



Guide to the Charles Gilpin correspondence, 1830s-1875

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

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Summary

Collection Title:

Charles Gilpin correspondence, 1830s-1875

Creator:

Gilpin, Charles, 1815-1874

Extent:

0.25 Linear Feet (1 box)

Language:

Materials are in English.

Collection ID:

RL.00453

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1z62s>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Charles Gilpin correspondence, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

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Background

Scope and Content

The collection consists of letters written to Charles Gilpin between the 1830s to 1874, many from British politicians, social reformers, and abolitionists. Topics include capital punishment, Hungarian exiles, parliamentary elections, foreign relations, prisons, Poor laws, and the abolition of slavery. Quakers are prominent, but the Society of Friends was not discussed. The content is varied and represents his social and political interests. The publishing business rarely appears in the correspondence. Correspondents include Elihu Burritt, William Lloyd Garrison, Joseph John Gurney, Samuel Gurney, Victor Hugo, Charles Mackay, Eliza Meteyard, and Grace Greenwood (Sara Jane Lippincott).

Biographical/Historical

Charles Gilpin (1815-1874), British publisher and reform member of Parliament, belonged to a Quaker family. His father was a Bristol tradesman, and his mother was the sister of Quaker philanthropist Joseph Sturge. Gilpin was a publisher and bookseller in London until 1853. He became a common councilman for London in 1848. After unsuccessfully contesting the parliamentary seat for Perth in 1852, he won election for Northampton in 1857 and represented it for the rest of his life. He served as secretary of the Poor Law Board, 1859-1865. He was a member of the Anti-Slavery Society, the Hungarian Relief Committee, the Peace Congress Committee, and the National Freehold Land Society. A few letters indicate his involvement in railway management. Richard Cobden and Lajos Kossuth were among his friends. Gilpin married Anna Crouch of Falmouth. Biographical information appears in his obituary in *The Times*, Sept. 9, 1874, p. 7, and in Frederic Boase, *Modern English Biography*, I, 1152.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

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

Acquisition Information

The collection was purchased by Duke University in 1968 and 1972.

Processing Information

Processed by library staff, circa 1968.

Collection reprocessed by Mary Mellon, May 2026.

Accessions described in this collection guide: 68-355 and Oct. 3, 1972

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Collection Inventory

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Scope and Contents

Correspondents include: B. B., John Bell, Everard Bouverie, J. Holte Bracebridge, T. Fowell Buxton, W. Burke, Sara J. Clarke, Ellen M. A. Cobden, Richard Cobden, [G. or S.] Cowper, Marion(?) Dakin, William Ewart, John Gay, Elizabeth Gurney, Diana Gurowska de Wczele, M. Gurowski de Wczele, A. M. Howitt, Mary Howitt, Lucy M. Hue, Douglas Jerrold, J. Kidd, Mary Ellen Laycock, C. Locock, Charles Mackay, S. Morley, J. W. Probyn, J. Przyiemski, [John Villiers Stuart Townshend, Viscount] Raynham, S. G. Smiles, C. P. Villiers, Henry Vincent, Louisa Whatman, E. Louisa Wodehouse, and unidentified individuals.

Arranged in alphabetical order by correspondent's last name.