



Guide to the Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle Papers, 1820-1927 and undated

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Summary

Collection Title:

Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle papers, 1820-1927 and undated

Creator:

Carlyle, Thomas, 1795-1881; Carlyle, Jane Welsh, 1801-1866

Abstract:

Collection consists of an assortment of correspondence, fragments, and notes from Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle. Correspondents include Carlyle's secretary, Henry Larkin; John Fergusson; Thomas Murray; Basil Montagu; Bryan Waller Procter ("Barry Cornwall"); Henrietta Maria Stanley; Ralph Waldo Emerson; Thomas Erskine; Richard Owen; Frederic Chapman; William McCall; and John Reuben Thomas.

Extent:

0.5 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11313

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m15317>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection consists primarily of the Correspondence Series, 1820-1927 and undated, between Thomas Carlyle, Jane Welsh Carlyle, and various other correspondents. Correspondents include Carlyle's secretary, Henry Larkin; John Fergusson; Thomas Murray; Basil Montagu; Bryan Waller Procter ("Barry Cornwall"); Thomas Erskine; Richard Owen; Frederic Chapman; William McCall;

and John Reuben Thomas. Letters present not only a narrative of their own lives, but also provocative discussion of the ideas and events of their time, including the Peterloo Massacre of 1819, the coronation of Queen Victoria, the repeal of the Corn Laws, the Great Exhibition of 1851, the deaths of Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington, the Crimean War, and the rise of modern Germany. Also present are vivid references to the works and movements of noteworthy contemporaries such as Robert Browning, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Charles Dickens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Ivan Turgenev, and others. Most of the letters are outgoing from the Carlyles; there is also one letter dated 1860 April 25 from Ralph Waldo Emerson to Thomas Carlyle, asking Carlyle to sit for a portrait. There is also an August 1863 letter from Carlyle likely directed to Virginia deVine and abolitionist Moncure Conway, who travelled to London in 1863 armed with letters of introduction from Emerson, his mentor. There are several letters from Jane Welsh Carlyle to Henrietta Maria, Lady Stanley of Alderley, discussing day-to-day life with numerous references to her husband, Thomas Carlyle. Also included is a fragment of a letter from Thomas Carlyle to his wife containing reference to Lady Stanley's little boy.

The collection also includes miscellaneous correspondence, such as one letter to Charles Kingsley promising to help Kingsley get his book published; one letter to James Aitkin; one to Sir Richard Owen concerning inviting O. M. Mitchel (an American astronomer) to lecture on the Mississippi at Somerset House; one letter from Walter Savage Landor prior to Carlyle's only visit with Landor; one letter from Carlyle to London publisher [Frederic] Chapman referring to two manuscripts by Mr. Meccall; one letter from Carlyle to Boehm; and one letter from Carlyle to John Reuben Thompson, as well as several pieces to or from unidentified correspondents. Also includes a letter from Carlyle to D. B. Brightwick at Greenwood College regarding teaching virtue by example (includes published transcription).

The Scrapbook Series consists of a volume of clippings and annotations on Thomas Carlyle's life and works compiled by his biographer, David Alec Wilson.

The Writings Series consists of manuscript fragments of Thomas Carlyle's *Shooting Niagara: And After?* and his *History of Frederick II of Prussia*.

The Photographs Series contains a photograph showing part of the Carlyles' study and two autographed portraits of Thomas Carlyle.

Biographical/Historical

Thomas Carlyle (4 December 1795 – 5 February 1881) was a Scottish philosopher, satirical writer, essayist, historian and teacher. His wife, Jane Welsh Carlyle (14 July 1801 – 21 April 1866, née Jane Baillie Welsh in Haddington Scotland) was also a prolific letter-writer.

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Arrangement

Collection has been sorted into the following series: Correspondence, Writings, Photographs, and Scrapbook.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as gifts and purchases from 1956 through 2023. This collection includes the materials formerly held in the Clyde Ryals Collection of Letters of Thomas Carlyle, as well as the collection formerly called the Jane Welsh Carlyle-Henrietta Stanley Letters.

Processing Information

Processed by RL Staff, September 2016.

Updated by Leah Tams, April 2023.

Accessions described in this collection guide: Various, 1956-2000s; 2014-0008, 2015-0013, 2015-0066, 2023-0055.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Visit the Carlyle Letters Project website, hosted by Duke University Press:
<http://carlyleletters.dukeupress.edu/>.

