
John Ruskin Papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Huntington Library staff in 1969 and updated by Diann Benti in 2015.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

Manuscripts Department

The Huntington Library

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Overview of the Collection

Title: John Ruskin Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1870-1909

Bulk dates: 1873-1900

Collection Number: mssJR 1-874

Creator: Ruskin, John, 1819-1900.

Extent: Approximately 874 items in 9 boxes

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Abstract: This collection contains approximately 874 pieces of correspondence and manuscripts chiefly related to English author John Ruskin (1819-1900) and his career as a writer, professor, and art critic. A large portion of the collection is made up of correspondence between Ruskin and his friend Susan Beever (1805-1893); letters from Beever to Albert Fleming, an editor and close friend of Ruskin; and letters and documents of and addressed to Fleming regarding the publication of a selection of the Ruskin-Beever letters. Other correspondents include George Allen, Sir Edward Cook, Frederick Furnivall, and Alexander Wedderburn.

Language: English.

Note:

Finding aid last updated on November 20, 2015.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. John Ruskin Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Purchased from Goodspeed's, September, 1923.

Access

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

Biographical Note

John Ruskin (1819-1900), an English critic of art, architecture, and society, as well as an artist and a teacher, was born February 8, 1819, in London, England. He graduated from the University of Oxford in 1843. After gaining wide recognition as an author, artist, and social reformer, he moved from London to Brantwood, Coniston Water, in 1872, where he remained until his death. In 1873, Ruskin met Susan Beever (1805-1893), and they became close friends, writing each other almost every day about their shared interests in nature, art and a love for animals; in 1887, Albert Fleming edited and published a selection of these letters. Their voluminous correspondence was carried on until Beever's death in 1893.

Ruskin was elected first Slade Professor of Art at Oxford in 1870 and held the post until 1878 and then again from 1883 to 1884. From 1878 until his death, Ruskin was plagued with recurring brain attacks. He made many trips abroad, several in an attempt to cure himself of his illness.

However, by 1889 his literary career was at an end. Ruskin died January 20, 1900, and was buried at Coniston beside Beever.

Scope and Content

The collection contains approximately 874 pieces of correspondence and manuscripts chiefly related to English author John Ruskin (1819-1900) and his career as a writer, professor, and art critic. A large portion of the collection is made up of approximately 500 pieces of correspondence from Ruskin and his friend Susan Beever, circa 1870-1870 (JR 1-526). In these letters, Ruskin talks about his writings, ideas and thoughts, and health. There are also approximately 230 letters, dating from 1887 to 1893, from Beever to Albert Fleming, an editor and close friend of Ruskin, that primarily discuss Beever's

everyday life, her neighbors on Coniston Water, and news about Ruskin. The letters from Beever to Fleming were written during her last illness, with a few letters from others regarding her death (JR 555-753). In addition, there are approximately 150 letters and documents of and addressed to Albert Fleming, dated 1887 to 1893, regarding the publication of a selection of the Ruskin letters to Beever by George Allen under the title *Hortus Inclusus*, with corrected proof sheets for the 1902 revised edition. Pen-and-ink sketches are included in items JR 15, 138, 246, 257, 341, 356. There is also a poem by Ruskin, "Last Added Stanzas to Dame Wiggins of Lee" (JR 494).

Other correspondents include George Allen, Edward Clayton, Sir Edward Cook, Frederick Furnivall and Alexander Wedderburn.

