

**The New York Public Library  
Humanities and Social Sciences Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

**Henry George  
Papers, 1840s-1950**

**Gail Malmgreen  
1990**

## Table of Contents

<b>BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>ORGANIZATION NOTE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>SERIES DESCRIPTIONS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1854-1939 .....	7
SERIES II. WRITINGS AND NOTES, 1865-1897; N.D.....	7
SERIES III. DIARIES AND MEMORANDA, 1855-1896 .....	8
SERIES IV. FAMILY PAPERS, 1856-1950.....	8
SERIES V. MISCELLANY, PRINTED ITEMS, AND EPHEMERA .....	9
SERIES VI. VISUAL MATERIALS AND OVERSIZE ITEMS .....	9
<b>CONTAINER LIST</b> .....	<b>10</b>
SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1854-1939 .....	10
SERIES II: WRITINGS AND NOTES, 1865-1896; N.D.....	10
SERIES III: DIARIES AND MEMORANDA, 1855-1896 .....	12
SERIES IV. FAMILY PAPERS, 1856-1950.....	14
SERIES V: MISCELLANY, PRINTED ITEMS, AND EPHEMERA .....	15
SERIES VI: VISUAL MATERIALS AND OVERSIZE ITEMS .....	17

## Biographical Sketch

Henry George, printer-journalist, political economist, and reformer, was the most important and influential radical theorist of nineteenth century America. Born in Philadelphia in 1839, the second of ten children of Richard S. H. George and Catharine (Vallance) George, he was raised in modest circumstances and in a pious, evangelical Protestant atmosphere. After brief attendance at three schools and two years of private tutoring, George began work, at the same time embarking on a life-long regime of self-education. At 16 he shipped out as foremast boy on the vessel *Hindoo*, bound for Melbourne and Calcutta. On his return in 1856 he had difficulty finding work, and after nine months apprenticeship as a typesetter, he again left home, this time in search of new opportunities in California.

But times were hard in the West, and George found only temporary jobs as a typesetter. He fell deeply in love with Australian-born Annie Corsina Fox and, though out of work and in debt, married her in 1861; his financial burden was soon increased by the birth of two sons. By 1865 the family was near starvation, but George was beginning to build a reputation as a contributor to the local press. Over the next decade he worked as a reporter and editor for several papers, including four years (1871-1875) as editor of his own San Francisco *Daily Evening Post*.

Active in local politics, he shifted his loyalties from Lincoln Republicanism to the Democrats, and became a trenchant critic of railroad and mining interests, corrupt politicians, land speculators, and labor contractors. He failed as a Democratic candidate for the state legislature, but landed the patronage job of state inspector of gas meters.

In an 1871 pamphlet, *Our Land and Land Policy*, he first set out his theory of rent as the primary cause of monopoly and poverty, and advocated a single tax on land. Between 1877 and 1879 he pursued work on a major treatise, his masterpiece, *Progress and Poverty*. After failing to find a publisher, George brought out five hundred copies on his own. The plates were then taken by Appleton's and the book soon became a sensation, translated into many languages and assured George's fame. At the heart of his oft-repeated critique of Gilded Age capitalism was the conviction that rent and private land-ownership violated the hallowed principles of Jeffersonian democracy and that poverty was an affront to the moral values of Judeo-Christian culture.

Now in demand as a writer and lecturer, George moved to New York in 1880 and soon became closely involved with the Irish nationalist community. The publication of his *The Irish Land Question* resulted in his being sent to Ireland and England in 1881-1882 on assignment for the radical *Irish World*. There he became acquainted with Michael Davitt and other leaders of the Irish Land League, and with many English socialists and radicals, including H. M. Hyndman and Helen Taylor. He returned to New York a hero, with a strong transatlantic following, and agreed to run for mayor in 1886 as the candidate of the United Labor Party. After a strenuous campaign against Democrat Abram S. Hewitt and Republican Theodore Roosevelt, George came second in the poll; many supporters charged that fraud had robbed him of victory.