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Names and Subjects

- Historians -- Correspondence
- English literature -- 19th century
- Authors, English -- Correspondence -- 19th century
- Scottish literature -- 19th century
- Authors, Scottish -- Correspondence
- Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882
- Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, 1819-1901
- Tennyson, Alfred Tennyson, Baron, 1809-1892 -- Criticism and interpretation
- Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870
- Montagu, Basil, 1770-1851
- Frederick, II, King of Prussia, 1712-1786
- Larkin, Henry
- Stanley, Henrietta Maria Stanley, Baroness, 1807-1895

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1820-1927, undated

Correspondence, 1820-1825 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1820-1825: item 001](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1820-1825: item 002](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1820-1825: item 003](#)

Correspondence, 1826-1832 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1826-1832: item 004](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1826-1832: item 005](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1826-1832: item 006](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1826-1832: item 007](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1826-1832: item 008](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1826-1832: item 009](#)

Correspondence, 1838-1843 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1838-1843: item 010](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1838-1843: item 011](#)

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Correspondence, 1844-1848 (online item available)

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- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1844-1848: item 022](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1844-1848: item 023](#)
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 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1844-1848: item 025](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1844-1848: item 026](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1844-1848: item 027](#)
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 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1844-1848: item 033](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1844-1848: item 034](#)
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Correspondence, 1849-1851 (online item available)

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- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1849-1851: item 035](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1849-1851: item 036](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1849-1851: item 037](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1849-1851: item 038](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1849-1851: item 039](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1849-1851: item 040](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1849-1851: item 041](#)
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Correspondence, 1852-1857 (online item available)

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- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1852-1857: item 042](#)
- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1852-1857: item 043](#)
- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1852-1857: item 044](#)
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Correspondence, 1858-1861 (online item available)

Box 1

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Correspondence, 1862-1865 (online item available)

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 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1862-1865: item 083](#)
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 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1862-1865: item 087](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1862-1865: item 088](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1862-1865: item 089](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1862-1865: item 090](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1862-1865: item 091](#)
 - Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1862-1865: item 092](#)
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Correspondence, 1866-1868 (online item available)

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- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1866-1868: item 095](#)
- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1866-1868: item 096](#)
- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1866-1868: item 097](#)
- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1866-1868: item 098](#)
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- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1866-1868: item 106](#)
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- Digital Object:** [Correspondence, 1866-1868: item 108](#)

Digital Object: [Correspondence, 1866-1868: item 109](#)

Correspondence, 1869-1875, 1893, 1922, 1927
(online item available)

Box 1

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Correspondence, undated (online item
available)

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Digital Object: [Correspondence, undated: item 130](#)

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Writings, undated

Correspondance de Frederic II Roi de Prusse
(translation) and History of Friedrich II of

Prussia Called Frederick the Great (draft),
undated (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Writings, undated: item 131](#)

Scope and Contents

Manuscript fragment (1 item) with excerpts from both titles.

Shooting Niagara: And After?, undated (online
item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Writings, undated: item 132](#)

Digital Object: [Writings, undated: item 133](#)

Digital Object: [Writings, undated: item 134](#)

Digital Object: [Writings, undated: item 135](#)

Digital Object: [Writings, undated: item 136](#)

Scope and Contents

Manuscript fragments (5 items).

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Photographs, 1854-1868, undated

Thomas Carlyle's study, undated (online item
available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Photographs, item 137](#)

Scope and Contents

Fireplace and mantle. Over the mantle hangs "an original engraved portrait on India paper of Frederick the Great."

Photograph from Life by Robert Tait, 1854 July
28 Box 1

Scope and Contents

Albumen photograph on card mount, signed by Thomas Carlyle.

Autographed cartes de visite portrait of Thomas
Carlyle, 1868 (online item available) Box 1

Digital Object: [Photographs, 1868, item 138](#)

Scope and Contents

Adhered to a board which also holds a letter from Carlyle to Mr. F. J. Fronivall(?) dated 1850 December 6.

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Scrapbook, undated

Wilson, David Alec. "Cuttings about Carlyle",
undated

Volume 1

Scope and Contents

Bound scrapbook with notes, clippings, annotations, and ephemera collected by Wilson about Carlyle.

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