



Guide to the Sir Leslie Stephen Papers, 1861-1959 (bulk 1866-1891)

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Summary

Collection Title:

Sir Leslie Stephen papers, 1861-1959 (bulk 1866-1891)

Creator:

Stephen, Leslie, Sir, 1832-1904

Abstract:

British author, philosopher, and first editor of the Dictionary of National Biography. Chiefly correspondence between Stephen and his first wife, Harriet Marian ("Minny") Thackeray, daughter of William Makepeace Thackeray, during their courtship and marriage. Several letters written to family members during the Stephen's honeymoon and later sojourns in Switzerland were illustrated with drawings by both. Includes letters from other relatives and letters of condolence at Minny's death. In a few letters to his second wife, Julia Duckworth Stephen, Stephen mentions their children "Nessa and Ginia" (Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf). Five letters from Stephen to Sir Henry John Newbolt concern Newbolt's poetry. Includes 21 manuscript articles written by Stephen for CORNHILL MAGAZINE while Thackeray was editor. Also contains a small number of printed articles and a reproduction of Stephen's portrait by G. F. Watts.

Extent:

1 Linear Feet
298 Items

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.01251

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1m65t>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Sir Leslie Stephen Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Chiefly family correspondence and manuscripts of articles by Sir Leslie Stephen (1832-1904), author, philosopher, and first editor of the Dictionary of National Biography. Included are the letters of his first wife, Harriet Marian (Thackeray) Stephen, daughter of William Makepeace Thackeray, and of his second wife, Julia Prinsep (Jackson) Duckworth Stephen, whose children included Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell. Correspondence discusses visits to Cambridge, England, by Stephen in 1866, and 1869; almost yearly tours of Switzerland, especially the Alps, by Sir Leslie and Harriet Marian (Thackeray) Stephen after their marriage in 1867 until her death in 1875; a tour of America in 1868, where they met James Russell Lowell, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Sumner, and Elizabeth H. Putnam; meetings with George Otto Trevelyan, Henry Fawcett, Matthew Arnold, William Ernest Henley, and Alfred Tennyson; Stephen's opinion of a novel by Millicent Fawcett; and Stephen's biography of Henry Fawcett, the proceeds from his writings, and his work on the Dictionary of National Biography. Also included are a poem by Sir Henry Taylor written in 1864; report, 1895, of a committee for the establishment of a memorial to Thomas Henry Huxley; clipping, 1898, of a congratulatory letter to George Meredith on his seventieth birthday, with a note on Meredith by Stephen; report, 1900, concerning a memorial for Henry Sidgwick; several pages from the Proceedings of the Alpine Club, 1899, relating to the election of James Bryce as president, pages from The Cambridge Review, 1900, containing statements about James Porter, former master of St. Peter's College, Cambridge; proofs or printed copies of eight of Stephen's magazine articles; and twentyone manuscripts of articles by Stephen.

Biographical/Historical

British author, philosopher, and first editor of the Dictionary of National Biography.

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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 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 Sir Leslie Stephen Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1964.

Processing Information

Processed by Kimberly Sims, May 2011

Encoded by Kimberly Sims, June 2011

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Names and Subjects

- Switzerland -- Description and travel
- English literature -- 19th century
- Authors, British
- Authors -- Biography -- Sources
- Voyages and travels
- Stephen, H. Marion (Harriet Marion), 1823-1858
- Stephen, Julia Duckworth, 1846-1895

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1861-1866	Box 1
Correspondence, 1867	Box 1
Correspondence, 1868-1869	Box 1
Correspondence, 1870	Box 1
Correspondence, 1871-1872	Box 1
Correspondence, 1873-1874	Box 1
Correspondence, 1875	Box 1
Correspondence, 1876-1959, undated (online item available)	Box 1
Digital Object: Correspondence, 1876-1959, undated	
Printed Material, 1892-1966, undated	Box 1
Pictures	Box 1
Manuscript Articles - Author's Introductory Note	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Another View"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "A Cynic's Apology"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Useless Knowledge"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "The Decay of Murder"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Heroes and Valets"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Idolatry"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "The Late Lord Lytton as a Novelist"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "National Antipathies"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Oratory"	Box 2

Manuscript Article: "Our Rulers"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Senior Wranglers"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Social Slavery"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Literary Exhaustion"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "The Decay of Literature"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Thoughts of an Outsider: Public Schools"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Thoughts of an Outsider: Public Schools Again"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "The Uses of Fools"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "The Study of English Literature"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Seventy-Six"	Box 2
Manuscript Article: Untitled	Box 2
Manuscript Article: "Vacations"	Box 2