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Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and
American Literature

Guide to the

Charles Lamb collection of papers

1797-1934 [bulk 1797-1836]

Berg Coll MSS Lamb

Processed by Staff.

Summary

Creator: Lamb, Charles, 1775-1834

Title: Charles Lamb collection of papers

Date: 1797-1934 [bulk 1797-1836]

Size: 118 items

Source: This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, eleven undated commonplace books, an album dating from 1831 to 1843, financial documents, and pictorial works.

Access: Restricted access.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.

Preferred citation: [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

Language of the Material: Some correspondence in Latin

Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

Creator History

Charles Lamb was an English poet, essayist, playwright, journalist, and literary critic.

Custodial History

Previous owners include J. Eglington Bailey, Augustine Birrell, Cortlandt Bishop, W. K. Bixby, John L. Clawson, Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, Frank J. Hogan, W. T. H. Howe, Frederick Locker Lampson, John Howard Payne, Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd, Roderick Terry, and Owen D. Young.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, eleven undated commonplace books, an album dating from 1831 to 1843, financial documents, and pictorial works. The manuscripts include poems, portions of plays, notes, essays, and reviews in holograph, as well as manuscripts of essays and poems relating to the author by Thomas De Quincey, George A. Sala, Walter Wilson, William Wordsworth, and others. The correspondence includes letters by the author, dating from 1797 to [1834], to Thomas Allsop, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Hone, Leigh Hunt, Edward Moxon, Robert Southey, and others. Also present are letters relating to the author, dating from 1798 to circa 1818, between various correspondents including Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Mary Lamb, John May, Robert Southey, and others.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Albums
Commonplace books
Correspondence

Names

Lamb, Charles, 1775-1834
Allsop, Thomas, 1795-1880
Bailey, J. Eglington
Birrell, Augustine, 1850-1933
Bishop, Cortlandt F. (Cortlandt Field), 1870-1935
Bixby, William K. (William Keeney), 1857-1931
Clawson, John L. (John Lewis), 1865-1933
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834
De Quincey, Thomas, 1785-1859
Hazlitt, Sarah Stoddart
Hogan, Francis Joseph, 1877-1944
Hone, William, 1780-1842
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Hunt, Leigh, 1784-1859
Lamb, Mary, 1764-1847
Locker-Lampson, Frederick, 1821-1895
May, John, 1748-1812
Moxon, Edward, 1801-1858
Payne, John Howard, 1791-1852
Sala, George Augustus, 1828-1895
Southey, Robert, 1774-1843
Talfourd, Thomas Noon, 1795-1854
Terry, Roderick T., 1849-1933
Wilson, Walter, 1781-1847
Wordsworth, William, 1770-1850
Young, Owen D., 1874-

Container List

Manuscripts

Albums

- Oversize (+)(Lamb, C.) Cressell, Mrs. Daniel. Album of watercolor drawings, pencil sketches, and ms. poems, including 2 poems in Charles Lamb's hand: one by him and one by Mary Lamb, and 2 poems by Lamb copied in an unknown hand
1831 - 1843 (1 v) (1 v)
Presented to Mrs. Cresswell by her brother, Edward; Y.

Commonplace Books

- Cased Commonplace book, Holograph n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
Frederick Locker, W. K. Bixby bookplates; Y.
- Cased Hazlitt, S. S. Poetry commonplace book including poems by Thomas Campbell, S. T. Coleridge, Charles Lamb, Walter Scott and others, copied in the hand of Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt. Index at end in the hand of Charles Lamb n.d. (1 v) (1 v)
With William Hazlitt's ms. notes of speeches in the House of Commons. Ms. note on fly-leaf: "This book belonged to Charles Lamb, Mary Lamb, Mrs. Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, Mr. William Hazlitt, John Payne Collier, [and] Harry B. Smith" S. Stoddart name label; Y.
- Cased Taylor, John [1781-1864]. Holograph commonplace books. Vol. 2 wanting. Written in dummy copies of Taylor and Hessey, publishers Literary diary, 1811. Entries cover up to ca. 1833. Includes list of contributors to the London magazine, including C. Lamb n.d. (9 v) (9 v)

