

Guide to the Alfred White Van Sinderen Collection of Charles Babbage

GEN MSS 1362



Finding aid prepared by Karen Spicher

2015

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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 1362

CREATOR: Van Sinderen, Alfred White, 1924-1998 , collector

TITLE: Alfred White Van Sinderen collection of Charles Babbage

DATES: 1810-1990s

BULK DATES: 1820-1864

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English

SUMMARY: Correspondence of Charles Babbage, writings by Babbage, and other related papers collected by Alfred White Van Sinderen. Correspondence, circa 1810-1864 and undated, consists of autograph letters, signed, most from Babbage to colleagues, friends, and others; also present are a few letters to Babbage and third party letters. Correspondents include Alexander Dallas Bache; Michael Faraday; William Henry Fitton; Benjamin Hawes; Ada King, Countess of Lovelace; and Peter Mark Roget. Writings by Babbage include a untitled poem, autograph manuscript, circa 1817-1820, about Babbage's unsuccessful efforts to obtain an academic appointment; "To the Electors of Finsbury," 1832 November 12, printed proof, about Babbage's views during the Parliamentary election; and an autograph manuscript account book, 1810-1827. Most correspondence and writings are accompanied by typed transcripts and notes made by Van Sinderen. Other papers include additional notes by Van Sinderen and vendor descriptions for books by Babbage.

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

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.vansinderen>.

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

Gift of Alfred White Van Sinderen (Yale 1945), 1991 and 1998.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Alfred White Van Sinderen Collection of Charles Babbage 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

Alfred White Van Sinderen Collection of Charles Babbage. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat Ms Vault 809 and Uncat Ms Vault File. In 2015, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. The collection was reclassified under one call number, and containers were renumbered. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the donor, while some were assigned by Library staff. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

Charles Babbage (1791-1871)

British mathematician and computer pioneer.

Alfred White Van Sinderen (1924-1998) (Yale 1945)

Southern New England Telecommunications Corporation executive, 1947-1985; faculty fellow, Yale University School of Organization and Management; and Yale University Library Associates trustee. Van Sinderen assembled his collection of books and manuscripts relating to Charles Babbage during the 1960s through 1990s.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence of Charles Babbage, writings by Babbage, and other related papers collected by Alfred White Van Sinderen. Correspondence, circa 1810-1864 and undated, consists of autograph letters, signed, most from Babbage to colleagues, friends, and others; also present are a few letters to Babbage and third party letters. Correspondents include Alexander Dallas Bache; Michael Faraday; William Henry Fitton; Benjamin Hawes; Ada King, Countess of Lovelace; and Peter Mark Roget. Writings by Babbage include a untitled poem, autograph manuscript, circa 1817-1820, about Babbage's unsuccessful efforts to obtain an academic appointment; "To the Electors of Finsbury," 1832 November 12, printed proof, about Babbage's views during the Parliamentary election; and an autograph manuscript account book, 1810-1827. Most

correspondence and writings are accompanied by typed transcripts and notes by Van Sinderen. Other papers include additional notes made by Van Sinderen and vendor descriptions for books by Babbage.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Correspondence of Charles Babbage, 1810-1864. II. Writings of Charles Babbage, 1810-1832. III. Other Papers, 1700s-1990s.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence of Charles Babbage, 1810 - 1864

Letters are from Babbage, unless otherwise noted in file title.

b. 1, f. 1	"Adolphus, John, Mrs."	1859 February 24
b. 1, f. 2	Babbage, Benjamin Herschel	undated
b. 1, f. 3	Bache, A. D. (Alexander Dallas), (1806-1867)	1837 June 27
b. 1, f. 4	Bache, A. D. (Alexander Dallas), (1806-1867)	1854 August 8
b. 1, f. 5	Barlow, Peter (1776-1862)	1843, undated
b. 1, f. 6	Bell, Marion Snow	[1854] May 13
b. 1, f. 7	"Booth, Mr."	1827 April 20
b. 1, f. 8	Brewster, David (1781-1868)	undated
b. 1, f. 9	Brookfield, William Henry (1809-1874)	1854 May 28
b. 1, f. 10	Buckingham and Chandos, Richard Temple Nugent Brydges Chandos, Duke of (1776-1839)	[1830]
b. 1, f. 11	Burdett-Coutts, Angela Georgina	1863 August 12
b. 1, f. 12	"Colby, Colonel"	1836 April 19
b. 1, f. 13	"Crosse, Mrs."	1863 February 24
b. 1, f. 14	Denman, Theodosia Vevers	1840 February 8
b. 1, f. 15	Dollond, George (1774-1852)	[1830 June 1]
b. 1, f. 16	"Drummond, Thomas, Mrs."	1843 March 3
b. 1, f. 17	Faraday, Michael (1791-1867)	1828, 1831
b. 1, f. 18	Fitton, William Henry (1780-1861)	1824-1832 July
b. 1, f. 19	Fitton, William Henry (1780-1861)	1832 September-1838
b. 1, f. 20	Fitton, William Henry (1780-1861) (transcripts only)	1827, 1837
b. 1, f. 21	Fox, Mary, Lady	1836, undated
b. 1, f. 22	"Gazzieri, Professor"	1846 June 26
b. 1, f. 23	Gilbert, Davies (1767-1839)	1823 June 16-28
b. 1, f. 23a	Girard, Philippe Day (to "Sir") Gift of the Van Sinderen Committee.	[18??] February 20
b. 1, f. 24	Gravatt, William (1806-1866)	1858 July 29

