

"Le regard de Robert Louis Stevenson sur les Cévenols, les Écossais des Hautes Terres et les habitants des îles du Pacifique Sud" ["Robert Louis Stevenson on the Cévenols, Highlanders, and South Sea Islanders"], *Causses & Cévennes*, 24:1 (Jan-Feb-Mar 2019), 166-167, a translation by members of the Club Cévenol of a previously unknown and unpublished passage from Stevenson's day-to-day journals in the Marquesas, not used by him in *The South Seas* (4 August 1888; Huntington Library 2412). This appears in a Stevenson issue of *Causses & Cévennes* (2019, no. 1) titled "Stevenson et les Cévennes: une histoire d'amour".

"La réputation de Robert Louis Stevenson en Écosse et dans le monde" ["Robert Louis Stevenson's Reputation in Scotland and Worldwide"], *Causses & Cévennes*, 24:1 (Jan-Feb-Mar 2019), 170-172, this in the same Stevenson issue of *Causses & Cévennes* as the previous entry. Translated by Corinne Poujol with corrections in the next issue, 24:2 (April-May-June 2019), 225.

"'On the Art of Literature' (1880) - a reading text," *Journal of Stevenson Studies*, 7 (2010), 131-142.

"A Tale of Two Tapa: Their History, Legend, and Celebrity Ownership by Robert Louis Stevenson," *The Journal of The Polynesian Society*, 118 (December 2009), 339-359.

Letter: "Herbert Spencer at billiards," *Times Literary Supplement*, 13 November 2009, 6.

"Recent Studies in Robert Louis Stevenson -

Survey of Biographical Works and Checklist of Criticism - 1970-2005," *Dickens Studies Annual*, 38 (2007), 205-298.

"Stevenson's final text of *Kidnapped*," *Journal of Stevenson Studies*, 3 (2006) 111-115. Excerpt from Review of Research, 2006.

"Recent Studies in Robert Louis Stevenson - Letters, Reference Works, Texts - 1970-2005," *Dickens Studies Annual*, 37 (2006), 343-438.

"Notes on the Port of St. Francis (1951)", *Quarterly Newsletter, Book Club of California*, 69 (Spring 2004), 35-41. Separately reprinted in an edition of 12 copies for Frank Stauffacher designed by Derek Bacchus, Kentfield, California, July 2015.

"A New Lighthouse on the Dhu Heartach Rock, Argyllshire: A Previously Unpublished Essay by Robert Louis Stevenson," *Northern Lighthouse Journal*, Christmas 1995, pp. 26-28. Account of the editing and publication of RLS's essay.

"'A Scotsman of the World': Robert Louis Stevenson after 100 Years," *Edinburgh University Journal*, 36 (June 1994), 158-163.

Review: Robert Louis Stevenson, *Plain John Wiltshire on the Situation* (French Publishing Corporation, 1979), in *Fine Print*, 16 (Summer 1990), 92-93.

"Introduction," Robert Louis Stevenson: *An Inland Voyage/Travels with a Donkey*. Written for the Chambers Centenary Edition, Edinburgh:Chambers, 1981. Not published; series cancelled.

"Robert Louis Stevenson & the Goats: Monterey County Ranch Discovered," *Quarterly Newsletter, Book Club of California*, 46 (Summer 1981), 65-67.

"'An Old Song' (1877): Robert Louis Stevenson's First Published Story, A New Discovery in the Yale Libraries," *Yale University Library Gazette*, 54 (January 1980), 101-13.

"Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)" Bernard M. Rosenthal, Inc., List 41. San Francisco, 1979. 16-page catalogue.

"'Essays on the Enjoyment of the World': The Place

of *Travels with a Donkey* in Stevenson's Work and Literary Career," *Cahiers Victoriens & Edouardiens*, 8 (Montpellier, April 1979), 25-38.

"Guyon's Faint," *Studies in Philology*, 74 (April 1977), 165-85.

Review: Irving S. Saposnik, Robert Louis Stevenson (Twayne, 1974), in *Studies in Scottish Literature*, 12 (April 1975), 284-90.