Manuscripts written by Lamb

- Oversize (+) Acrostics to Josepha Maria and Louisa Clare Williams. Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
On verso: Moxon, Emma Isola. Incomplete AL to [Mrs. Grace Joanna Williams] April 7, [1830]. Cecil Turner, Howe
- Oversize (+) In: Upcott, William. Reliques of my contemporaries. 1833 [album, v. 1, p. 33] Autobiographical note, Holograph 1827 Apr. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box Black in an album, A. Holograph poem. Written for Emma Isola n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed
- Manuscript box "Chorus to the Tabernacle hymn 'The bridegroom's invitation to the worst of sinners,'" Holograph. Addressed to "Mr. Low" 1832 May (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied his: ALS to Charles Ryle, postmarked March 19, 1832
- Cased "Chusing a name" Holograph poem 1809 Apr. 4 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Also 3 holograph poems: "Breakfast," "Chusing a profession," and "Summer friends," by Mary Lamb. 2 l. On first, third, and last pages, an ALS from Robert Lloyd to his wife. H.
- Oversize (+) Dramatic fragment. Holograph of passage from "John Woodvil" n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
With note on verso signed C. L.; H.
- Inserted in his: Elia. London, 1823. 1st ed., 1st issue. Copy 2 Essays of Elia, Holograph list of full names of characters in the. Designated in the printed text by initials only n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscripts (cont.)

Manuscripts written by Lamb (cont.)

- Oversize (+). On p. 1 of: Lamb, Charles. ALS to Miss Maria Fryer, 1831
Oversize (+) Love will come. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Oversize (+) [Notes on the poems of George Wither written to John Mathew Gutch]
Holograph n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Roderick Terry bookplate; H.
- Oversize (+) Old benchers of the Inner Temple, The. Holograph n.d. (5 leaves) (5 leaves)
Signed "Elia"; H.
- Oversize (+) On Leonardo da Vinci's "Virgin of the rocks." Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Ms. note on mount: From the personal album of John Howard Payne; H.
- Manuscript box "One dip" and "What is an album?" Holograph poems n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [Popular fallacies. Chapter] 8. That verbal allusions are not wit, because they will not bear a translation. Holograph n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Y.
- Manuscript box [Popular fallacies. Chapter] 9. That the worst puns are the best. Holograph n.d. (6 p) (6 p)
- Manuscript box Suggested by a sight of Waltham Cross. Holograph poem sent to [Edward] Moxon 1831 July 25 (1 p) (1 p)
J. Eglington Bailey; Y.
- Manuscript box "Table talk, or, Original essays. By William Hazlitt." Holograph review of the first volume 1821? (20 p) (20 p)
Y.
- Oversize (+) [Thoughts on a present of game: the last ten lines of the essay] Holograph 1833 Nov. 30 (1 item) (1 item)
Signed "Elia"; Y.
- Cased To Margaret W-----. Holograph 1834 Oct. 8 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased To Miss Gray, or Grey, at Mrs. Gisbon's school, Enfield. Holograph 1830 (1 p) (1 p)
Roderick Terry bookplate; H.
- Manuscript box To my friend, The Indicator. Holograph poem to Leigh Hunt n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed with ****; Y.
- Manuscript box "What is an album." Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
On same page with his holograph poem "One dip"
- Manuscripts relating to Lamb**
- (Lamb) Coleridge, Hartley. [Sonnets II and XI (first two lines cut away) of his Poems, 1833] Ms. copy in Charles Lamb's hand n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.
- Manuscript box De Quincey, Thomas. [Charles Lamb] Holograph beginning, "[But these, you tell me] allow of no such thing," of portion of a paragraph near the end of the essay n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased De Quincey, Thomas. [Charles Lamb's criticism was always delicate...] Holograph (incomplete) n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
H.
- Manuscript box De Quincey, Thomas. "In reviewing the life of Lamb." Holograph fragment of essay n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Manuscripts (cont.)

Manuscripts relating to Lamb (cont.)

- Cased [Dyer, George] Memoir of Mr. Charles Lamb. Extracted from the Gentleman's magazine for March, 1835 1835? (1 item) (1 item)
In case with: Lamb, Charles. ALS to Thomas Manning. [Jan. 26] 1825. 1 p.
- Manuscript box [Procter(?) B. W.] Rosamund Gray. Holograph poem n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
Signed "Agnus cordus"; Signed ms. note at end in S. T. Coleridge's hand: "Composed and written by my friend Charles Lamb"; Y.
- Manuscript box Sala, G. A. On the genius and character of Charles Lamb. Holograph n.d. (15 p) (15 p)
Inserted: ALS to Mr. Payne. [n.d.] 1 p.; Y.
- Oversize (+)(Lamb, C.) Wilson, Walter. Some recollections of the late Charles Lamb. By one who knew him well. Holograph 1836 Aug. (5 leaves) (5 leaves)
Signed with initials. H.
- Manuscript box Wordsworth, William. [Written after the death of Charles Lamb] 97 lines beginning with "O he was good, if ere a good man lived!" Holograph 1836 Jan. 14 (2 p) (2 p)
Sent to Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd; Y.