George now found his own base in a national network of Single Tax clubs, and his own organ in the New York *Standard* (1887-1892). He toured Britain again in 1888 and 1889, and was warmly welcomed to Australia and New Zealand in 1890. He suffered a slight stroke in the winter of 1890-1891, but continued to lecture widely and write prolifically. Among his later works are *Protection or Free Trade* (1886); *An Open Letter to the Pope* (1891), a reply to Leo XIII's encyclical *The Condition of Labor*; *A Perplexed Philosopher* (1892), a critique of Herbert Spencer; and *The Science of Political Economy* (1897), a grand summation of his economic and ethical ideas. In his later years George found himself more and more at odds with both socialists and mainstream labor leaders; his movement increasingly attracted middle class progressives.

In 1897, aged fifty-eight and in poor health, George allowed himself to be persuaded to run again for mayor, this time as an independent Democrat. At the very close of the campaign, on October 29th, he suffered a stroke and died; his eldest son and close collaborator, Henry George, Jr., stepped in to complete the campaign, but earned only 22,000 votes. The respect and affection felt for Henry George were demonstrated in the funeral ceremonies, in which more than a hundred thousand people viewed his body and joined the procession to the burial site in Brooklyn, and in the outpouring of written tributes from around the world.

## Scope and Content Note

Taken as a whole this collection provides rich documentation of nearly every phase of Henry George's life and career. The correspondence forms the largest and most comprehensive section of the collection and reflects his habit of writing constantly to his family and his closest political colleagues, especially while travelling abroad. His close relationship to the Irish national movement is well demonstrated, not only in his letterbooks of correspondence with the (New York) *Irish World*, but also in his diaries and notebooks, and in manuscripts of articles and lectures.

While the growth and inner workings of the American Single Tax movement are well illustrated in the correspondence, diaries, and writings, other aspects of George's political activity are less adequately covered. In particular, there is little material here concerning George's two New York City mayoral campaigns (1886 and 1897). To complete the records of George's intellectual and political ideas and activity, as well as the passionate response (both pro and con) he evoked, it is necessary to consult the full body of published work by and about him.

Users should be aware that a large part of Anna George de Mille's original donation of Henry George material, including 29 volumes of scrapbooks of clippings [classmark TIQB+ (George)], bound volumes of pamphlets, loose pamphlets and periodicals, and books, can be found in the Economics and Public Affairs Division of the Library. For details of these holdings consult the two bibliographies cited below.

### Bibliography:

C. A. Barker, *Henry George* (1955).

Henry George, Jr., *The Life of Henry George* (1911)

"Manuscripts and Books of Henry George," *Bulletin of The New York Public Library* 29 (Sept. 1925): 611-616.

Rollin A. Sawyer, *Henry George and the Single Tax: A Catalogue of the Collection in The New York Public Library* (1926).

## Organization Note

### I. Correspondence, 1854-1939

- a. General Correspondence, 1854-1897; n.d.
- b. Letterpress Copybooks, 1869; 1881-1882
- c. Scrapbook of correspondence re testimonial dinner, New York City, April 20, 1884
- d. Fr. Thomas Dawson, letters to Anna De Mille (1929-1939) and transcripts of letters from Henry George and members of the George family, 1882-1894
- e. Correspondence and documents re: litigation over the will of George Hutchins, 1886-1894; n.d.

### II. Writings and Notes, 1865-1896; n.d.

### III. Diaries and Memoranda, 1855-1896

### IV. Family Papers, 1856-1950

- a. Annie Fox George, Correspondence and Papers, 1856-1904
- b. Henry George, Jr., Correspondence, 1881-1918
- c. Henry George, Jr., Writings, Notes, and Papers
- d. Other family members, 1861-1950

### V. Miscellany, Printed Items, and Ephemera

### VI. Visual Materials and Oversize Items

## Series Descriptions

### **SERIES I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1854-1939**

General correspondence includes incoming and outgoing correspondence of Henry George on family, political, and business matters. Henry George's letters to his wife, Annie Fox George, and elder son, Henry George, Jr., are included here; their letters to him are in Series VI (Family Papers). There are also many letters to and from Henry George's parents and other relatives. Early correspondence concerns his sea voyage and his life and work in California. The bulk of the series chronicles his relations with political associates in the Single Tax and Irish nationalist movements in America and Europe. There is also extensive correspondence with editors and publishers concerning his journalistic work and other writing projects.

