

# Guide to the Kenelm Henry Digby Collection

OSB MSS 81



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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 81

**CREATOR:** Digby, Kenelm Henry, 1800-1880

**TITLE:** Kenelm Henry Digby collection

**DATES:** 1815-1918

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.41 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** French

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letters from various Digby family members and friends, including Marcella Digby; the comte d'Esgrigny; Henry Edward, Cardinal Manning; Montalembert; and Robert Hare. Letters from Ambrose Lisle Phillipps discuss Catholicism in England, recent conversions, and the early Oxford Movement; letters from Charles Julius Hare comment unfavorably on Digby's attacks on Protestantism. There is also a small amount of research correspondence with Bernard Holland, author of *Memoir of Kenelm Henry Digby* (1919). The collection also includes newspaper clippings of reviews of Digby's later works; obituaries of Digby; and a sketchbook.

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

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## 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.digby>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased on the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Fund, 2002

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Kenelm Henry Digby Collection 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Kenelm Henry Digby Collection. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## KENELM HENRY DIGBY, 1800-1880

Kenelm Henry Digby, youngest son of William Digby, Anglican Dean of Clonfert, was born in Ireland in 1800 and took his B.A. at Trinity College, Cambridge in 1819. In 1822 he published *The Broad Stone of Honour*, a lengthy but popular and influential work on chivalry.

Digby converted to Roman Catholicism in 1825 and published a much rewritten version of *Broad Stone* in 1826-27. *Mores Catholici*, an eleven-volume work on medieval Catholicism and culture, appeared in 1831-40, and *Compitum, or, The Meeting of the Ways at the Catholic Church*, a Catholic apologetic, in 1848. In addition to these, Digby published several collections of poetry; the meditative *The Lover's Seat* (1856); *The Chapel of St. John, or, A Life of Faith in the Nineteenth Century* (1861), dedicated to his late wife; and *Evenings on the Thames, or, Serene Hours and What They Require* (1864).

Digby married Jane Mary Dillon in 1833; the couple had seven children, one of whom, Marcella Digby, was received into the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Roehampton in 1859 against her father's wishes. The Digbys spent much time in France during the 1840s and 1850s. After Jane Digby's death in 1860, Digby led an increasingly retired life at his home in Kensington until his own death on March 22, 1880.

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## Scope and Contents

The Kenelm Henry Digby Collection consists of papers relating to the faith and literary career of Kenelm Henry Digby, possibly collected by Bernard Holland in the course of his research for *Memoir of Kenelm Henry Digby* (1919). The collection has been organized into two series: Series I. *Correspondence*, and Series II, *Other Papers*. The papers span the dates 1815-1918.

[Series I, Correspondence](#), spans the years 1815-1918 and is organized into two subseries: Digby Family Correspondence and Research Correspondence. Each subseries is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

The first subseries, Digby Family Correspondence, contains a few letters by members of Digby's family, including his brother Richard and his daughter Marcella, who speaks of their shared faith and her life as a nun in Chile. There is also a letter from Hubert Dormer to his future wife Mary Digby discussing plans for the couple to live with Digby after their marriage. A few correspondents are represented only by letters of condolence written on the death of Digby, including Edward John Tilt and Cardinal Manning.

In addition to these, there are letters to Digby from various friends, in particular the comte d'Esgrigny, whom Digby and his family visited many times. The letters in the collection date from the last years of Digby's life and contain family and personal news; wishes for Digby's improved health; and comments on faith and the political situation of the Catholic Church in France.

The fourteen letters from Ambrose Lisle Phillipps contain much discussion of English Catholic teachings and practices; news of and reflections on the early progress of what came to be known as the Oxford Movement; reports on Movement figures such as Wiseman, Newman, and Manning; and commentary on the increase in conversions among the English and the popular and political reactions against them.

Other friends represented in the collection include Robert Hare, George Spencer, and the Anglican Julius Charles Hare, who in two 1842 letters expresses his anger at Digby's "virulent bigotry" against Protestantism in general and the Church of England in particular. There is also one 1858 letter to Digby from Montalembert, in English, praising his *Lover's Seat*.

The second subseries, Research Correspondence, consists of letters to Bernard Holland written in response to his requests for information on Digby's life. Folder 31 contains a biographical sketch of his daughter Marcella, which was enclosed in a letter to Holland. There are also letters from his publisher concerning publication details.

[Series II, Other Papers](#), is housed in folders 39-45 and contains newspaper clippings relating to various works by Digby; obituary notices for him; one folder of research notes; and a sketchbook holding a variety of landscape drawings in pencil and ink.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1815-1918

0.30' (0.75 box)

Series I, *Correspondence*, is organized into two subseries and arranged alphabetically by correspondent within each.