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

- Oversize (+) Ainsworth, William Harrison. ALS to 1823 Dec.] 29 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
In case with his: The old benchers of the Inner Temple. Holograph
- Manuscript box Allsop, [Thomas]. ANS to . Mutilated 1820 Feb. 15 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Allsop, Thomas. ANS to 1820 Nov. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [Allsop], [Thomas]. ALS to 1823 Sept. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Cased Allsop, Thomas. ALS to 1825 Sept. 24 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Allsop, Thomas. ALS to 1829 Jan. 28 (1 p) (1 p)
- Cased Asbury, Dr. Jacob Vale. ALS to 1830 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Oversize (+) Ayrton, William. ALS to 1815 Oct. [14 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Oversize (+) Ayrton, William. ALS to. In verse [1817] May 12 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Cased Ayrton, William. ALS to 1825 Oct. [3? (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased [Baldwin, R. or John Taylor]. ALS to 1821 May 22 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Cary, Francis. ALS to 1833 Dec. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [Cary], [Rev. H. F.]. ALS to. Mutilated 1828 June 10 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Y.
- Manuscript box Cary, Rev. H. F. AL to. In Charles Lamb's hand 1834 Sept. 12 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed C[harles] and M[ary] Lamb Y.
- Oversize (+) Clarke, Charles Cowden. ANS to 1828? May (1 p) (1 p)
With his: [Notes on the poems of George Wither] Holograph

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Cased [Clarke], [Charles Cowden]. ALS to 1828 Oct. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed with initials CL and ML. H.
- Manuscript box [Clarke], [Charles Cowden]. ALS to 1832 Apr. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
With suggestions for textual alterations for Clarke's Tales from Chaucer; ms. note by Clarke
"Charles Lamb's writing. C. C. C."; H.
- Manuscript box Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to 1797 Jan. 2 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Y.
- Oversize (+) Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to. In Latin 1802 Oct. 5(?) (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Cased Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to 1821 May 1 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Oversize (+) Dilke, Charles W. ALS to. Relates to the death of Joseph S. Munden 1832
Feb. 9 (3 p) (3 p)
Frank J. Hogan bookplate; B.
- Cased Dilke, Charles Wentworth. ALS to 1833 May 13 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased Dodwell, Henry. ALS to 1816 July (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Cased Dodwell, Henry. ALS to 1827 Oct. 7 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
- Cased Dyer, George. ALS to [1828] Apr. 29 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Oversize (+) Elton, Sir Charles Abraham. AL to 1829? Aug. 17 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Signature removed. H.
- Oversize (+) Fryer, Miss Maria. ALS to 1831 (2 p) (2 p)
With a poem, "Love will come" on the first page. H.
- Cased Gillman, James. ALS to 1821 May 2 (1 p) (1 p)
In case with: Lamb, C. ALS to Samuel Taylor Coleridge. May 1, 1821. 1 p.; H.
- Cased Gillman, James. ALS to 1830? (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Godwin, [William]. ALS to 1817 Dec. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
Cortlandt Bishop; Howe
- Cased Hazlitt, William. ALS to 1820 Sept. 2? (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Hessey, [James, of Taylor and Hessey]. ALS to 1825 Feb. 17 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Hessey, [James]. ALS to 1825 Mar. 30 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box H[essey], [James]. ALS to 1825 Apr. 1 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Cased Hone, William. ALS to 1825 Aug. 12 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box [Hone], [William]. ALS to 1827 June (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Cased Hone, William. ALS to 1827 Oct. 6 (3 p) (3 p)
H.