A letterbook of 1869 contains copies of letters relating to his work for the San Francisco *Herald* and his dealings with the Associated Press. Four letterbooks of 1881-1882 consist mostly of letters written from Britain to Patrick Ford, editor of the (New York) *Irish World*; these give detailed assessments of the policies and actions of Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Davitt, and other leaders of the Irish Land League, as well as reports of his lectures and meetings with English and Scottish sympathizers.

The American correspondence charts the development of the Single Tax movement and George's relations with major political supporters, among them Father Edward McGlynn, Francis G. Shaw, August Lewis, Tom L. Johnson, Louis F. Post, Thomas G. Shearman, and Dr. Edward R. Taylor, a California friend.

Among the notable British correspondents are H.M. Hyndman, Helen Taylor, J.L. Joynes, F. Max Müller, and Thomas F. Walker of Birmingham.

Smaller subseries include a scrapbook of letters related to a testimonial dinner in 1884; correspondence of Father Thomas Dawson, an Irish priest and longtime family friend, consisting chiefly of transcripts of George's letters to Dawson in the Brotherton Library, Leeds; and documentation of the tangled litigation arising from a legacy of George Hutchins of Ancora, New Jersey to Henry George.

### **SERIES II. WRITINGS AND NOTES, 1865-1897; N.D.**

Included are manuscript (and some typescript) notes, drafts, and finished texts of articles, lectures, and occasional writings. There is a selection of Henry George's early writing as a California journalist and reformer, an extensive group of essays and lectures (and one interview) from his British tours of the 1880s, and a smaller number of items on the theory of the single tax and his involvements in American party politics and the labor movement.

His major published work is represented here by the full autograph manuscript of *Progress and Poverty* (publ. 1879) and partial drafts and notes for the introductory matter and Books I and II of *The Science of Political Economy* (publ. 1897). The famous lecture, "Moses," is represented in

drafts, galleys, and a printed copy. Among the essays are studies of Abraham Lincoln, J.S. Mill, James Garfield, and Michael Davitt, several accounts of his travels and brief imprisonment in Ireland in 1882, and an explanation of his support for the Democrats in 1896. There are also several folders and one notebook of rough notes and extracts.

### **SERIES III. DIARIES AND MEMORANDA, 1855-1896**

The diaries and notebooks cover (with some gaps) Henry George's life from the age of sixteen until the year before his death. The earliest volumes are accounts of his sea voyage in 1855-1856, illustrated with rough sketches. Volumes for the 1860s and 70s include family news, details of his work for California newspapers, and financial notations reflecting his desperate struggle to support his wife and young children. The 1880s diaries are largely devoted to his efforts to build the Single Tax movement in America and Britain, and include details of his lecture schedules and names and addresses of political contacts. The 1890s are dominated by American politics, George's editorial work on the *Standard*, and his dealings with New York publishers. There are no volumes of 1886 and 1897, the years of his New York mayoral campaigns.

### **SERIES IV. FAMILY PAPERS, 1856-1950**

This series consists mostly of the correspondence and papers of Annie Fox George and Henry George, Jr., including their letters to Henry George and letters to and from other relatives and friends. The Annie George correspondence includes many letters from Helen Taylor, step-daughter of John Stuart Mill, and a large group from Mrs. Belle Stickney (later Robbins), a California friend; there are single letters from Emma Willard and Samuel Gompers.

Henry George, Jr.'s correspondence before 1897 consists largely of his letters to his father about political and editorial matters. A lengthy series from 1889 details the bitter split in the ranks of Single Taxers which developed while Henry George was touring Britain. After 1897, the correspondence, writings, and notes are mostly related to Henry George Jr.'s work on a biography of his father. Among the reminiscences solicited from old friends and colleagues of Henry George is a good deal of material not used in the published *Life*. There is a folder of condolence letters on the death of Annie George (1904), and many letters to and from Hamlin Garland concerning plans for an anniversary banquet in 1905. The letters to Garland (Box 17) include George Bernard Shaw's famous account of his "conversion" by Henry George in 1882.