"The Prose Writings of Robert Louis Stevenson: An Index and Finding-List, 1850-1881," *Studies in Scottish Literature*, 11 (January 1974), 178-96; 11 (April 1974), 237-49.

Lectures, Talks, Radio and Television

"Travelers in the Cévennes: Robert Louis Stevenson (September 1878), Tony Foster and James Ravilious (May 1982)". Slide lecture at The Foster Museum, Palo Alto, California. 11 November 2023.

"The Life and Times of Robert Louis Stevenson in Monterey". Slide lecture with audio for the Carmel Woman's Club, Carmel, California. 21 March 2022.

"Inspired by Robert Louis Stevenson - A Life-Long Treasure Hunt". Slide lecture with audio for a joint gathering of the Historical Society of Pacific Grove and the RLS Club of Monterey. 28 August 2021.

"Stevenson's Scotland: Shaping the Modern Myth". Slide lecture with audio. Robert Louis Stevenson Museum, St. Helena, California, 15 November 2018.

"Robert Louis Stevenson, A Scot Abroad in Napa Valley: Some Often-Forgotten Details About *The Silverado Squatters*." Slide lecture. St. Helena Public Library, 10 May 2018. Sponsored by the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum, St. Helena.

"Two Pieces of Paper and Why They Matter: Original Manuscript Pages from *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum". Slide Lecture. St. Helena Public Library, 7 November 2017.

"Did Robert Louis Stevenson Ever Meet Mark Twain? - And Other Biographical Byways." Slide lecture. Monterey Public Library, Monterey, California, 8 November 2011.

"Remarks on the Re-Dedication of the Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial Tablet, Mt. St. Helena, 7 May 2011." Comments at the unveiling and at the reception following, 7 May 2011.

"Did Robert Louis Stevenson Ever Meet Mark Twain? - And Other Biographical Byways." Slide lecture. Robert Louis Stevenson Silverado Museum, St. Helena, California, 6 April 2011.

"Robert Louis Stevenson House: Biography of a Building." Slide lecture. Monterey Public Library, Monterey, California, 14 November 2007.

"*The Master of Ballantrae: A Conversation.*"
Plenary session with Nicholas Rankin, Robert
Louis Stevenson Conference, Saranac Lake,
New York, 19 July 2006.

"Some Early Visitors to Monterey: Artistic Monterey
in the 1870s." Slide lecture. Stevenson House,
Monterey State Historic Park, 27 August 2005.

"Great Books: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.* The Learning
Channel, 9 December 2003." On-screen appearance and
script consultation for the hour-long program
produced by Judith Dwan Hallet for the Cronkite-Ward
"Great Books" series.

"Introduction: *Notes on the Port of St. Francis*
(1951)." Book Club of California, San Francisco,
10 November 2003. Introduction to a showing of
the avant-garde film by Frank Stauffacher. The
film is narrated by Vincent Price using the text
of Robert Louis Stevenson's essay "A Modern
Cosmopolis" (1882).

"Robert Louis Stevenson in Monterey: What Do
We Really Know?" Monterey Public Library,
Monterey, California, 9 November 2002.

"Talk of the Nation: Book Club of the Air -
Treasure Island." Hour-long discussion with
Ray Suarez and callers, National Public Radio.
19 August 1999. A Real Media version of the
program is available in the NPR Archive,
<http://www.npr.org/programs/totn/> - Talk of
the Nation, 19 August 1999, Book Club of the Air.

"Robert Louis Stevenson and Samoa After 100 Years."
Annual Lecture, Robert Louis Stevenson Museum,
Vailima, Samoa. 3 December 1997.

"Robert Louis Stevenson: From Author to Classic."
Autumn Meeting, Gleeson Library Associates,
University of San Francisco. November 1997.

"Robert Louis Stevenson and Lighthouses." Maritime
Museum, Stanton Center, Monterey, California. Slide
lecture, 9 November 1995. Repeated: Silverado
Museum, St. Helena, California, 26 February 1996.

