



Guide to the Elizabeth Fry Papers, 1821-1850

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Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	3
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary

Collection Title:

Elizabeth Fry papers, 1821-1850

Creator:

Fry, Elizabeth Gurney, 1780-1845; Baskin, Lisa Unger, former owner; Lisa Unger Baskin Collection (David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library)

Source:

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture; Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University)

Abstract:

Elizabeth Gurney Fry (1780-1845) was an English prison reformer, social reformer, and a Quaker philanthropist. Collection comprises some letters, poetry copied by Fry, and two portraits.

Extent:

0.1 Linear Feet (1 folder)

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.11912

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1n15d>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Elizabeth Fry Note and Copied Poetry, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection comprises three letters, a note, poetry copied by Fry, and two portraits. The correspondence includes: a joint letter (dated 1821 Sept. 22) from Fry and her brother, Joseph, thanking James Williams, sheriff of London and

Middlesex, for his interest in and support of the work of their organization for the improvement of female prisoners at Newgate. In the other letters (1839 and 1842), Fry briefly mentions separate confinement and the new colony at Australsund in West Australia. The undated note (probably around 1850) written to Blesia(?) regarding an accident on the part of Fry's daughter[-in-law] Sophia, that prevents Fry's visit. The other manuscript page contains two items of poetry, On Parent Knees a Naked New-born Child by Sir William Jones, copied at Plashet House on 1825 February 5, and 1 Timothy 4:12, copied on 1823 July 8. The collection also contains two printed portraits of Fry.

Biographical/Historical

Elizabeth Gurney Fry (1780-1845) was an English prison reformer, social reformer, and a Quaker philanthropist.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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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 Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

Acquisition Information

The Elizabeth Fry portraits, note, and copied poetry were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase from Lisa Unger Baskin in 2015.

The Elizabeth Gurney Fry Papers were acquired as part of the Trent Manuscripts collection. They were transferred to the History of Medicine Collection in Rubenstein Library in 2011.

The materials were merged into a single collection, Elizabeth Fry Papers, in 2022.

Processing Information

Elizabeth Fry Note and Copied Poetry collection was processed by Alice Poffinberger, July 2021.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2015-0050-LUBMSS212, 2015-0050-LUBMSS213.

Items merged with Elizabeth Gurney Fry Papers (Trent Manuscripts Collection) and the two portraits from the Lisa Unger Baskin ephemera collection to create unified Elizabeth Fry Papers in December 2022.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- personal correspondence
- Poetry
- Women -- Portraits
- Prisons -- 19th century
- Prison reformers -- Great Britain
- Social activists -- Correspondence
- Quakers
- Fry, Elizabeth Gurney, 1780-1845 -- Correspondence
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
- Gurney, Joseph John, 1788-1847
- Josiah Charles Trent History of Medicine Collections (Duke University)

Collection Inventory

Note and copied poetry

Folder 1

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired as part of the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection.

Portraits, approximately 1800s

Folder 1

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired as part of the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection.

Letters, 1821-1842

Folder 1

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Forms part of the Trent Manuscripts Collection.