A small group of papers relating to other family members includes genealogical material, Henry George's marriage certificate, and a folder of papers of Anna George de Mille (1877-1947) chiefly concerned with her research on a biography of her father and her efforts to gather and preserve papers relating to him.



## **SERIES V. MISCELLANY, PRINTED ITEMS, AND EPHEMERA**

This series contains material providing background information on Henry George's life, career, and influence--much of it written by others. Included are a manuscript account of his sea voyage to Australia and India (by Samuel Miller), dispatch code books used in his journalist work, financial records, phrenological charts and a doctor's report, obituaries and other memorials, articles by colleagues in the Single Tax movement, and some items illustrating the history of the movement after George's death.

A small group of books and pamphlets includes several works by Henry George, attacks on his theories, an 18th century tract on the land tax, and memoirs by Anna George de Mille.

Among the ephemera are Henry George autographs clipped from letters, blank forms and stationery, miscellaneous cards and circulars, campaign ribbons and other souvenirs.

## **SERIES VI. VISUAL MATERIALS AND OVERSIZE ITEMS**

Included are daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, photographs, and prints depicting Henry George at all stages of his life, beginning in the 1840s, as well as formal and candid portraits of family members, friends, colleagues, and homes associated with the George family. A large group photograph shows Henry George and other delegates to the 2nd National Single Tax Conference, Chicago, 1893. There is also a group of photostats of political cartoons featuring Henry George and a set of printed plates of the illustrations to Henry George, Jr.'s *Life of Henry George*.

## Container List

### Series I: Correspondence, 1854-1939

#### A. General Correspondence, 1854-1897; n.d.

Box	
1	1854-1868
2	1869-1880
3	1881-1882
4	1883-1884, April
5	1884, May - 1886
6	1887-1889
7	1890-1891
8	1892-1893
9	1894-1896
10	1897; n.d. (arranged alphabetically)

#### B. Letterpress copybooks, 1869-1882

Volume	1869
Slipcase	1881-1882 (4 vols.)

- 11 C. Scrapbook of correspondence re: Testimonial Dinner, New York City, April 20, 1884
- D. Father Thomas Dawson, letters to Anna George De Mille (1929-1939) and transcripts of letters from Henry George and his family (1882-1894).
- E. Correspondence and documents concerning litigation over the will of George Hutchins, 1886-1894, n.d.

### Series II: Writings and Notes, 1865-1896; n.d.

Arranged chronologically

- 12 "Mormonism" and "The Poetry of Life" 1857  
"Aim for the Best" 1860  
"A Plea for the Supernatural" 1865  
"On the Profitable Employment of Time" March 25, 1865  
"Abraham Lincoln" editorial in the *Daily Alta California*, April 23, 1865  
"Dust to Dust," *The Californian*, 1866

Editorials on John Stuart Mill and Chinese immigration. *Oakland Daily Transcript*, November 20, 22, 23, 1869. Typed transcript.  
 Editorial in the San Francisco *Evening Post* of November 27, 1875.  
 Speech made during presidential campaign of 1876  
 Letter re Smith's communications to S.F. *Chronicle* [March 1876]  
 [Lecture notes?] [1877?]  
 Notes for *Progress and Poverty* [1877?]  
 "Lecture on the New Constitution" (California) [1877]  
 Lecture notes, Britain [1880s]  
 Notes and extracts re: Britain [1880s]  
 Letter in defense of Michael Davitt and the Irish Land League [1880s]  
 Lecture notes and text: "Malthusian Theory" [1880s]  
 Article: "Garfield or Hancock?" (not printed) [1880]  
 Unidentified lectures [1881?]  
 Editorials: "John Swinton and His Travels"  
 and "The Newest Thing in Cookstoves" [for NY *Herald*?] [1881?]  
 "Visit to Bishop Nulty" [1881?]  
 Report prepared for A.S. Hewitt 1881

