

# Guide to the John Stuart Mill Papers

MS 350



compiled by staff of Manuscripts and Archives

1998

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 350

**CREATOR:** Mill, John Stuart, 1806-1873

**TITLE:** John Stuart Mill papers

**DATES:** 1812-1888

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Chiefly correspondence, to or from Mill. Of the 237 letters by Mill, 131 are to his wife, Harriet Hardy Taylor Mill. Twenty-four letters are from Helen Taylor, Mrs. Mill's daughter. In addition there are two volumes with drafts of letters by Mill written between 1851 and 1858 to a variety of recipients. Notable correspondents in the collection are John Austin, Jeremy Bentham, Augustus De Morgan, Isabella Beecher Hooker, George Grote, John Sterling and Edward Livingston Youmans. Other manuscript material includes four pages of his autobiography (dated 1861), his journal of a walking tour through Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey (1828) and several undated fragments, including several pages of medical advice to an unnamed person.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0350>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0350>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired through purchase and gift, 1944-1964.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

John Stuart Mill Papers (MS 350). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Stuart Mill, philosopher, and the eldest son of James Mill (1773 - 1836), a utilitarian philosopher, was born in Pentonville, London, on May 20, 1806. Mill was sternly educated by his father in Greek, Latin, and arithmetic by his eighth year. At twelve years, he began studying logic, including Aristotle and Hobbes. In May 1820, he became a serious scholar of French, while living with Sir Samuel Bentham (1757 - 1831) in France.

In 1822, Mill went to work for the East India Company, a position that gave him much time for study and discussion. He began writing for newspapers by 1823, his first article being a letter in the *Traveller*.

Mill suffered a mental breakdown in 1836, which caused evaluation of the utilitarian philosophy and the beginning of his great works. *A System of Logic, Ratiocinative and Inductive* appeared in two volumes in 1843.

In 1830, Mill met Mrs. Harriet Taylor (1807 - 1858), who was at the time married; however, Mr. Taylor died in 1849; and in 1851, J. Mill and Harriet Taylor were married. Both were ill during the majority of their marriage, and Mrs. Mill died of lung congestion in Avignon, 1858. Mill returned to intellectual pursuits and politics; he served Parliament in 1865, but was defeated in 1868. Mill died May 8, 1873, in Avignon.

For a chart outlining the genealogical relations of the Mill, Hardy, and Taylor families, please consult the [Genealogical Chart](#).

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## Scope and Contents

The John Stuart Mill Collection extends from 1812 - 1888, with around 425 items, mainly correspondence to or from John Stuart Mill. There are 237 letters by Mill, 131 of which are to his wife, Harriet (Hardy) Taylor Mill. Twenty-four letters are from Helen Taylor (1831 - 1907), Mrs. Mill's daughter.

The collection contains letters from Jeremy Bentham (1748 - 1832) to James Mill and John Stuart Mill. Bentham's philosophy was very influential upon James Mill and John Stuart Mill in his early years.

Letters to or from John Sterling (1806 - 1844), John Austin (1790 1859), Augustus DeMorgan (1806 - 1871), Edward Livingston Youmans (1806 - 1873), Herbert Spencer (1820 - 1903), and George Grote (1794 - 1871) are important to the collection. George Grote's friendship is particularly vital to Mill's own thought. The Grote - Mill letters contain discussion of Platonic thought in conjunction with Aristotle, Socrates, and Xanophon. Augutus DeMorgan's letters contain discussions of Plato and Comte.

Of the female correspondents, an Isabella Beecher Hooker (1822 - 1907) letter of August 10, 1869, covers Mill's book, *The Subjection of Women*, as well as some Hooker thoughts on woman suffrage.

Mill's own copious letters to Harriet give a thorough account of their relationship and the overpowering influence which she held on his life. The subject is well covered in F. A. Hayek's work, *John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor*. The friendship was ostensibly one of equality, as reflected in Mill's letters contained in the collection.

The John Stuart Mill Collection reveals much of Mill's personal life and an ample amount of his published philosophy. Anyone interested in philosophy as it developed in the nineteenth century would find the Mill correspondence valuable.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1	Correspondence	1812-1858
b. 2	Correspondence A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1859-1888, undated
b. 2	Account of a Walking Tour through Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Surrey	1828
b. 3-4	Photostatic copies of correspondence	
	Draft letters to	
b. 5	Dr. John Chapman	1851 June 9
b. 5	Judge Henry Samuel? Chapman	1858 July 8
b. 5	Dr. Walter Coulson	1850 November 22
b. 5	Professor C. D. H. Rau	1852 Nar 20
b. 5	Professor Green	1852 April 8
b. 5	Lord Hobart	1853? August 7
b. 5	The Secretary, National Sunday League.	1856 November 3
b. 5	The author of "Currency Self-Regulating & Elastic." Longmans	1856 November 26
b. 5	F. Sinnett	1857 October 22
b. 5	The Educational Franchise	1857 December 11
b. 5	Wm. Newmarch Esq.	1858 March 20
b. 5	J. Britten	1858 July 1
	Draft letters to	
b. 5	J. J. Louis Blanc	1858 July 9
b. 5	Constantine Baer	1856 December 13
b. 5	Dr. Adolph Soetbaer	1852 March 18