b. 1, f. 25	Greathead, Percy	[1822 August]
b. 1, f. 26	Gregory, Duncan Farquharson (1813-1844)	1840 June 13
b. 1, f. 27	"Grove, Mrs."	1861 November 16
b. 1, f. 28	"Hall, Lady"	1853 March 20
b. 1, f. 29	"Hallam, Miss"	1841 May 6
b. 1, f. 30	Harris, W. Snow (William Snow), Sir (1791-1867)	1834 April 6
b. 1, f. 31	Hawes, B. (Benjamin), (1797-1862)	1837-1858
b. 1, f. 32	"Herries, Lady"	undated
b. 1, f. 33	Herschel, John F. W. (John Frederick William) (1792-1871)	1821 May 20
b. 1, f. 34	Herschel, John F. W. (John Frederick William) (1792-1871) (to Babbage)	[1829 June?]
b. 1, f. 35	Hollier, Sophy	1859, 1862
b. 1, f. 36	Hooker, William Jackson, Sir (1785-1865)	1857 March 8
b. 1, f. 37	"Horner, Mrs."	undated
b. 1, f. 38	Institution of Civil Engineers (Great Britain)	1856 May 2
b. 1, f. 39	Isaac, Harriet Whitmore	1829 December 22
b. 1, f. 40	"James, Miss"	undated
b. 1, f. 41	Kinglake, Alexander William (1809-1891)	1854 July 9
b. 1, f. 42	"Kinglake, Miss"	[1862 or 1863?]
b. 1, f. 43	Lemon, Charles, Sir (1784-1868)	1836 March 26
b. 1, f. 44	Lovelace, Ada King, Countess of (1815-1852)	1846 June 31
b. 1, f. 45	Lovelace, Ada King, Countess of (1815-1852) (to Babbage)	[1842?] November 6
b. 1, f. 46	[Martin, Robert Montgomery (1803?-1868)?]	1857 June 9
b. 1, f. 47	Merivale, Herman (1806-1874)	undated
b. 1, f. 48	"Milman, Mrs."	1841 March 15
b. 1, f. 49	Monk, James Henry (1784-1856)	[early 1840s]
b. 1, f. 50	Murchison, Roderick Impey, Sir (1792-1871)	undated
b. 1, f. 51	Owen, Richard (1804-1892)	1853 August 18
b. 1, f. 52	Porter, G. R.	1840 November 18

b. 1, f. 53	"Powell, Mr."	1831 July 22
b. 1, f. 54	"Robinson, Mrs."	1860 July 25
b. 1, f. 55	Roget, Peter Mark (1779-1869)	1819-1824, undated
b. 1, f. 56	"Rose, H., Professor"	1835 October 2
b. 1, f. 57	Royal Society (Great Britain)	1830 June 17
b. 1, f. 58	Ryan, Edward (1793-1875)	1852 May 18
b. 1, f. 59	Senior, Nassau William (1790-1864)	1852 March 20
b. 1, f. 60	Sharp, Richard (1759-1835)	[early 1830s] February 5
b. 1, f. 61	Sharpey, William (1802-1880)	1859 July 8
b. 1, f. 62	Smythe, Warrington	1864 February 2
b. 1, f. 63	Statistical Society (Great Britain)	1863 February 18-20
b. 1, f. 64	Stepney, Catherine Pollock Manners, Lady (-1845)	1840 July 14
b. 1, f. 65	Timbs, John (1801-1875)	1858 November 29
b. 1, f. 66	Tooke, William (1777-1863)	1827 January 28
b. 1, f. 67	Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of (1769-1852) (to Babbage)	1849 June 26
b. 1, f. 68	Wheatstone, Charles, Sir (1802-1875)	1838, undated
b. 1, f. 69	Unidentified	1810-1843
b. 1, f. 70	Unidentified	1843-1860s, undated

Series II: Writings of Charles Babbage, 1810-1832

b. 2, f. 71	Account book	1810-1827
b. 2, f. 72	Note about "tit-tat-too" game	undated
b. 2, f. 73	Poem First line: "Sir Alphabet Function a knight much renown'd"	[circa 1817-1820]
b. 2, f. 74	"To the Electors of Finsbury"	1832 November 12

Series III: Other Papers, 1700s-1990s

Most materials removed from books relating to Babbage owned by Van Sinderen

b. 2, f. 75	Babbage, Henry Provost. Letter to an unidentified recipient	1917 October 12
b. 2, f. 76	Portrait of Joseph-Marie Jacquard (woven on silk)	undated
b. 2, f. 77	Unidentified manuscripts	[18th-19th century]
b. 2, f. 78	Vendor descriptions	[circa 1970s-1990s]
b. 2, f. 79	Other notes and printed material	1936-1995, 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

Computer scientists -- Great Britain
Scientists -- Great Britain

Geographic Names

Finsbury (London, England) -- Politics and government -- 19th century

Genres / Formats

Account books -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Occupations

Scientists -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Names

Babbage, Charles, 1791-1871
Bache, A. D. (Alexander Dallas), 1806-1867
Faraday, Michael, 1791-1867
Fitton, William Henry, 1780-1861
Hawes, B. (Benjamin), 1797-1862
Lovelace, Ada King, Countess of, 1815-1852
Roget, Peter Mark, 1779-1869
Van Sinderen, Alfred White, 1924-1998

Contributors

Van Sinderen, Alfred White, 1924-1998 ,
collector
Babbage, Charles, 1791-1871