- 13 Lecture to Ladies Prisoners Aid Society [1882?]  
 "Travels in the West of Ireland" [1882?]  
 "Jailed in Ireland" [1882]  
 "England and Ireland" *Fortnightly Review*, 1882  
 Lecture on the Irish land question: Dublin Rotunda June 10, [1882]  
 Interview on Irish nationalist politics [late 1882]  
 Lecture notes, 1882  
 "British Rule in Ireland" [1882 or 1883?]  
 Extract from *Social Problems* [1883]  
 Lecture notes: Brooklyn Revenue Reform Club, February 14, 1883  
 "Wanted--a Democratic Party" Brooklyn Revenue Reform Club, March 12, 1883  
 Lecture notes: "Land and Labor" [Binghamton, NY?] April 12, 1883  
 "The Eighth Commandment" [1884]  
 "Moses"--drafts, galleys, printed copy, 1884  
 Lecture at Midland Institute, Birmingham. Transcript, January 23, 1884  
 On post-election politics in America [late 1884?]  
 "The Issue of the Future" [for *Brooklyn Eagle*?] [1885?]  
 Speech before the International Typographical Union, New York [1885 or 1886]  
 Letter to the Conference of Labor Associations, Aug. 26, 1886.  
 "The Irish Question from an American Standpoint" 1886  
 On rent and land tenure [by H.G.?], with notations by T.F. Walker, 1888  
 Letter to the *Standard*, from Newcastle, April 20, 1889

- 14 Henry George's critique of T.F. Walker, with Walker's reply, 1890  
 "Letter from Italy" 1890  
 Letter from Australia (unsent) [1890]  
 "Address made at City Hall, Glasgow" Transcript, August 20, 1890

"Speech in House of Representatives" March 9, 1893  
 Two resolutions on taxation (N.Y. State) [by H.G.?] [1895?]  
 Part of unidentified book ms. [by H.G.?] Letterpress copy. [1896]  
 On his support for the Democratic Party [1896]  
 "Resolutions Passed [at] ...Central Labor Union" February 23, 1896  
 "Concerning General Grant" n.d.  
 "The Distribution of Wealth" n.d.  
 Lecture to British audience on ethics, poverty, and land reform, n.d.  
 On his efforts to enlist in the war in Mexico, n.d.  
 On Rome, n.d.  
 Lecture: On the American Republic, n.d.  
 Fragment: "Practical Political Economy" n.d.  
 Railroad article notes, n.d.  
 Resolutions re: Senator Mills and tariff [by Henry George?] n.d.  
 Fragments of manuscripts and notes  
 Notebook, miscellaneous extracts

Slipcase *Progress and Poverty*, manuscript

Slipcase *Science of Political Economy*, incomplete manuscript and galleys

### **Series III: Diaries and Memoranda, 1855-1896**

Slipcase

1 **1855-1857 (4 vols.)**

- a. 1855 Jan 6-Mar 31; 1856 Apr 1  
1855 May 27-Nov 1;  
1856 Feb 2-Mar 12
- b. 1855 Apr 9-Oct 9
- c. 1855 Apr 10-Aug 29
- d. 1855 Apr 10-1857 Jul 9

2 **1864-1868 (6 vols.)**

- a. 1864 Jan 1-1865 Feb 19
- b. 1865 Feb 17-Mar 5
- c. 1865 Feb 17-Nov 5
- d. 1865 Mar 25-Apr 8
- e. 1867 Mar 13-Nov 14
- f. 1868 Jan 1-Dec 4

- 3           **1869-1879 (3 vols.)**
- a. 1869 Jan 1-Dec 24
  - b. 1869 Apr 19-Jun 4
  - c. 1869 Apr 19-Dec 8
- 4           **1871; 1875-1876 (3 volumes)**
- a. 1871 Feb 20-Nov 27
  - b. 1875 Jan 16-Dec 13
  - c. 1876 Jan 7-Dec 28
- 5           **1877-1879     (3 vols.)**
- a. 1877 Feb 24-Dec 5
  - b. 1878 Oct 12-1879 Feb 16
  - c. 1879 Jan 1-Dec 18
- 6           **1881; 1883-1884 (3 vols.)**
- a. 1881 Jan 6-Aug 11
  - b. 1883 May 17-Dec 31
  - c. 1884 Jan 3-Feb 3
- 7           **1887; 1889 (2 vols.)**
- a. 1887
  - b. 1889 Jan 8-Dec 21
- 8           **1889; 1891 (2 vols.)**
- a. 1889 Nov 12-Dec 23
  - b. 1891 Mar 30-Nov 1
- 9           **1890; 1892; 1896 (?) (3 vols.)**
- a. 1890 Jan 21-Dec 31
  - b. 1892 Jan 7-Nov 4
  - c. 1896 (?) Jan 31-Mar 5

