

# Guide to the John Collins Warren correspondence

Ms Coll 15



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2004

Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
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203-785-5636  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
Yale University  
333 Cedar St.  
New Haven, CT 06520-8014  
203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
<http://historical.medicine.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 15

**CREATOR:** Warren, John Collins, 1778-1856

**TITLE:** John Collins Warren correspondence

**DATES:** 1812-1856

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box, 39 items)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1 box

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Most of the collection consists of autograph letters by prominent physicians and scientists in America and abroad to John Collins Warren, surgeon and naturalist. Two letters are by Warren.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0015>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0015>.

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

Gift of Harvey Cushing, except for one letter purchased by the Library on the Henrietta Perkins Fund.

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### Custodial History

Given by Warren's grandson, John Collins Warren, 1842-1927, to Harvey Cushing.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The letters are in the public domain.

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## Preferred Citation

John Collins Warren Correspondence. Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Collins Warren, surgeon and naturalist, was born in Boston in 1778, the son of Harvard physician John Warren and Abigail (Collins) Warren. He graduated from Harvard College in 1797 and began the study of medicine with his father. From 1799 to 1802 he studied medicine in Paris and London. When he returned, he went into practice with his father. In 1809, Warren became adjunct professor in anatomy and surgery at Harvard Medical School and in 1815 succeeded his father as professor, a position he held until 1847. He became the outstanding American surgeon of his day and has become especially known for his role as surgeon in the first public demonstration of ether anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1846. In addition to his medical writings, he was active as a naturalist and comparative anatomist and served for many years as president of the Boston Society of Natural History. His many medical specimens formed the basis of the Warren Museum at Harvard Medical School. Warren died in 1856.

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## Scope and Contents

Most of the collection consists of autograph letters by prominent physicians and scientists in America to Warren. A few are from abroad. There is one letter from his son, John Warren. Two letters are written by Warren. One is an autograph copy of a letter by Warren to David Hosack, and the other is a letter to Philip Syng Physick, purchased and added to the collection by the Library.

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## Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by author of letter. Two folders were added in 2015 and placed at the end. The provenance is the same as the other letters.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Académie Royale des Sciences (France), Paris, to John Collins Warren	1829 August 31
b. 1, f. 2	Barrett, Benjamin, 2 letters to John Collins Warren	1825 September 1 and 1825 September
b. 1, f. 3	Beaumont, William R., Toronto, to John Collins Warren	1845 December 2
b. 1, f. 4	Binney, Horace, Philadelphia, to John Collins Warren	1825 September 28
b. 1, f. 5	Bowditch, Henry I., Boston, to John Collins Warren	1849 September 7
b. 1, f. 6	Bowditch, Nathaniel I., Boston, to John Collins Warren	1847 December 31
b. 1, f. 7	Chassaignac, E., Paris, to John Collins Warren	1838 April 22
b. 1, f. 8	Cooper, A[stley?], to John Collins Warren	no date
b. 1, f. 9	Cushing, Caleb, Newburyport, Mass., to John Collins Warren	1850 April 24
b. 1, f. 10	Dana, James Dwight, New Haven, 2 letters to John Collins Warren	1854 November 17-1854 November 22
b. 1, f. 11	Drake, Daniel, to John Collins Warren	1850 April 23
b. 1, f. 12	Everett, Edward, Cambridge, Mass., 2 letters to John Collins Warren	1848 January 1-1849 June 8
b. 1, f. 13	Faraday, Michael, Royal Institution [London], to John Collins Warren	1839 February 22
b. 1, f. 14	Gray, Asa, Cambridge, Mass., to John Collins Warren	1845 October 20
b. 1, f. 15	Hayward, George, London, to John Collins Warren	1812 November 23
b. 1, f. 16	Henry, Joseph, Smithsonian Institution, to John Collins Warren	1856 April 16
b. 1, f. 17	Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Boston, 5 letters to John Collins Warren Dates are 1849 October 10, 1849 October 23, 1850 June 1, 1850 December 11, and 1850 December 14.	1849 -1850
b. 1, f. 18	Jackson, J. B. S., to John Collins Warren	1854 July 31
b. 1, f. 19	Jackson, James, to John Collins Warren	1840 May 30
b. 1, f. 20	Physick, Philip Syng, Philadelphia, 3 letters to John Collins Warren Dates are 1828 November 16, 1830 June 4, and 1837 June 27.	1828-1837
b. 1, f. 21	Prescott, William H., to John Collins Warren	1854 July 1
b. 1, f. 22	Silliman, Benjamin, New Haven, to John Collins Warren	1856 April 181

b. 1, f. 23	Smith, Nathaniel I., Bennington, Vt., to John Collins Warren	1837 October 1
b. 1, f. 24	Smith, Stephen, New York, to John Collins Warren	1852 January 24
b. 1, f. 25	Warren, John, to John Collins Warren	1823 June 1
b. 1, f. 26	Warren, John Collins to David Hosack (copy)	1824 October 24
b. 1, f. 27	Warren, John Collins, New Haven, to Philip Syng Physick	1828 November 16
b. 1, f. 28	Wyman, Jeffries, Cambridge, Mass., to John Collins Warren	1854 March 15
b. 1, f. 29	Yandell, Lunsford P., Louisville, to John Collins Warren	1854 August 12
b. 1, f. 30	Agassiz, Louis, Cambridge, Mass., to John Collins Warren	1848 June 7
b. 1, f. 31	Sparks, Jared, Cambridge, Mass., 2 letters to John Collins Warren	1850 November 8 - 1850 December 2

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## 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.

Massachusetts Medical Society

### Subjects

Anatomy, Comparative  
Medicine -- Massachusetts  
Medicine -- Practice  
Natural history  
Science -- United States  
Surgery

### Names

Agassiz, Louis, 1807-1873  
Barrett, Benjamin  
Beaumont, William R. (William Rawlins),  
1803-1875  
Binney, Horace, 1780-1875  
Bowditch, Henry I. (Henry Ingersoll), 1808-1892  
Bowditch, N. I. (Nathaniel Ingersoll), 1805-1861  
Chassaignac, E. (Édouard), 1804-1879  
Cooper, Astley, Sir, 1768-1841  
Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879  
Dana, James Dwight, 1813-1895  
Drake, Daniel, 1785-1852  
Everett, Edward, 1794-1865  
Faraday, Michael, 1791-1867  
Gray, Asa, 1810-1888  
Hayward, George, 1791-1863  
Henry, Joseph, 1797-1878  
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894  
Hosack, David, 1769-1835  
Jackson, J. B. S. (John Barnard Swett), 1806-1879  
Jackson, James, 1777-1867  
Physick, Philip Syng, 1768-1837  
Prescott, William Hickling, 1796-1859  
Silliman, Benjamin, 1816-1885  
Smith, Nathaniel, Dr.  
Smith, Stephen, 1823-1922  
Sparks, Jared, 1789-1866  
Warren, John Collins, 1778-1856  
Wyman, Jeffries, 1814-1874  
Yandell, Lunsford P. (Lunsford Pitts), 1805-1878

### Corporate Bodies

Académie royale des sciences (France)  
Boston Society of Natural History  
Harvard College (1780- )  
Harvard Medical School