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Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Robert Southey Collection

GEN MSS 298



by Beinecke Staff

July 1997

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 298

**CREATOR:** Southey, Robert, 1774-1843

**TITLE:** Robert Southey collection

**DATES:** 1797-1837

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of letters and writings by Southey. Included are letters to James Ballantyne, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John May, James Montgomery, and Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd. Writings include manuscripts of *Amadis de Gaula*; *The Curse of Kehama*; *Roderick, the Last of the Goths*; and of *Robin Hood*, written with his wife, Caroline Southey.

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

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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.southey>.

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.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Robert Southey 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

Robert Southey 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 Robert Southey, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. Materials incorporated into the collection prior to July 1997 have been organized into two series, [Correspondence](#) and [Writings](#). Materials added to the collection since that time are located in Series III, Additions since July 1997, listed in the order in which they were added.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, [1809–10]

b. 1, f. 1	ALS to James Ballantyne, [Keswick] Concerning Southey's work on the Edinburgh Annual Review Purchase, 1956	[1809–10]
b. 1, f. 2	2 ALS to Thomas Foster Barham, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1816 Nov; 1817 Aug
b. 1, f. 3	ALS to Alfred Beesley, Keswick Gift, 1945	1824 Mar 30
b. 1, f. 4	ALS to Mary Matilda Betham, Keswick Purchase, 1988	1808 Sep 19
b. 1, f. 5	ALS to Joseph Bounden, Keswick Accompanied by engraved portrait of Southey Purchase, 1956	1824 Aug 22
b. 1, f. 6	ALS to Sir Egerton Brydges, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1830 Jun 16
b. 1, f. 7	ALS to S.T. Coleridge Purchase, 1970	n.d.
b. 1, f. 8	ALS to Joseph Cottle, Bristol Purchase, 1970	1799 Oct 12
b. 1, f. 9	ALS to [Joseph] Cottle, Kingsdown Gift, 1950	1802 Jun 24
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to Mr. Evans, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1814 Aug 19
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to William Gifford Gift, 1949	1816 Feb 20
b. 1, f. 12	ALS to John Abraham Heraud, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1828 Dec 1
b. 1, f. 13	ALS to John Kenyon, Keswick Gift, 1945	1826 Jul 12
b. 1, f. 14	8 ALS to John May Purchase, 1955	1799-1832
b. 1, f. 15	ALS to John May, Minehead Purchase, 1956	1799 Jul 29

b. 1, f. 16	ALS to [John May] Accompanied by typescript Purchase, 1956	1803 Aug 19
b. 1, f. 17	ALS to John May, [Keswick] Gift, 1945	1807 Dec 16
b. 1, f. 18	ALS to [John May], Keswick	1830 Apr 29
b. 1, f. 19	ALS to James Montgomery, Keswick Enclosed is a copy of Book II of his narrative poem <i>Roderick, the Last of the Goths</i> Gift, 1955	1812 Oct 7
b. 1, f. 20	ALS to James Montgomery Gift, 1955	[1817?] Nov 7
b. 1, f. 21	7 ALS to James Montgomery, Keswick Gift, 1955	1811-30
b. 1, f. 22	AL (with signature clipped off) to Mrs. [Mary Brent] Morgan, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1826 Nov 30
b. 1, f. 23	ALS to [John Murray]- concerning Washington Irving and a proposed life Jeremy Taylor, Keswick Signature cut out, and the name of Robert Southey has been inserted in another hand; at the top of the first leaf in the autograph of Washington Irving, is the note, "From Robert Southey to John Murray" Gift, 1925	1822 Jun 29
b. 1, f. 24	ALS to Richard Parkinson, Keswick Purchase, 1956	1833 Jul 10
b. 1, f. 25	2 ALS to Colonel Peachy, Keswick Embodying an epitaph in memory of "Emma. . .", i.e. Emma (Chartres) Peachy Purchase, 1939	1810 Feb; 1810 Oct 22
b. 1, f. 26	Fragment of a note to Edward Quillinan, Keswick Gift, 1961	1830 Jun 6
b. 1, f. 27	2 ALS to E.S. Rickman, Norwich, England Accompanied with typescript dated 1835 May 15 Purchase, 1939	[1831] Jan 27
b. 1, f. 28	ALS to Mr. Rumney, Newlands Gift	1819 Dec 11
b. 1, f. 29	AL, signed with initials, to John Rumney, Keswick Written on subscription advertisement for his, <i>A Chronological History of the West Indies</i> , London, 1827 Purchase, 1956	1824 Feb 27

