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Guide to the Donald Grant Mitchell Papers

YCAL MSS 492

by Michael Rush and Aubrey Novak

August 2011

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview 3
Requesting Instructions 3
Administrative Information 4
  Immediate Source of Acquisition 4
  Conditions Governing Access 4
  Conditions Governing Use 4
  Preferred Citation 4
  Processing Information 4
  Associated Materials 4
Donald Grant Mitchell (1822-1908) 4
Scope and Contents 4
Arrangement 5
Collection Contents 6
  Correspondence 6
  Third party correspondence 8
  Writings and Related Papers 9
  Correspondence 10
  Writings and Other Papers 11
  Unsorted Material 12
Selected Search Terms 14

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 492

CREATOR: Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1822-1908

TITLE: Donald Grant Mitchell papers

DATES: 1787-1936

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7.26 linear feet (18 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Donald Grant Mitchell papers contain original correspondence and manuscripts by the prominent nineteenth-century New Haven-area author. Correspondents include Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Augustin Beers, George Washington Cable, William Maxwell Evarts, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thomas Raynesford Lounsbury, Hamilton Wright Mabie, Noah Porter, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Scribner, Edmund Clarence Stedman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others. Writings include drafts for published and unpublished work and journals, including substantive drafts for Fresh Gleanings (1847), American Lands and Letters (1897-1899), English Lands, Letters and Kings (1889-1890), and Wet Days at Edgewood (1865), as well as an unpublished "History of Venice." Other materials include biographical and bibliographical material, financial and legal records, photographs, and printed ephemera.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mitchell

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.mitchell.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired through various gifts and purchases from 1938 to 1974. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Donald Grant Mitchell Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Donald Grant Mitchell Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

The collection received preliminary processing at an unknown date. During further processing in 2011, the material was listed below in the order in which it was arranged and described in the card catalog (Za Mitchell 1, Za Mitchell 2, etc.), with broad groupings for correspondence, writings, and other papers.

Formerly classed as Za Mitchell and Za M692 +S1.

Associated Materials

Donald Grant Mitchell Papers (MSS #140). New Haven Museum, New Haven, Connecticut.

Donald Grant Mitchell (1822-1908)

Donald Grant Mitchell, essayist and novelist, was born in Norwich, Connecticut, graduated from Yale College in 1841 and, after serving abroad briefly as U.S. consul in Venice, Italy, from 1853 to 1854, settled near New Haven, Connecticut. Mitchell wrote literary criticism, travel literature, and volumes of essays on rural themes, including *Reveries of a Bachelor* (1850), *My Farm of Edgewood: A Country Book* (1863), and *Rural Studies* (1867). Other works include the novel *Doctor Johns* (1866), *About Old Story Tellers* (1878), and *American Lands and Letters* (1897–1899).

Scope and Contents

The Donald Grant Mitchell papers contain original correspondence and manuscripts by the prominent nineteenth-century New Haven area author. Correspondents include Henry Ward Beecher, Henry Augustin Beers, George Washington Cable, William Maxwell Evarts, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Thomas Raynesford Lounsbury, Hamilton Wright Mabie, Noah Porter, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Scribner, Edmund Clarence Stedman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and others. Writings include drafts for

published and unpublished work and journals, including substantive drafts for *Fresh Gleanings* (1847), *American Lands and Letters* (1897-1899), *English Lands, Letters and Kings* (1889-1890), and *Wet Days at Edgewood* (1865), as well as an unpublished "History of Venice." Other materials include biographical and bibliographical material, financial and legal records, photographs, and printed ephemera.

Arrangement

Arranged according to Za Mitchell numbers in card catalog.

