

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the William Makepeace Thackeray Collection

GEN MSS 1101



by Beinecke Staff

June 1997

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1101

CREATOR: Thackeray, William Makepeace, 1811-1863

TITLE: William Makepeace Thackeray collection

DATES: 1846-1912

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.75 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of correspondence, writings, and drawings by or related to William Makepeace Thackeray. Correspondence includes letters written by Thackeray to colleagues such as Connop Thirlwall and William Webb Follett Synge, and letters to Thackeray from potential contributors to Cornhill Magazine. Writings include an autograph manuscript of a chapter of *The Adventures of Philip*, an autograph poem parodying Goethe's *Werther*, and an autograph manuscript notebook with memoranda, drawings, and quotations from American history, used by Thackeray while writing *The Virginians*. Also present are sixteen sketches in watercolor and graphite by Thackeray, two groups of ink illustrations for Thackeray's writings by John Priestman Atkinson, and a portrait of Thackeray by an unidentified artist.

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

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.thackeray>.

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

Acquired by gift and purchase from various sources, 1944-1998.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Makepeace Thackeray 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.

Preferred Citation

William Makepeace Thackeray Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Processing Information

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 finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscript Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

This collection includes materials previously identified by the following call number: Uncat MS Vault Thackeray.

William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863)

English novelist.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, writings, and drawings by or related to William Makepeace Thackeray. Correspondence includes letters written by Thackeray to colleagues such as Connop Thirlwall and William Webb Follett Syngé, and letters to Thackeray from potential contributors to *The Cornhill Magazine*. Writings include an autograph manuscript of a chapter of *The Adventures of Philip*, and an autograph manuscript notebook with memoranda, drawings, and quotations from American history, used by Thackeray while writing *The Virginians*. Also present are sixteen sketches in watercolor and graphite by Thackeray, two groups of ink illustrations for Thackeray's writings by John Priestman Atkinson, and a portrait of Thackeray by an unidentified artist.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1846-1862. II. Writings, 1853, undated. III. Drawings, 1859-1878.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1846-1862

12 Folders

Series I contains letters written by Thackeray to various colleagues and acquaintances, with one volume of letters written to Thackeray.

b. 1, f. 1	To John Leycester Adolphus; autograph letter, signed Gift of Ruth Ellen du Pont Lord and Pauline Louise du Pont Harrison, 1970.	1854 Dec 8
b. 1, f. 2	To Charles Bray; autograph letter, signed Gift of Gordon S. Haight (Yale 1923 BA, 1933 PhD), 1974.	1855 Apr 5
b. 1, f. 3	To Frederic Chapman; autograph letter, signed Gift of Mary Poindexter Rigby Carlisle, 1955. Accompanied by a portrait of Thackeray engraved for the <i>Eclectic Magazine</i> .	[1850?]
b. 1, f. 4	To Miss Holmes; autograph letter, signed Purchased on the Plain Fund, 1954.	undated
b. 1, f. 5	To Peter Purcell; autograph letter, signed Purchased on the Elizabeth W. Manwaring Fund, 1954. Accompanied by four leaves and one engraved plate from <i>Notes of a Journey from Cornhill to Grand Cairo</i> (London: Chapman and Hall, 1846).	1846 Feb 10
b. 1, f. 6	To George Augustus Sala; autograph letters (2), signed Purchased from Clive Farahar & Sophie Dupre on the Chauncey Brewster Tinker Prize Fund, 1998.	[1862], undated
b. 1, f. 7	To Joseph Rudolph Schachner; autograph letter, signed Gift of Philip D. Sang, 1955.	1859 Apr 11
b. 1, f. 8	To Mr. Scott; autograph letter, signed Letter written in slanting hand; postscript written in upright hand. Gift of J. Miller Dixon for the Alan C. Dixon Memorial, 1944.	[1857?] Mar 19
b. 1, f. 9	To William Webb Follett Synge; autograph letter, signed with initials Accompanied by an engraved portrait of Thackeray by A. Weger, Liepzig. Gift of E. C. Jones, 1948.	undated
b. 1, f. 10	To Thomas James Thackeray; autograph letter, signed Accompanied by an etched portrait of Thackeray by G. Sidney Hunt after Samuel Laurance. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Blum, 1953.	undated
b. 1, f. 11	To Connop Thirlwall, addressed to "My dear Lord Bishop," London; autograph letter, signed Gift of John C. Thirlwall, 1966.	1861

- b. 1, f. 12 To Thackeray from potential contributors to the *The Cornhill Magazine* (1 bound volume with 14 autograph letters, signed) 1859-1860
Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1973; with bookplate of Jerome Kern.
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Series II: Writings, 1853, undated*8 Folders*