b. 1, f. 30	ALS to John Sheppard, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1835 Nov 16
b. 1, f. 31	2 ALS to [Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd?], Keswick Gift, 1949	1834 Dec; 1835 Oct
b. 1, f. 32	ALS to W.B. Thomas Accompanied by a small piece of paper containing a note in Southey's hand on the words "Porrage or porridge, and pottage" Purchase, 1949	1797 Nov 11
b. 1, f. 33	ALS to [Charles Benjamin Tayler], Keswick Gift, 1949	1833 Jul 8
b. 1, f. 34	ALS to H.T. [Henry Taylor?] in which is mentioned slavery and the growth of democracy in America, Keswick Signed "R.S." Gift, 1941	1820 Aug 24
b. 1, f. 35	ALS to Richard Taylor, Keswick Gift, 1956	1829 Nov 10
b. 1, f. 36	AL to Edith (Southey) Warter, Streatham Purchase, 1954	1813 Sep 20
b. 1, f. 37	ALS to S. Wilkins, Keswick Accompanied with typescript Purchase, 1939	1831 Jun 29
b. 1, f. 38	ALS to Charles Watkin Williams Wynn, Keswick Accompanied by typescript Gift, 1949	1837 Dec 9
b. 1, f. 39	ALS to Henry B., West Tarring Gift, 1957	1835 Mar 10
b. 1, f. 40	ALS to an unidentified recipient Purchase, 1958	1799 Nov 22
b. 1, f. 41	ALS to an unidentified recipient, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1811 Sep 9
b. 1, f. 42	ALS to unidentified recipient, Keswick He thanks him for sending some statements on the Peninsular War Purchase, 1956	1818 May 29
b. 1, f. 43	ALS to unidentified recipient, Keswick Gift, 1940	1822 Nov

b. 1, f. 44	2 ALS to unidentified recipients 2 engraved portraits of Southey enclosed	[1823?] Dec; n.d.
b. 1, f. 45	ALS to unidentified recipient, Keswick Purchase, 1957	1829 Oct 8
b. 1, f. 46	ALS to unidentified recipient, Keswick Purchase, 1938	1835 Oct
b. 1, f. 47	AL to unidentified recipient, [Keswick] Gift, 1954	1837 Aug 29
b. 1, f. 48	ALS to unidentified recipient Purchase, 1958	n.d.
b. 1, f. 49	2 MS extracts from letters Accompanied by TLS from Kenneth Curry, Yale Ph.D. to Captain F.L. Pleadwell, former owner of the letters, Knoxville, Tennessee Purchase, 1939	[1820,21]



**Series II: Writings**

	<i>Amadís de Gaula</i> . English translation: Southey "Amadis of Gaul," by Vasco Lobeira: autograph manuscript of Robert Southey's translation of a prose romance, from the Spanish version of Garci Rodríguez de Montalvo; Gift <a href="#">See: Volume 1</a>	1803
b. 1, f. 50	"Chimalpoca: A Monodrama Founded on an Event in the Mexican History" Autograph manuscript, signed "S" and endorsed "R.S.'s Autograph J.C." Gift, 1945	n.d.
	"Commonplace Book" Autograph manuscript notebook containing miscellaneous notes, quotations, and some clippings, mainly on English literature and on Roman Catholicism Gift <a href="#">See: Volume 2</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 51	AMs notes for "Cowper" Purchase, 1964	n.d.
	"The Curse of Kehama" Autograph manuscript, probably printers copy of the narrative poem; bookplates of James Cowan, Roderick Terry and Chauncey Brewster Tinker Gift, 1954 Tinker 1938A <a href="#">See: Volume 3</a>	1810
b. 1, f. 52	Autograph manuscript, signed, of the poem beginning: "Moments there are in life, alas how few!", Keswick Purchase, 1943	1821 Oct 18
b. 1, f. 53	<a href="#">Nelson: Autograph notes on Admiral Horatio Nelson</a> Purchase, 1971	n.d.
b. 1, f. 54	Notes on his readings in English history: autograph manuscript Purchase, 1956	n.d.
b. 1, f. 55	Notes on the life of Henry Kirke White: autograph manuscript The notes are excerpts from the correspondence and commonplace books of White, whose memoir, written by Southey, was published in 1807 Purchase, 1957	[1806-07]
b. 1, f. 56	"Pierce Ploughman," AMs notes Gift, 1960	n.d.

