

Guide to the Ray Livingston Murphy Collection of Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Baron Lytton

GEN MSS 1272



by Brooke McManus

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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: GEN MSS 1272

CREATOR: Murphy, Ray Livingston, 1923- , collector

TITLE: Ray Livingston Murphy collection of Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Baron Lytton

DATES: 1826-1947

BULK DATES: 1826-1861

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.79 linear feet (4 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of writings, correspondence, and legal documents by or relating to English author and politician Edward Bulwer-Lytton.

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

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.livingstonmurphy>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Bequest of Ray Livingston Murphy, 1954.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Ray Livingston Murphy Collection of Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Baron Lytton 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

Ray Livingston Murphy Collection of Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton, Baron Lytton. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call number: MS Vault Lytton

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Ray Livingston Murphy (1923-1953)

Ray Livingston Murphy was a scholar and collector of literature and art. In 1948, he published *Last Viceroy: The Life and Times of Rear-Admiral The Earl Mountbatten of Burma*.

Edward Bulwer Lytton, Baron Lytton (1803-1873)

Edward Bulwer-Lytton, 1st Baron Lytton, was an English author and politician. His works include the novels *Pelham: or The Adventures of a Gentleman* (1828), *Godolphin* (1833), *A Strange Story* (1862), and *Kenelm Chillingly* (1873), and the plays *Richelieu* (1839) and *Not So Bad as We Seem, or, Many Sides to a Character: A Comedy in Five Acts* (1851). He served as a Whig Member of Parliament from 1831 to 1841 and as a Conservative from 1851 to 1866.

In 1827, Bulwer-Lytton married Irish-born author Rosina Doyle Wheeler. They had two children, Emily Elizabeth Bulwer-Lytton and Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton. The couple legally separated in 1836. In 1858, Lytton accused Rosina of being insane, and she was briefly hospitalized against her will.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of writings, correspondence, and legal documents by or relating to English author and politician Edward Bulwer-Lytton. Included is a volume containing publishing agreements

and correspondence, dummies of title pages, and copyright information for Bulwer-Lytton's novels; and autograph manuscript poems to be incorporated into *Pausanius, the Spartan*, a novel by Bulwer-Lytton published posthumously. The collection also contains proofs of *Not So Bad as We Seem*; autograph manuscript drafts of "Confessions and Observations of a Water Patient," published in *New Monthly Magazine*, and act one of a play based on Bulwer-Lytton's book *Kenelm Chillingly*; and an agreement with Charles Dickens and others to publish *A Strange Story* in Great Britain and the United States. Correspondence consists primarily of letters from Bulwer-Lytton, his wife, novelist Rosina Bulwer-Lytton, and their son, poet and diplomat Edward Robert Bulwer-Lytton, to various recipients. Lady Lytton's letter to her solicitor Charles Hyde, written several months after Baron Lytton had her incarcerated in a psychiatric facility, references her financial situation and anger at her estranged husband. Also included is a bound volume of letters to and from the author Sydney Owenson, known as Lady Morgan.

Arrangement

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

Collection Contents

Lytton, Edward Bulwer Lytton, Baron

b. 1, f. 1	<i>Not So Bad as We Seem</i> , correspondence, bibliographical notes, and leaf from original autograph manuscript draft	1942-1947, undated
b. 1, f. 2-3	<i>Not So Bad as We Seem</i> , bound proofs with autograph manuscript corrections, excisions	1851
b. 2	Original agreements regarding the publication of Bulwer-Lytton's novels	1853-1856
b. 3, f. 4	"Confessions and Observations of a Water Patient," autograph manuscript signed	1845
b. 3, f. 5	["Kenelm Chillingly"], autograph manuscript draft of Act One of play based on the novel, with letter from Charles Kent to Mrs. Kenny	1898
b. 3, f. 6	Agreement with Charles Dickens, William Henry Wills, and Low, Sampson, and Marston regarding publication of <i>A Strange Story</i> , with clipping	1861 August 8, 1916
b. 3, f. 7	Autograph letter, signed, to Henry Colburn	circa 1828
b. 3, f. 8	Autograph letter, signed, to unidentified recipient	1839 October 11
b. 3, f. 9	Autograph letter, signed, to unidentified recipient	circa 1863
b. 3, f. 10	Autograph letter, signed, to unidentified recipient	1867 September 13

Lytton, Rosina Bulwer Lytton, Baroness

b. 3, f. 11	Autograph letter, signed, to Charles Hyde	1858 August 19
b. 3, f. 12	Autograph letter, signed, to unidentified dog	undated

Lytton, Edward Robert Bulwer Lytton, Earl of

b. 3, f. 13	Autograph letter, signed, to Mrs. Laurence	1874 December 2
b. 3, f. 14	Autograph letter, signed, to unidentified recipient	circa 1873
b. 4	Correspondence with Lady Morgan and others Correspondents include Edward Bulwer Lytton, Thomas Laurence, C. M. Westmacott, William Loaden, and Sir John Philippart. The volume also contains artwork, such as a pencil and watercolor portrait of Lady Morgan by Thomas Laurence and a print of Lytton.	1826-1860

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

Authors and publishers -- Great Britain -- 19th century
English literature -- 19th century
Women authors, English -- 19th century
Women -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Occupations

Authors -- Great Britain -- 19th century
Politicians -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Names

Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870
Lytton, Edward Bulwer Lytton, Baron, 1803-1873
Lytton, Edward Robert Bulwer Lytton, Earl of, 1831-1891
Lytton, Rosina Bulwer Lytton, Baroness, 1802-1882
Morgan, Lady (Sydney), 1783-1859