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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the William Michael Rossetti Collection

GEN MSS 269



by Beinecke Staff

June 1997

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 269

**CREATOR:** Rossetti, William Michael, 1829-1919

**TITLE:** William Michael Rossetti collection

**DATES:** 1857-1910

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.2 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters by Rossetti to various parties, including James Jackson Jarves and Eric Sutherland Robertson; two manuscript pieces: a "brief critique of British artists exhibiting in a British exhibition touring America," and an essay on Ruskin; and a signature clipped from a letter.

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

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## 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.wmrosset>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

Ongoing collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Type of accession (gift or purchase) and date of acquisition is noted in the box-and-folder list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The William Michael Rossetti 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.

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## Preferred Citation

William Michael Rossetti Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, it has been noted in the box-and-folder list. This finding aid will be updated periodically to account for new materials that may be added to the collection. The date of the most recent update is noted on the title page. For information on material that may have been added since the last update, please consult the Public Service Desk.

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## Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to William Michael Rossetti, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. Materials incorporated into the collection prior to June 1997 have been organized into three series. [Series I, Correspondence](#), contains items written by Rossetti, including letters to a Miss Taylor, in London, regarding Percy Shelley. The two items in [series II, Writings](#), are a critique of British artists and an essay on Ruskin. The [Other Materials in series III](#) consist solely of a signature clipped from a letter.

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**Collection Contents**
**I. Correspondence**

## ROSSETTI, WILLIAM MICHAEL

b. 1, f. 1	2 ALS to L[ouis] C[harles] Alexander, London Concerning a committee for the benefit of Charles Mackay Purchase, 1956	1888 Jan
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to [J. B. Bedford], London Gift, 1977	n.y. Jan 15
b. 1, f. 3	2 ALS (postcards) to William Morris Colles, London Purchase, 1956	1908, 1910
b. 1, f. 4	ALS to Miss Ulrica A. Fenwick, London Purchase, 1956	1873 Jul 16
b. 1, f. 5	ALS to Mr. Herbert N. Flewker, London Answering a request for an autograph. Purchase, 1956.	1889 Feb 23
b. 1, f. 6	2 ALS to James Jackson Jarves, London Purchase, 1946	n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	ALS to John Nichol, London Purchase, 1954	1881 Apr 8
b. 1, f. 8	ALS to Eric Robertson, [London] Gift, 1983	1879 Sep 4
b. 1, f. 9	4 ALS to Eric Sutherland Robertson, London Purchase, 1956	1886
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to William Smith [London] About a bust of Stothard. Gift, 1970	1867 May 19
b. 1, f. 11	3 ALS and 1 ALS (fragment) to Miss Taylor [London] About the restoration of Percy Bysshe Shelley's tomb and the preparation of the adjoining grave for Edward John Trelawny's ashes, accompanied by 1 ALS from Rossetti to Trelawny, 12 November 1880, and a draft of a letter, unsigned, from Trelawny to Rossetti, 28 June 1879, on the same subject. Accompanied by drafts and translations of correspondence between Edward John Trelawny and John Trucchi, the Custodian of the English Cemetary at Rome about the repair of Shelley's tomb. Purchase, 1971,	1880-[1881?]
b. 1, f. 12	ALS to Miss Taylor, London Accompanied by a draft of a letter composed by Rossetti for Edward John Trelawny to send to Lady Shelley. Purchase, 1971	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	ALS to Miss Taylor, London Concerning Edward John Trelawny's loan to Rossetti of a sofa once belonging to Percy Bysshe Shelley. Accompanied by a newspaper clipping about the sofa. Purchase, 1971	n.d.

## ROSSETTI, WILLIAM MICHAEL (continued)

b. 1, f. 14	Envelope addressed to Edward John Trelawny, London Purchase, 1971	1878 Dec 6
b. 1, f. 15	ALS to W. A. Turner, [London] Gift, 1965	1884 Nov 5
b. 1, f. 16	5 ALS to Thomas J. Wise, London Purchase, 1954	1889-92
b. 1, f. 17	ALS (fragment) to an unidentified recipient From a collection formed by George Bainton and William Michael Rossetti, Gift, 1957.	n.d.

**II. Manuscripts, [1857-58]**

b. 1, f. 18	"Brief critique of British artists exhibiting in a British exhibition touring America", [1857-58] autograph ms List artists by number in a catalogue (not identified) with brief comments on their British and American reputations and their standing in the Pre-Raphaelite hierarchy; Holman Hunt, Barbara Bodichon, Ruskin, Linnell, and Ford Madox Brown are among those discussed. Purchase, 1955,	
b. 1, f. 19	[Essay on Ruskin], AMS Purchase, 1965	1908 Sep 11

**III. Other Materials, n.d.**

b. 1, f. 20	Signature, clipped from letter addressed to Hallam Tennyson From the S.C.G. Watkins Collection.	n.d.
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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.

### **Subjects**

Authors, English -- 19th century

### **Names**

Jarves, James Jackson, 1818-1888  
Robertson, Eric S. (Eric Sutherland)  
Rossetti, William Michael, 1829-1919  
Ruskin, John, 1819-1900