"Stevenson in Fine-Printing Editions." Book Club of
California, San Francisco. January 1995.

"Why Monterey Still Matters." Annual Meeting, Old Monterey Preservation Society. January 1995.

"Stevenson's Travels." BBC-Scotland, November-December 1994. On-screen appearance and script consultation.

"Some Resources in the United States for Studying the Stevenson Family of Engineers." The Stevenson Family of Engineers Symposium, Edinburgh, Scotland. Institution of Civil Engineers and the National Museums of Scotland. 16 April 1994.

"Robert Louis Stevenson: Why Monterey Matters." Old Monterey Preservation Society, 23 January 1993.

"Talofa, Alii: Robert Louis Stevenson's First Year in Samoa, 1890-1891." St. Andrews Society of San Francisco, 22 September 1990.

"*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* as Self-Consuming Artifact." University of Edinburgh, 22 June 1982.

"Stevenson in California: Episode or Turning-Point?" Stevenson Napa Valley Centennial Celebration, California Historical Society/Napa Historical Society. 16, 17 May 1980.

"Scholars and Collectors: Some Recent Examples from Robert Louis Stevenson." Sacramento Book Collectors Club, 11 April 1980.

"Stevenson's Darker Romances: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Master of Ballantrae*, *The Ebb-Tide*." Winter Lecture, Gleeson Library Associates, University of San Francisco. 17 February 1980.

"*Kidnapped*, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, and *Huckleberry Finn*: Three Variations on Some Central Themes of the 1880's." Modern Language Association seminar, New York, December 1976.

"Stevenson and American Literature." Modern Language Association seminar, San Francisco, December 1975.

Grants and Research

Huntington Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino, California. March 2014.

Research in Stevenson's day-to-day journals for *Robert Louis Stevenson's The South Seas: A Complete Edition from the Manuscripts*.

Visiting Fellow, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, John D. and Rose H. Jackson Fellowship. October 2004.

Research for *Robert Louis Stevenson: Spirit of Adventure*, taking in many newly-acquired items.

Also assisting the library and fellow scholars in the identification and cataloguing of Stevenson's notebooks and other manuscript materials.

American Council of Learned Societies, Grant-in-Aid, 1978-79.

Seven weeks completing research for *The Prose Writings of Robert Louis Stevenson*. New Haven, New York, Boston, Princeton, Philadelphia.

Club Cevénol, Alés, France. September 1978.

Opening speaker at centennial celebration of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Travels with a Donkey*.

Edinburgh, Scotland. 1973-74, 1976, 1978, 1982, 1985, 1989, 1994, 1997, 2000.

Fifteen months in 1973-74 and additional trips later. Research on the life and works of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Education

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut 06520
Ph.D., English Literature, 1970.

Dissertation: "The Early Literary Career
of Robert Louis Stevenson, 1850-1881: A
Bibliographical Study."
Dissertation Abstracts, 32 (1971), 459-A.
Advisor: Professor A. Dwight Culler.

University of California, Berkeley 94720
A.B., English, 1965.

Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in English.
Summer Honors Seminar, 1964.
H. W. Hill Scholarship, 1964-65.

Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, California 91711

Two years, intended major in chemistry.
1960-1962.

Lick-Wilmerding High School, San Francisco 94112

College preparatory. Graduated 1960.

Employment

1984-2007

Web Site Architect
Learning Products Specialist
Senior Technical Writer
Agilent EEsof EDA
Agilent Technologies, Inc.
1400 Fountaingrove Parkway
Santa Rosa, California 95403-1799

1979-83 Lecturer in Scientific Writing
Department of English
University of California-Davis
Davis, California 95616

1979 Bernard M. Rosenthal, Inc., Booksellers
251 Post Street
San Francisco, California 94108
and
Brick Row Book Shop
251 Post Street
San Francisco, California 94108

Rare Books Cataloguer

1977-79 Independent research.
Grant from American Council of
Learned Societies, New York.

1969-77 Assistant Professor of English
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

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