

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Marie Corelli Collection

GEN MSS 332



by Beinecke Staff

February 1998

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  
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**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 332

**CREATOR:** Corelli, Marie, 1855-1924

**TITLE:** Marie Corelli collection

**DATES:** 1885-1947

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.1 linear feet (5 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Collection includes letters between Corelli and her publishers, George and Richard Bentley, 1885-1894, including a copy of a letter by Basil Wilberforce concerning Corelli's "Barabbas"; letters to Alexander Wedderburn, 1908-17, that discuss John Ruskin, Arthur and Joan Severn, and personal matters; letters between George Bentley, Eric Mackay, and Arthur Waugh; autograph manuscript of "The Great Secret" (published in 1920 as "The Secret Power"); and a corrected typescript by Bertha Vyver entitled "Marie Corelli" (published in 1930 as "Memoirs of Marie Corelli") that contains a chapter by John Cuming Walters.

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

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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.corelli>.

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. Source information is recorded in series level notes. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Marie Corelli 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

Marie Corelli Collection. General Collection. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. 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 Marie Corelli, acquired by the library from a variety of sources. Materials incorporated into the collection prior to February 1998 have been organized into three series: [Series I, Ray Livingston Murphy Bequest](#), [Series II, Charles J. Levy Gift](#), and [Series III, Materials from Other Sources](#), which consists of material acquired from various other sources.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Ray Livingston Murphy Bequest, 1885-1947, n.d.

0.8 linear feet (2 boxes)

Bequest of Ray Livingston Murphy, 1954

#### CORRESPONDENCE OF MARIE CORELLI

b. 1, f. 1-25	<a href="#">Correspondence with George Bentley</a>	1885-91
b. 2, f. 26-37	Correspondence with George Bentley	1892-94, n.d.
b. 2, f. 38	Letters to Richard Bentley It is possible that other 1889 letters are intended for Richard, rather than George; Richard was actually running the business at the time because of his father's ill health. Letter of [ca. Nov 20] 1893 includes copy of letter from Basil Wilberforce concerning Corelli's book <i>Barabbas</i>	1889-92
b. 2, f. 39	Correspondence with Bentley & Son	1889-92
b. 2, f. 40	ALS from Billing & Sons	1892 Feb 15
b. 2, f. 41	ALS copy to Mary Scott	1886 Nov 16
b. 2, f. 42	ALS copy to "M. K. B."	1887 Feb 18
b. 2, f. 43	2 ALS (copies) from to "admirers"	1886 Nov 10
b. 2, f. 44	1 ALS, on stationary of the Constitutional Club, from "An old friend of R. B. Co." [MC?] to the firm	[n.y.] Tues
THIRD PARTY CORRESPONDENCE		
b. 2, f. 45-46	Correspondence between Eric MacKay (Marie's half-brother) and George Bentley	1892 Feb-May
b. 2, f. 47	AL signed "The Editor" from <i>The Novel Review</i> to George Bentley	[1892] Apr 14
b. 2, f. 48	ALS from Arthur Waugh to George Bentley	1892 Feb 29
OTHER PAPERS		
b. 2, f. 49	2 autographs clipped from letters	n.d.
b. 2, f. 50	1 page of notes about 2 Corelli letters. In an unidentified hand	n.d.
b. 2, f. 51	Newspaper clippings	1892-1947, n.d.

**Series II: Charles J. Levy Gift, 1904-1924***0.4 linear feet (1 box)*

Gift of Charles J. Levy, 1976

b. 3, f. 52	ALS to Mrs. Sidney Gladstone. Stratford-on-Avon	1904 Nov 27
b. 3, f. 53	3 ALS to unidentified recipients. Stratford-on-Avon	1905-24, n.d.
b. 3, f. 54	Autograph clipped from a letter	1905 Jun 28
b. 3, f. 55-71	<i>The Great Secret</i> , autograph manuscript of a novel Published in 1920 as <i>The Secret Power</i> . Presentation inscription on the title page to Bertha Vyver	ca. 1920

**Series III: Materials from Other Sources, 1890-1930, n.d.***0.8 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Acquired by gift or purchase from various sources, as indicated on individual folders.

b. 4, f. 72-87	Letters to Alexander Dundas Ogilvy Wedderburn Letters discuss John Ruskin, Arthur Severn and Joan Severn, and miscellaneous personal details  Letter of Dec. 7, 1909 includes carbon of poem entitled "Rosalind" signed by MC; letter of Mar. 2, 1913 includes carbon of a letter to [Mr. Freeman]; Letter of Nov. 22, 1915 includes carbon of poem entitled "The Ballad of Edward Grey" by MC  Includes: <i>Harvard House Gazette and American Visitors' Chronicle</i> , Stratford-on-Avon, October 1909	1908-17
b. 4, f. 88	ALS to Mr[?] Courtney, Longridge Road, Earl's Court, S.W.	1895 Nov 16
b. 4, f. 89	ALS to Miss Curtis, Longridge Road, Earl's Court, S.W.	[n.y.] Sun
b. 4, f. 90	ALS to Mssrs. Lindley Jones and brother, Stratford-on-Avon	1910 Feb 10
b. 4, f. 91	ALS to William Kean Seymour, Stratford-on-Avon	1918 Nov 12
b. 4, f. 92	ALS to Mr. O'Connor, [London]	1892 Mar 24
b. 4, f. 93	3 ALS to "Annie"	1890-91
b. 4, f. 94	ALS to "Dear Sir," Mason Croft, Stratford-on-Avon	1901 Jan 5
b. 4, f. 95	ALS to "My Dear Sir," Cannes	1894 Jan 31
b. 4, f. 96	ANS to an unidentified recipient, Mason Croft, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire	n.d.
b. 4, f. 97	Note in an unidentified hand	1898 Jun 7
b. 4, f. 98	Printed thank-you note to unidentified recipient	n.d.
b. 5, f. 99-111	<i>Marie Corelli</i> , by Bertha Vyver. Typescript with corrections in the author's hand Memoir by Corelli's life-long friend, with a Critical chapter by John Cuming Walters. Published as <i>Memoirs of Marie Corelli</i> . London [1930]	[1930?]

## 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.

### Preferred Titles

*Memoirs of Marie Corelli*

*The great secret*

*The secret power*

### Names

Bentley, George, 1828-1895

Bentley, R. (Richard), 1854-1936

Corelli, Marie, 1855-1924

Mackay, Eric, 1851-1898

Ruskin, John, 1819-1900

Severn, Arthur, 1842-1931

Severn, Joan, 1846-1924

Walters, John Cuming, 1933-

Waugh, Arthur, 1866-1943

Wedderburn, Alexander D. O. (Alexander

Dundas Ogilvy), 1854-1931

Wilberforce, Basil, 1841-1916

### Contributors

Corelli, Marie, 1855-1924

Vyver, Bertha, 1854-1941