Overview of the Collection

Title: Susanna Beever Letters

dates (inclusive): 1876-1913

Bulk dates: 1889-1893

Collection Number: mssHM 62832-62915

Creator: Beever, Susanna, -1893.

Extent: 84 items in 2 boxes

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

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San Marino, California 91108
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Abstract: This collection includes letters from Susanna Beever (-1893), a friend of English artist John Ruskin. The letters, which chiefly date from 1889 to 1893, are mainly about Susanna Beever's friends, good works, and garden but the letters also have several references to Ruskin.

Language: English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation


Provenance

Gift of Stephen Weissman on October 21, 1994 (acquisition number 1721).

Biographical Note

Susanna Beever (1805-1893) was born November 27, 1805 in the north of England. She lived almost her entire life in the Lake District town of Coniston, in a cottage called the Thwaite. The Beever family became known for being authorities on local botany and, as well, Susanna Beever was interested in poetry, drawing, and painting; in 1870 she published: A Book of Reference to Remarkable Passages in Shakespeare. She met John Ruskin in 1873 and they became close friends, writing each other almost every day about their shared interests in nature, art and a love for animals; and in 1887, Albert Fleming edited and published a selection of these letters. They remained close friends in spite of Ruskin's health problems until Susanna Beever's death, at the age of 88, in Oct. 1893. Close friends in death as they were in life, John Ruskin and Susanna Beever are buried near each other in Coniston, Cumbria, England.

Bibliography

The information for the Biographical Note was obtained from a newspaper clipping of the obituary for Susanna Beever from an unnamed newspaper, possibly from Kendal, Cumbria, ca. 1893. This clipping is cataloged with the Albert Fleming to William Tuckwell letter, (1893, Oct. 30). HM 62911.
catalog the letters as being from Cumbria in order to conform with current, standard cataloging procedures.

**Scope and Content**

The papers consist of the following series:

1. Manucripts & Correspondence (Boxes 1-2). There are only two manuscripts, which are interfiled with the correspondence. The correspondence series is mainly letters from Susanna Beever, written in the last few years of her life, to William and Rosa Tuckwell. There are also several letters to and from Albert Fleming, fellow resident of the Lake District, and friend of John Ruskin. The letters are mainly about Susanna Beever's friends, good works, and garden but the letters also have several references to John Ruskin.

2. Ephemera (Box 2) consisting of reproductions of two drawings, a poem, and the original binding from the disbound volume of Beever letters.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in the following order:

1. Manuscripts and Correspondence (Boxes 1-2) arranged alphabetically by author
2. Ephemera (Box 2) arranged alphabetically by author and title

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

**Subjects**

Beever, Susanna, -1893.
Cooke, Isaac, 1846-1922.
De Quincey, Thomas, 1785-1859.
Fleming, Albert.
Ruskin, John, 1819-1900.
Tuckwell, William, 1829-1919.
Wordsworth, William, 1770-1850.
Bird watching -- Great Britain.
Botany -- Great Britain.
Nature study -- Great Britain.
Women botanizers -- England -- Coniston -- Correspondence.
Lake District (England) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.

**Forms/Genres**

Drawings Great Britain 19th century.
Ephemera Great Britain 19th century.
Letters (correspondence) Great Britain 19th century.
Manuscripts Great Britain 19th century.
Poems Great Britain 19th century.

**Alternate Authors**

Tuckwell, Maurice.
Tuckwell, Rosa.

• De Quincey, Thomas, 1785-1859. In William Tuckwell, 1829-1919, [Reminiscences of Susanna Beever:] [memoir], ([ca. 1913?]). HM 62833.
• Lake District (England). In Susanna Beever, d. 1893, letters (1890 - 1893), Coniston (Cumbria, England). HM 62832 - 62915.
• Ruskin, John, 1819-1900. In William Tuckwell, 1829-1919, [Reminiscences of Susanna Beever:] [memoir], ([ca. 1913?]). HM 62833.
• -----, Early Rising: [poem], [ca. 1891]. HM 62842. Note: A five page poem included with a letter from Susanna Beever to Rosa Tuckwell (1890, Sep. 29); not in Susanna's hand and could possibly be the beautiful lines copied out by Rosa for Susanna. The poem was not adjacent to this letter but rather bound with letters from 1891.

Box 1

Manuscripts and Correspondence, A-Beever (HM 62832, 62834-62871)

D.,----, A.------, To Miss S. Beever: [poem]. 1876, Sep. 28 HM 62832.

Beever, Susanna. 4 letters to Albert Fleming. Coniston (Cumbria, England).
1889-1893 HM 62834-62837.

Note: HM 62834-62826 signed Owletta.

1889-1893 HM 62838-62856.

Note: HM 62842 contains the poem entitled, “Early Rising;” HM 62849 with envelope; HM 62854 in the hand of Mrs. Powell(?).

1889-1890 HM 62857-62871.

Note: HM 62857 signed Sibyl Grey; HM 62864 & 62866 mistakenly addressed to Mr. Cutwell; HM 62869 & 62870 refer to two “views” done by Isaac Cooke of the Thwaite, reproductions of these views are in Ephemera.

Box 2

Manuscripts and Correspondence, Beever (continued)-Tuckwell (HM 62833, 62872-62915); Ephemera

Manuscripts and Correspondence

1891-1893 HM 62872-62892.
   Note: HM 62898 signed Owletta.

   Note: HM 62911 contains newspaper clipping of the obituary for Susan Beever.

[Approximately 1913?] HM 62833.
   Note: Probably written for his son, Maurice Tuckwell, as an introduction to the letters of Susanna Beever.

   Physical Description: (1 p.); 18 cm.

Ephemera
   Note: Reproductions of two drawings used for the book, Tongues in Trees, by William Tuckwell, 1829-1919. The drawings are mentioned in two letters, HM 62869-62870.

"The current of this world is rough & strong...:" [poem?]. [Approximately 1891?].
   Note: In the handwriting of Susanna Beever.

Original Binding from volume of Beever letters. [Approximately 1913?].
   Note: Also, end paper with the number 203; Susanna Beever's name misspelled on the binding as Susan Beaver.