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## Appendix: Correspondents

Adams, Sarah Fuller (Flower) (1805 - 1848)  
Amberley, John Russell, Viscount, (1842 - 1878)  
American and Continental Literary Agency  
Argyll, George Douglas Campbell, Eighth Duke, (1823 - 1900)  
Arnold, Sir Edwin, (1832 - 1904)  
Ashburton, William Bingham Baring, Second Baron, (1799 - 1864)  
Austin, John, (1790 - 1859)  
Avignon, France  
Baer, Constantino  
Bain, Alexander, (1806 - 1873)  
Barnard, James Munson, (1819 - 1904)  
Beal, James  
Beggs, Thomas  
Bentham, Jeremy, (1748 - 1832)  
Bernays, Leopold John, (1820 - 1882)  
Bevans, John  
Bigot, Mary Healy  
Cairnes, Eliza Charlotte (Alexander)  
Cairnes, John Elliot  
Campbell, Alexander ,  
Cazelles, Emile Honore, (1831 - )  
Cazelles, Marie Anne Clotilde (Peyron)  
Chapman, Dr. John (1822 - 1894)  
Chape, Auguste Joanny  
Christie, William Dougal (1816 - 1874)  
Colet, Madame Louise  
Cowper, Thomas A.  
DeMorgan Augustus (1806 - 1871)  
Derby, Edward George Geoffrey Smith Stanley, Fourteenth Earl, (1799 - 1869)  
Dilke, Sir Charles Vlentworth (1843 - 1911)  
Duffy, Charles Garvari, (1816 - 1903)  
Fawcett, Dame Mellicent (Garett), (1847 - 1929)  
Fawcett, Henry, (1833 - 1884)  
Flower, Eliza, (1803 - 1846)  
Fox, Eliza (Florance)  
Fox, William Johnson, (1786 - 1864)  
Godwin, Parke, (1816 - 1901)  
Graham, William, (1839 - 1911)  
Grant, Horace  
Grey, Henry George, Third Earl, (1802 - 1894)  
Grote, George, (1794 - 1871)  
Gurney, Dr. H. Cecil  
Hardy, Arthur  
Hare, Eleanor Bowes (Benson)  
Hare, Thomas (1806 - 1891)  
Harrison, Frederick, (1831 - 1923)  
Helps, Sir Arthur, (1813 - 1875)  
Herbert, Auberon Edward William Malyneux, (1838 - 1906)  
Herschel, Sir John Frederick William, (1792 - 1871)  
Hobart, Vere Henry Hobart, Baron, (1818 - 187,)  
Hooker, Isabella Beecher, (1822 - 1907)  
Howitt, Mary Botham, (1799 - 1888)  
Huth, Augusta LouisA Sophia (Westenholz), ( - 1889)  
Irvine, Alexander, (1793 - 1873)

Leslie, Thomas Edward Cliffe, (1827? - 1882)  
Ley, William  
Linett, James  
Longman, William, 1813 - 1877)  
Lord, Caroline Annie (Ley), (1847 - )  
McLaren, Agnes  
McLaren, Donnan, (1800 - 1886)  
Martin, Louis  
Matthew, Patrick  
Mazzini, Guiseppe, (1805 - 1872)  
Mill, Harriet (Hardy) Taylor, (1807 - 1858)  
Mill, John Stuart, (1806 - 1813)  
Morley, John, Viscount, (1838 - 1923)  
National Association for the Promotion of Social Science  
Paterson, John  
Pascal, Eugene  
Peirce, Charles Saunders, (1839 - 1911)  
Phin , John  
Political Economy Club, London  
Roebuck, John Arthur (1801 - 1879)  
Ruge, Arnold, (1802 - 1880)  
Rusden, H. K.  
Salisbury, Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne Cecil, Third Marquess of, (1830 - 1880)  
Schaeffer, J.  
Shirreff, Emily Anne Eliza, (1814 - 1897)  
Smith, Goldwin, (1823 - 1910)  
Spencer, Herbert, (1820- 1903)  
Sterling, John , (1806 - 1844)  
Taine, Hippolyte Adolphe, (1828 - 1893)  
Tauchnitz, Christian Bernhard von, (1816 - 1895)  
Taylor, Helen, (1831 - 1907)  
Taylor, Helen B.  
Taylor, R.  
Taylor, Sarah  
Thornton, William Thomas, (1813 - 1880)  
Trask, James  
Trubner &Co.  
Venturi, Emilie (Ashurst) Hawkes, ( - 1893)  
Villari, Pasquale, (183h - 1917)  
White, Horace, (1834 - 1916)  
Youmans, Edward Livingston, (1821 - 1887)



## **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**

Philosophy

Women -- Legal status, laws, etc.

### **Geographic Names**

England -- Description and travel

Europe

### **Occupations**

Philosophers

### **Names**

Bentham, Jeremy, 1748-1832

Chadwick, Edwin, 1800-1890

Chapman, John, 1822-1894

Christie, William Dougal, 1816-1874

Cole, Henry, 1808-1882

De Morgan, Augustus, 1806-1871

Dilke, Charles Wentworth, Sir, 1843-1911

Grote, George, 1794-1871

Hardy, Arthur

Herschel, John F. W. (John Frederick William),  
1792-1871

Hooker, Isabella Beecher, 1822-1907

Mazzini, Giuseppe, 1805-1872

Mill, Harriet Hardy Taylor, 1807-1858

Mill, John Stuart, 1806-1873

Morley, John, 1838-1923

Spencer, Herbert, 1820-1903

Sterling, John, 1806-1844

Taine, Hippolyte, 1828-1893

Tauchnitz, Bernhard, 1816-1895