Collection Contents
Correspondence

b. 1	Mitchell, Donald Grant *9 Folders* Contains letters from Mitchell to others, including William Williams, Charles Scribner, and Mary (Perkins) Goddard	[circa 1840-1905]
b. 1	Beers, Henry Augustin	1886 June 3
b. 1	Cable, George Washington	1904 March 1
b. 1	Curwen, John	1889-1900, undated
b. 1	Evarts, William Maxwell	1878 April
b. 1	Gilman, Daniel Coit	1883, 1891
b. 1	Harper & Brothers, publishers	1847-1857
b. 1	Hubbard, Gardiner Greene	1897 July 28
b. 1	Huntington, William Henry	[circa 1858-1884]
b. 1	Law, S. D.	1880 January 17
b. 1	Lounsbury, Thomas Raynesford	1889-1899
b. 1	Mabie, Hamilton Wright	1883, 1889
b. 1	Marble Annie (Russell)	1906
b. 1	Mathews, Cornelius	1853 April 20
b. 2	Miscellaneous	[circa 1851-1890]
b. 2	Munger, Theodore Thornton	1903 March 4
b. 2	Olcott, James B.	1891
b. 2	Peck, Tracy	1901 November 2
b. 2	Porter, Noah	1884
b. 2	Pusey, Cécile (Guyot)	1849 May 17
b. 2	Rantoul, Robert Samuel	1904 August 23
b. 2	Scribner, Arthur Hawley	1889, 1892
b. 2	Scribner, Charles (1821-1871)	1856-1866
b. 2	Scribner, Charles (1854-1930)	1883-1907

b. 2	Smyth, Albert Henry	1889-1899
b. 2	Stokes, Olivia Egleston Phelps	1901 October 24
b. 2	Weir, John Ferguson	1894 May 15
b. 2	Welles, Edwin Stanley	1894 February 6
b. 2	Yarnall, Thomas Coffin	1901, 1905

Third party correspondence

b. 2	Bigelow, John	1906 November 8
b. 2	Blake, Henry Taylor	1886 May 17
b. 2	Hutchinson, Thomas	1896, 1902
b. 2	Kennedy, John Pendleton	1853 June 15
b. 2	Mitchell, Lucretia Mumford (Woodbridge)	1809-1832
b. 2	Mitchell, Mary Frances (Pringle)	1862-1884
b. 2	Roosevelt, Theodore	1907
b. 2	Charles Scribner & Sons *2 Folders* Includes memoranda of agreement	1872-1906
b. 2	Shaw, Thomas	1795 March 10

Writings and Related Papers

b. 2	Bibliography of his own work Includes letters to Walter L. Mitchell	1909, undated
b. 2	Bibliographies of other works	undated
b. 2	"The Bride of the Ice-King"	[1864]
b. 2	*Old Christmas Reminiscences*	undated
b. 2	Dedication for *American Lands and Letters*	1897 February 22
b. 2	*Fresh Gleanings*	1847 July
b. 3	*American Lands and Letters*	undated
b. 3	*English Lands, Letters and Kings*	undated
b. 3	Miscellaneous manuscript fragments	undated
b. 3	Lectures and speeches	undated
b. 3	*Farmers' Homes*	undated
b. 4	[Art and common sense]	undated
b. 4	"Towns : Streets"	undated
b. 4	"Parks : etc."	undated
b. 4	"Buildings"	undated
b. 4	Essay fragments	undated
b. 4	Typescript copy of inscription	undated
b. 4	Private papers	1908, undated
b. 4	Journals *5 Folders*	1859, undated
b. 5	Journal of finances and writings	undated
b. 5	Essay on farms and farm houses	undated
b. 5	Royalty statements from Charles Scribner & Sons	1850-1936
b. 5	*Wet Days at Edgewood*	undated
b. 6	Journal, Index of agriculture	1837

Correspondence

	Incoming	
b. 6	Typescripts of selected correspondence	undated
b. 6	Beecher, Henry Ward; Beecher, Catherine E.	1869, 1873
b. 6	Beers, Henry Augustin	1886 July 8
b. 6	Cable, George Washington	1899
b. 6	Cooke, John Esten	1899
b. 6	Curtis, George William	1859, 1885
b. 6	Fields, James T.	1863-1866
b. 6	Halleck, Fitz-Greene	1869
b. 6	Holmes, Oliver Wendell	1869-1891
b. 6	Larcom, Lucy	1869-1870
b. 6	Mabie, Hamilton Wright	1902, undated
b. 6	Porter, Noah	1865 May
b. 6	Sigourney, Lydia	1863
b. 6	Simms, William Gilmore	1853, undated
b. 6	Stedman, Edmund Clarence	1866-1897
b. 6	Stowe, Harriet Beecher	1868-1870
b. 6	Taylor, Bayard	1862-1869
b. 6	White, Richard Grant	1850, 1883
b. 6	Winter, William	1896-1908
b. 6	Miscellaneous *2 Folders*	1851-1906, undated
b. 6	Catalog of autograph letters	[circa 1900]
	Outgoing	
b. 6	Mitchell, Donald Grant *12 Folders*	1848-1904, undated