b. 1, f. 57	<p>"Recollections of the Early Life of Robert Southey, Written by Himself in a Series of [1821]-24 Letters to his Friend Mr. John May"</p> <p>Autograph manuscript of portions of the autobiography, including parts of letters VIII, IX, X, XIII, XV Purchase, 1953</p>	
	<p><i>Robin Hood</i></p> <p>Autograph manuscript poem, Part I (2 copies); manuscript of Part II by his wife, Caroline Southey, and in her hand; accompanied by Southey's notes for the story of Robin Hood, 1808 Oct 28-1814 Jul 19; paper watermarked 1822</p> <p>Purchase, 1960</p> <p><a href="#">See: Volume 4</a></p>	
	<p>"Roderick, the Last of the Goths"</p> <p>Autograph manuscript copy made for the printer</p> <p>Gift</p> <p><a href="#">See: Volumes 5-6</a></p>	[1814]
b. 1, f. 58	<p>"Roderick, the Last of the Goths": preface and other preliminary matter in the form of a letter addressed to James Ballantyne, the printer</p> <p>Gift</p>	1814 Aug 23
b. 1, f. 59	<p>"Roderick, the Last of the Goths"</p> <p>Autograph manuscript of Book I of the narrative poem; title on ms: "Pelayo;" accompanied by photostats</p> <p>Gift, 1955</p>	[1812]
b. 1, f. 60	<p>"St. John Thrown into Boiling Oil"</p> <p>Autograph manuscript poem, signed "Erthusyo"</p> <p>Gift, 1950</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 61	<p>"Seeds of Verse"</p> <p>Autograph manuscript notes and outlines of ideas for verse; paper watermarked 1824</p> <p>Purchase, 1956</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 62	<p>"Shadwell:" autograph manuscript</p> <p>Purchase, 1943</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. 63	<p>"State of Ireland" (i.e. "Ode written after the King's visit to Ireland"): Autograph manuscript</p> <p>Written on several small pieces of paper, pasted together and mended; 11 stanzas, with parts of stanzas 5, 7 and 8 missing; accompanied with a picture and clipping containing biography</p> <p>Purchase, 1939</p>	n.d.

b. 1, f. 64      Miscellaneous manuscript fragments written in Southey's hand      n.d.  
Accompanied by ALS from John Wood Warter to John A. Haslewood, dated 1856  
Sep 24, concerning the manuscript fragments  
Gift, 1949

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**Volumes, 1803**

b. 1, f. 1	<i>Amadís de Gaula</i> . English translation: Southey "Amadis of Gaul," by Vasco Lobeira: autograph manuscript of Robert Southey's translation of a prose romance, from the Spanish version of Garci Rodríguez de Montalvo; Gift	1803
b. 1, f. 2	"Commonplace Book" Autograph manuscript notebook containing miscellaneous notes, quotations, and some clippings, mainly on English literature and on Roman Catholicism Gift	n.d.
b. 1, f. 3	"The Curse of Kehama" Autograph manuscript, probably printers copy of the narrative poem; bookplates of James Cowan, Roderick Terry and Chauncey Brewster Tinker Gift, 1954	1810
b. 1, f. 4	<a href="#">Robin Hood</a> Autograph manuscript poem, Part I (2 copies); manuscript of Part II by his wife, Caroline Southey, and in her hand; accompanied by Southey's notes for the story of Robin Hood, 1808 Oct 28-1814 Jul 19; paper watermarked 1822 Purchase, 1960	
b. 1, f. 5-6	"Roderick, the Last of the Goths" Autograph manuscript copy made for the printer Gift	[1814]

## **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**

English poetry -- 19th century  
Romanticism -- England

### **Names**

Ballantyne, James, 1772-1833  
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834  
May, John, 1775-1856  
Montgomery, James, 1771-1854  
Southey, Robert, 1774-1843  
Talfourd, Thomas Noon, 1795-1854

### **Contributors**

Southey, Robert, 1774-1843  
Southey, Caroline Bowles, 1786-1854