



Guide to the Lady Wilde Letter, 1852 November 19

This collection guide was produced in **February 2016**.
This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

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

Table of Contents

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

Summary

Collection Title:

Lady Wilde letter, 1852 November 19

Creator:

Wilde, Lady, 1821-1896; Baskin, Lisa Unger

Source:

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Abstract:

Collection comprises a letter from Lady Wilde discussing the loss of her mother, followed by her marriage, and announcing the birth of her eldest son, William Charles Kingsbury Wilde. She also comments on marriage, "a woman's duty ends with marriage. She becomes a vegetable, a house leek, a mop--I feel that I am 'potted' for the rest of my days...." Includes an enclosure with a note written in another hand identifying Wilde along with the letter's recipient, whose last name may be Grant.

Extent:

0.1 Linear Feet (2 items)

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.11143

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1514p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Lady Wilde letter, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection comprises a letter from Lady Wilde discussing the loss of her mother, followed by her marriage, and announcing the birth of her eldest son, William Charles Kingsbury Wilde. She also comments on marriage, "a woman's duty ends with marriage. She becomes a vegetable, a house leek, a mop--I feel that I am 'potted' for the rest of my days...." Includes an enclosure with a note written in another hand identifying Wilde along with the letter's recipient, whose last name may be Grant.

Biographical/Historical

Jane Francesca Agnes, Lady Wilde [pseud. Speranza], was a writer and Irish nationalist. She was also mother of Oscar Wilde.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

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 Lady Wilde letter was received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a purchase in 2015.

Processing Information

Processed by Alice Poffinberger, February 2016

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2015-0050-LUBMSS509

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Marriage -- Great Britain -- History -- 19th century
- Ireland -- Social life and customs -- 19th century
- Wilde, Lady, 1821-1896
- Wilde family
- Lisa Unger Baskin Collection (David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library)
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Collection Inventory

Letter

Folder 1