Series II contains autograph manuscripts by Thackeray, as well as corrected proofs of some of his printed writings.

b. 1, f. 13	<i>The Adventures of Philip on His Way Through the World</i> Autograph manuscript of 2 pages of the novel. Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1973.	undated
b. 1, f. 14	<i>The Adventures of Philip on His Way Through the World</i> Autograph manuscript, unsigned, of a large part of Chapter XXI (6 pages). Accompanied by a small sheet containing the genealogy of Philip, in Thackeray's hand. Gift of John W. Castles (Yale 1915), 1947.	undated
b. 1, f. 15	<i>The Four Georges</i> Proofs in various stages of revision, corrected by the author for publication in the <i>The Cornhill Magazine</i> , July-October 1860; bound with two of the articles extracted from the magazine as issued. Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1973	1860
b. 1, f. 16	<i>Roundabout Papers</i> , nos. I, III-X. Proof sheets, with autograph corrections. Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1973.	undated
b. 1, f. 17	"Sorrows of Werther" Autograph poem signed. Gift of Philip M. Neufeld, 1982.	1853
b. 1, f. 18	<i>The Virginians</i> Autograph manuscript notebook with twenty pages of notes, memoranda, and quotations on American history, materials used by Thackeray in writing <i>The Virginians</i> . On the preliminary two fly-leaves Thackeray has written his name and address, "36 Onslow Square, Brompton." The final leaf of the volume has an unfinished verse of poetry and a pencil sketch of Pocahontas rescuing Captain John Smith. On page 14 Thackeray transcribed a letter of his to Messrs. Sampson, Low & Son, referring to <i>The Virginians</i> , dated December 11, 1857. With an armorial bookplate of John and Dorothea Castles. Gift of John W. Castles (Yale 1915), 1947.	undated
b. 2, f. 19	<i>Lovel the Widower</i> Proof sheets corrected by the author for publication in the <i>The Cornhill Magazine</i> , January-June 1860; bound. Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1973.	undated

b. 2, f. 20	Untitled play	undated
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Autograph manuscript fragment (2 pages) of an unpublished play, with autograph additions and corrections and note by Anne Thackeray Ritchie on front flyleaf; bound.

Gift of Julia Millhiser Gimbel, 1973; with bookplate of George Barr McCutcheon.

Series III: Drawings, 1859-1878*5 Folders*

Series III contains illustrations by the British illustrator/wood engraver John Priestman Atkinson, sketches by Thackeray, and a portrait of Thackeray by an unidentified artist.

b. 2, f. 21	Unidentified artist, Portrait of William Makepeace Thackeray; graphite on paper Gift of John W. Castles (Yale 1915), 1950. Related to a drypoint etching by George Barnett Smith.	1859
b. 3, f. 22	Atkinson, J. Priestman, nine illustrations for chapters 3-8 and 10-12 of <i>Cox's Diary</i> ; ink on paper Purchased on the Tinker Fund, 1973. Published in <i>The Works of William Makepeace Thackeray...</i> v. 17 (London : Smith, Elder, 1879).	circa 1878
b. 3, f. 23	Atkinson, J. Priestman, four illustrations for <i>Little Dinner at Timmin's</i> ; ink on paper Purchased on the Tinker Fund, 1973. Published in <i>The Works of William Makepeace Thackeray...</i> v. 12 (London : Smith, Elder, 1879).	circa 1878
b. 3, f. 24	Thackeray, William Makepeace, three sketches; graphite on paper Gift of Philip M. Neufeld, 1976.	undated
b. 3, f. 25	Thackeray, William Makepeace, thirteen sketches; watercolor and graphite on paper Figure sketches and still life drawings from Thackeray's time in Bonn and other locations in Germany, with captions and notations. Gift of John W. Castles (Yale 1915), 1950.	undated

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, English -- 19th century
English literature -- 19th century

Genres / Formats

Sketches -- Great Britain -- 19th century
Watercolors (paintings) -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Occupations

Authors -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Names

Adolphus, John Leycester, 1795-1862
Atkinson, J. Priestman
Castles, John W., 1893-1965 -- Bookplate
Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von, 1749-1832
(Werther, Parodies, imitations, etc.)
Kern, Jerome, 1885-1945 -- Bookplate
McCutcheon, George Barr, 1866-1928 --
Bookplate
Ritchie, Anne Thackeray, 1837-1919
Sala, George Augustus, 1828-1895
Schachner, Joseph Rudolph, 1816-1896
Synge, W. W. Follett (William Webb Follett),
1826-1891
Thackeray, Thomas James
Thackeray, William Makepeace, 1811-1863
Thackeray, William Makepeace, 1811-1863 --
Portraits
Thirlwall, Connop, 1797-1875