Writings and Other Papers

b. 6	Biographical sketch of Louis Mitchell	undated
b. 7	"A History of Venice" *16 Folders*	1857, undated
b. 7	History of Venice: lecture	undated
b. 8	Journal, History of Venice	undated
b. 8	Journal: Venetian notes	undated
b. 8	Journal: History of Venice	undated
b. 8	Notes on Venetian history by Louis Mitchell	undated
b. 8	Notes on Italy especially relating to Venice	undated
b. 8	Appendix of the statutes of the Inquisition	undated
b. 8	Catalogo dei libri della Biblioteca d' Brera	undated
b. 8	*Valery's Travels in Italy*	undated
b. 8	Lectures II-VI	undated
b. 9	Commonplace book	undated

Unsorted Material

b. 9	Letters and clippings sent between William Winter and Mitchell	undated
b. 9	Fan mail sent to Mitchell	1844-1900, undated
b. 9	"Lorgnette material"	1850-1851
b. 9	De Koven, Henry letter	undated
b. 9	Dunn, Waldo H. letter Poem: On the 80th birthday of Donald Grant Mitchell	1902 April 12
b. 9	Fragment of address from Oliver Wendell Holmes to Mitchell	undated
b. 9	Miscellaneous writings	undated
b. 9	Letters sent between Waldo H. Dunn and Mitchell	1902-1906
b. 9	Miscellaneous	1897-1903
b. 9	Photographs, interiors of Edgewood, with notes by Waldo H. Dunn	undated
b. 9	Summons signed by Stephen Mix Mitchell, grandfather of Donald Grant Mitchell	1787 December
b. 9	Printed matter by and about Mitchell *2 Folders*	1856-1901, undated
b. 9	Proof for preface to *Doctor Johns*	undated
b. 9	Holograph preface to the Edgewood edition of *Works of Donald Grant Mitchell*	undated
b. 9	Holograph of Chapter VII of the first volume of *American Lands and Letters*	undated
b. 10	Scrapbooks Originally the day book of attorney Levi H. Goddard, including financial records and clippings of Mitchell's *Letters from Paris* (1848) and *Capitol Sketches* Also stored at Za M692 +S1	1848, undated
b. 10	*The Dignity of Learning: A Valedictory Oration*	1841
b. 10	Typescript of *Letters from Paris*	undated
b. 11	Card catalog of Mitchell's library	undated
b. 12	"J. G. Dill's Best Cut Plug" tobacco tin Contains Mitchell's Skull and Bones pin, undated, and an award medal granted to Mitchell by the New York State Agriculture Society, 1843.	1843, undated
b. 13	Photographs and engravings of Donald Grant Mitchell *6 folders*	1903, 1905, undated
b. 14	Scrapbook of engravings	undated
b. 15 (Oversize)	Awards *3 folders*	1878, 1879, 1883

Scrapbooks of clippings

Scrapbooks kept by Mitchell and his family, containing press coverage of Mitchell and his writings, lectures, and home at Edgewood, as well as notices of his death and that of his wife.

Arranged chiefly by size.

b. 16	circa 1880-1907	circa 1880-1907
b. 16	circa 1885-1908	circa 1885-1908
b. 17	circa 1890-1908	circa 1890-1908
b. 17	1851-1909	1851-1909
b. 17	circa 1890s	circa 1890s
b. 17	1901 Contains obituaries for Mary Pringle Mitchell.	1901
b. 18	1908-1909 Contains obituaries of Donald Grant Mitchell.	1908-1909

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

American literature -- 19th century
Authors, American -- 19th century -- Archives

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints

Occupations

Authors -- United States -- 19th century

Names

Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887
Beers, Henry A. (Henry Augustin), 1847-1926
Cable, George Washington, 1844-1925
Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901
Halleck, Fitz-Greene, 1790-1867
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894
Lounsbury, Thomas R., 1838-1915
Mabie, Hamilton Wright, 1846-1916
Mitchell, Donald Grant, 1822-1908
Porter, Noah, 1811-1892
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
Scribner, Charles, 1821-1871
Stedman, Edmund Clarence, 1833-1908
Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896