## Series IV. Family Papers, 1856-1950

Box

- 15           A. Annie Fox George, Correspondence and Papers, 1855-1903
- 1855-1869  
1870-1879  
1881-1889  
1890-1903
- 16           B. Henry George, Jr., Correspondence, 1881-1918
- 1881-1882  
1883-1887  
1888  
1889  
1890-1891  
1892-1897  
1898 Feb - May  
1898 Jun - Aug  
1898 Sep  
1898 Oct - Nov  
1898 Dec  
1899 Jan - Mar  
1899 Apr - Aug  
1900 Jan - Jun  
1900 Jul - Dec  
1901  
1904 Jul - Aug  
1904 Dec  
1905  
1908-1909; 1911  
1916-1918; n.d.
- 17           C. Henry George, Jr. Writings, Notes, and Papers
- Writings, misc. documents, obituaries  
Biographical article on Henry George, draft, n.d.  
Notes and papers relating to his *Life of Henry George*  
Notes and papers, mostly relating to Life of Henry George  
Letters to Hamlin Garland re dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary  
of *Progress and Poverty*, January 24, 1905
- 18           D. Papers of Other George Family Members, 1861-1950
- Genealogical material re George, Pratt, Fennell, Shaw, Fox and Vallance  
Families



Decker, Sir Matthew. *Serious Considerations or...One Single Tax.*  
7th ed. London: Printed for W. Johnson et al., 1756.

De Mille, Anna George. "Henry George: Childhood and Early Youth,  
"American Journal of Economics & Sociology, Vol. I, no. 3 (April 1942):  
283-306.

----- "Henry George: The Formative Years," *ibid.*, Vol. 2, no. 1  
(October 1942): 283-306.

George, Henry. *Causes of Business Depression.*  
NY: R.Schalkenbach Foundation, 1930.

----- *The Crime of Poverty: An Address.*  
Glasgow, Bradford & London: "Land Values" Publication Dept., n.d.

----- "Moses." A Lecture. Glasgow, Bradford & London: "Land Values"  
Publication Dept., n.d.

----- "Thou Shalt Not Steal." Glasgow, Bradford & London:  
"Land Values" Publications Dept., n.d.

Hanson, William. *The Fallacies in "Progress and Poverty.*  
NY: Fowler and Wells 1884

Miller, J. Bleeker. *Progress and Robbery: Two American Answers to  
Henry George, The Demi-Communist.* NY: Cherouny Printing and  
Publ. Co.,1886.

R., M. "A Review of *Progress and Poverty.*" Hull:  
Printed at "Eastern Morning News" office, n.d.

Rose, Henry. *Henry George: A Biographical, Anecdotal, and  
Critical Sketch.* London: William Reeves, 1884.

### C. Ephemera

Three folders of cards, ribbons, Henry George autographs, and circulars



## Series VI: Visual Materials and Oversize Items

### A. Photographs and other visual materials

Box

21

Daguerreotypes and ambrotypes of Henry George and family members,  
[1840s and 1850s?]

22

Photographs, printed illustrations, negative photostats, of Henry George,  
his family, colleagues, etc.

### B. Oversize Items (Charter Case)

San Francisco Free Public Library (certificate)

Address of Welcome by Anti-Poverty Society, Knights of Labor,  
and the Progressive League, 1890

Henry George Portrait (4 copies)

23

### **Unfilmed Additions**

A.L.S., [1884?] Jan. 20. Henry George at London to Mr. Sherman.