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Hone, William. ANS to 1828 May 2 (1 p) (1 p)
Unsigned ms. note: "Given me by Edward Moxon," with ms. note signed J. R. R. above it stating that he bought the letter from Alexander Ireland to whom it was given by E. Moxon; Y.
- Manuscript box Hone, William. ALS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Cased Hood, Thomas. ALS to 1824 Aug. 10 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Y.
- Inserted in:
Reynolds, Mrs.
Mrs. Leslie and
her grandchildren.
London, 1827
Hood, Thomas. AN (incomplete?) to 1827 July (1 item) (1 item)
- Manuscript box Hood, [Thomas]. Photographic reproduction of an AL to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased Hunt, Leigh. ALS to 1826 May 4 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased Hunt, Leigh. ALS to 1827 Dec. 11? (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Isola, Harriet. ALS to. Entitled "To H. I. for her birthday, 14 Feb.y." In verse.
Mutilated 1833 Feb. 11 (1 p) (1 p)
Unsigned ms. note: "Presented to S. Davey by "Miss Isola" to whom these lines here addressed; Y.
- Oversize (+) Kenny [sic], James and Louisa. ALS to 1816 Oct. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Cased Kenny [sic], Mrs. [James]. ALS to 1822 Sept. 11 (3 p) (3 p)
With note to Sophia [Holcroft Kenney] on p. 3. B.
- Manuscript box Kenny [sic], [James]. ALS to 1823? Sept. (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Lloyd, Jr., Mrs. C[harles]. ALS to 1818 July 20 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased Lloyd, Robert. ALS to 1801? Apr. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Cased Manning, Thomas. ALS to 1825 Jan. 26? (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Morgan, Mrs. ANS to 1826 Jan. 19 (1 p) (1 p)
- Manuscript box M[oxon], [Edward]. AL to 1833 Jan.] or [1833 Feb. (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [Moxon], [Edward]. ANS to 1833 Sept. 26? (1 item) (1 item)
Written at the end of a galley proof of Lamb's poem "To a friend on his marriage"; Y.
- Manuscript box Moxon, Edward. ALS to 1833 Dec. 31 (1 p) (1 p)
Frederick Locker Lampson; Augustine Birrell; Howe
- Cased Novello, Mrs. Vincent. ALS to 1829 May (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased Ollier, Charles. ALS to [1824] Jan. 13 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box [Ollier], [Charles]. ALS to 1826 Mar. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Ryle, Charles. ALS to 1832 Mar. 19 (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by "Chorus to the Tabernacle hymn 'The bridegroom's invitation to the worst of sinners,'" Holograph, May 1832, addressed to "Mr. Low," 1 p.; ALS from Sylvia Strutt to Walter T. Spencer, Dec. 18, 1924, 1 l.; Y.
- Manuscript box Southey, Robert. ALS to 1798 Nov. 3 (3 p) (3 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Southey, Robert. ALS to 1799 Apr. 20 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
With extract from "The witch" H.
- Manuscript box Southey, Robert. ALS to 1804 Nov. 7 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box [Taylor and Hessey], ALS to. Mutilated 1823 Apr. 15 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Taylor, John. ALS to 1821 July 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Cased Taylor, John. ALS to 1821 July 25? (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased Taylor [?], John. ALS to 1822[?] Sept. 23 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Cased Watts, Alaric Alexander. ALS to 1824 Dec. 28 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Oversize (+) Wilson, Walter. 2 ALS to 1823 Feb. 24, 1829 Nov. 15 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Engraved portrait laid in. John L. Clawson bookplate; Y.

Related Correspondence

- Cased Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to J[ohn] H[ookham] Frere. Relates to Charles Lamb 1816 July 16 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.
- Manuscript box Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. AL to Joseph Henry Green. Mentions Charles Lamb and William Wordsworth ca. 1818 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
- Oversize (+) Lamb, Mary. ALS to Mrs. Thomas Clarkson 1808 [Dec. 10 (3 p) (3 p)
With note by Charles Lamb H.
- Cased Southey, Robert. 2 ALS to John May. Relates to Charles Lamb. One letter endorsed as received Dec. 31, 1798 1798 June 15 (3 p. each) (3 p. each)
Y.

Financial Documents

- Manuscript box (Lucas, E. V.) Streater, C. H. Holograph bill, rendered Edward Verrall Lucas for the caretaking of Charles Lamb's grave from Nov. 1, 1934-Oct. 31, 1935 1934 Nov. (1 item) (1 item)
H.

Pictorial Works

- Oversize (+) Brock, C. E. Original sketch for Charles Lamb's A dissertation upon roast pig 1899 (1 item) (1 item)
In case with: Lamb, Charles. A dissertation upon roast pig. Dublin, 1889