#### DIGBY FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

	Arundel and Surrey, Countess of	
b. 1, f. 1	ALS to David Lewis Inviting the recipient and "Mr. Newman"(John Henry Newman?) to Easter dinner	[1849 Mar]
	de Bistolli, G.; Paris	
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to [KHD]	1845 Mar 14
	Digby, B.	
b. 1, f. 3	ALS to KHD	1842 Jan 25
	Digby, Kenelm Henry, 1800-1880	
b. 1, f. 4	ALS draft to "My dear mother"	1815 Feb 9
b. 1, f. 5	2 ALS to "Madame la Baronne d'Erval"	1822, 1823
	Digby, Marcella	
b. 1, f. 6	ALS to KHD; Valparaiso, Chile	1879 Dec
	Digby, Richard, d. 1820	
b. 1, f. 7	ALS to "My dear mother"	1817 Aug 1
	Dormer, Hubert	
b. 1, f. 8	ALS to Mary Digby Dormer On her acceptance of his proposal	1865 Aug 2
	Hare, Julius Charles, 1795-1855	
b. 1, f. 9	2 ALS to KHD	1842
	Hare, Robert, 1781-1858	
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to KHD; Winkfield Park	n.y. Jul 1
	Jouenne d'Esgrigny d'Herville, L.	
b. 1, f. 11	7 ALS to KHD	1878-80, n.d.
	Jouenne d'Esgrigny d'Herville, Marie François Jules de	

DIGBY FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE > Jouenne d'Esgrigny d'Herville, Marie François Jules de  
(continued)

b. 1, f. 12-16	29 ALS to KHD With: ALS to Hubert Dormer, 1880 Mar 25, on the death of KHD	1876-80, n.d.
	La Bourdennaye de Blossac, comte de	
b. 1, f. 17	ALS to KHD; Hotel de la Varenne	n.y. Oct 12
	Manning, Henry Edward, 1808-1892	
b. 1, f. 18	ALS to Mary Digby Dormer; Westminster On the death of KHD	1880 Mar 24
	Molesworth, B.	
b. 1, f. 19	ALS to Mary Digby Dormer; Monastery of St Ann On the death of KHD Also signed: "Teresa of Jesus"	[1880 Mar]
	Montaigu, M. de	
b. 1, f. 20	3 ALS to KHD With: ALS to Hubert Dormer, 1880 Mar 31, on the death of KHD	1870-79, n.d.
	Montalembert, Charles Forbes, comte de, 1810-1870	
b. 1, f. 21	ALS to KHD; Athenaeum Club Praising <i>The Lover's Seat</i>	1858 May 22
	Murray, E.	
b. 1, f. 22	ALS to KHD	1826 Jan 7
	Phillipps, Ambrose Lisle, 1809-1878	
b. 1, f. 23-25	14 ALS to KHD	1827-42
	Shadwell, Cayley	
b. 1, f. 26	2 ALS to KHD; Upper Gower Street	n.d.
	Spencer, George, 1799-1864	
b. 1, f. 27	ALS to KHD; St. Mary's Abbey	1841 Nov 3
	Tilt, Edward John, 1815-1893	
b. 1, f. 28	ALS to Hubert Dormer; 27 Seymour St, Portman Square On the death of KHD	1880 Mar 24
b. 1, f. 29	Unidentified	n.d.
	RESEARCH CORRESPONDENCE	
	Butler, Henry Montagu, 1822-1918	
b. 1, f. 30	2 ALS to Bernard Holland; Trinity College, Cambridge Enclosure: TLS from W. W. Rouse Ball to Butler, 1916 Jul 10	1916 Jul

## RESEARCH CORRESPONDENCE (continued)

	D'Arcy, M.	
b. 1, f. 31	ALS to Bernard Holland; Convent of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton With "Madame Marcella Digby," biographical sketch, in French, of KHD's daughter	1916 Jul 29
	Digby, John	
b. 1, f. 32	ALS to Geta Dormer; 43 St. Georges Road	1916 Jun 14
b. 1, f. 33	ALS to Bernard Holland; 43 St. Georges Road	1916 Jul 28
	Dormer, Geta [Gertrude]	
b. 1, f. 34	6 ALS to Bernard Holland	1916 Jun-Jul
	Dormer, May	
b. 1, f. 35	2 ALS to Bernard Holland	1916 Jul
	Longman, Thomas Norton, 1849-1930	
b. 1, f. 36	4 TLS to Bernard Holland With: publication contract for <i>Memoir of Kenelm Henry Digby</i> from Longmans, Green, and Co., 1918 Oct 2	1918 Jul-Oct
	Palmer, Aidan, O.S.P.	
b. 1, f. 37	3 ALS to Bernard Holland	1916 Jul
b. 1, f. 38	Empty envelopes	n.d.



**Series II: Other Papers, 1856-1880**

0.10' (0.25 box)

Series II, *Other Papers*, is arranged alphabetically by type of material,

b. 1, f. 39	Newspaper clippings Notebook containing mainly reviews of <i>The Lover's Seat</i>	1856-58
b. 1, f. 40	Newspaper clippings Notebook containing mainly reviews of <i>The Children's Bower</i> and <i>The Chapel of St. John</i>	1858-63
b. 1, f. 41	Newspaper clippings Notebook containing reviews of <i>Evenings on the Thames</i> and several collections of poems by KHD	1860-72
b. 1, f. 42	Newspaper clipping Essay on <i>The Broad Stone of Honour</i> from <i>The Morning Post</i>	1877 Sep 28
b. 1, f. 43	Newspaper clippings Obituary notices for KHD	1880 Mar
b. 1, f. 44	Research notes	n.d.
b. 1, f. 45	Sketchbook Landscape sketches in pencil and ink by an unidentified artist	n.d.

## **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**

Anglo-Catholicism  
Catholics -- England  
English prose literature -- 19th century  
Oxford movement

### **Occupations**

Authors

### **Names**

Digby, Kenelm Henry, 1800-1880  
Digby, Marcella  
Hare, Julius Charles, 1795-1855  
Holland, Bernard, 1856-1926  
Jouenne d'Esgrigny d'Herville, Marie François  
Jules de  
Manning, Henry Edward, 1808-1892  
Montalembert, Charles Forbes, comte de,  
1810-1870  
Phillipps, Ambrose Lisle, 1809-1878