Persons represented by five or more pieces

Allen, George 25 pieces

Allen, Grace 5 pieces

Beever, Susan 230 pieces

Brown, John 14 pieces

Cook, Sir Edward Tyas 6 pieces

Fleming, Albert 21 pieces

Mackrell, H. Perceval 9 pieces

Powell, R. 18 pieces

Ruskin, John 536 pieces

Wedderburn, Alexander Dundas Ogilvy 9 pieces

- [Susanna Beever letters \(mssHM 62832-62915\)](#)
- [Francis Bennoch letters \(mssBE 1-291\)](#). BE 206-213 consist of Ruskin's letters to Bennoch, [c. 1850]-1860.
- Browning, Robert. Letter to John Ruskin. 1865 February 24 (mssHM 4996)
- [The Elements of Drawing \(72948\)](#). Corrected galleyproofs chiefly in Ruskin's hand.
- [Eliza Fall Papers \(mssHM 42764-42816\)](#). Contains many contemporary references to John Ruskin.
- [Frederick James Furnivall correspondence \(mssFU 1-983\)](#). Includes 19 letters from Ruskin to Furnivall, 1855-1878 (FU 776-794).
- [William Holman Hunt letters \(mssHH 1-593\)](#). Includes 3 letters from William Holman Hunt to Ruskin, dated 1857-1889 (mssHH 206-208), 6 letters from Ruskin to Marion Edith Hunt, 1882-1886 (mss HH 525-530), 33 letters from Ruskin to William Holman Hunt, dated [1852]-1886 (mssHH 531-563), and a fragment of an essay by Ruskin, "Realistic Schools of Painting: D.G. Rossetti and W. Holman Hunt" (mssHH 3).
- Larkin, J. R. Letter to John Ruskin. [1865?] (mssHM 7087)
- [William Morris papers \(mssMOR 1-611\)](#)
- [Mary Richardson travel diaries \(mssHM 41910-41914\)](#).
- [John Ruskin and Louise Blandy papers \(mssHM 57251-57339\)](#)
- [John Ruskin letters to Mary Buckland \(mssHM 57241-57250\)](#)
- [John Ruskin letters to George Richardson \(mssHM 57225-57240\)](#)
- [John Ruskin Collection \(mssHM 6097-6129; mssHM 7587-7622, etc.\)](#)
- [Ruskin, John. Hortus Inclusus \(298058\)](#). Includes mss. revisions for the third edition and letters of Ruskin to Mary and Susan Beever.
- Ruskin, John. To Charles Kent. 1867, November (mssHM 18743) with Dickens, Charles. A Souvenir of Charles Dickens' Last Visit to America (mssHM 18584-18746)
- Ruskin, John. To John Dillon. [1855, January] (HM 24179) bound in "Letters and notes on Turner's *Liber Studiorum*" (mssHM 24173-74, etc.)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by author.

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects

Ruskin, John, 1819-1900 -- Archives.

JR 537. **Anderson, Sara D. To Susan Beever. [c. 1881].**
 JR 787. **Anderson, Sara D. To Albert Fleming. [1887 June 26].**
 JR 788. **Beever, C. To Albert Fleming. 1893.**
 JR 539-552. **Brown, John. To Susan Beever. 1874-1881.**

14 letters.

JR 789-790. **Brown, John. To Albert Fleming. 1901.**

2 letters.

JR 791. **Clay, J. To Albert Fleming. [1893] October 31.**

JR 792-797. **Cook, Sir Edward Tyas. To Albert Fleming. 1887-1909.**

6 letters.

JR 798-799. **Cook, Emily Constance Baird. To Albert Fleming. [1888].**

2 letters.

JR 800. **Dilke, Emily Frances Strong Pattison. To Albert Fleming. 1887 June 15.**

JR 801. **Faunthorpe, John Pincher. To Albert Fleming. [1887-1892?] October 3.**

JR 802. **Fleming. To Albert Fleming. [1887] September 8.**

JR 855. **Fleming, Albert. To Sara D. Anderson. 1887 September 1.**

JR 856-857. **Fleming, Albert. To H. Perceval Mackrell. 1902.**

2 letters.

JR 858. **Fleming, Albert. To [Margaret?] Richardson. 1900 June 26.**

JR 859-863. **Fleming, Albert. To John Ruskin. 1887-1888.**

5 letters.

JR 864. **Fleming, Albert. To Joan (Agnew) Severn. 1887 June 4.**

JR 865-868. **Fleming, Albert. To Alexander Dundas Ogilvy Wedderburn. 1901-1902.**

4 letters.

JR 869. **Fleming, Albert. [Hortus Inclusus] Preface to the third Edition. 1902.**

2 pieces.

JR 870. **Fleming, Albert. To [----]. 1888 May 14.**

JR 871. **Fleming, Albert. Miscellaneous notes. [1886-1902].**

5 pieces.

JR 754. **Green Brothers (firm). To Albert Fleming. 1901 November 23.**

Correspondence, Miscellaneous H-Z

JR 803-806. **Hunt, Margaret (Raine). To Albert Fleming. [1887-1888].**

4 letters.

JR 807. **Jowett, Henry. To Albert Fleming. 1887 October 4.**

JR 872. **London Stationers Company. Record of the registration in Stationers' Hall of John Ruskin's *Hortus Inclusus* entered by Albert Fleming. 1902 May 6.**

JR 873. **London Stationers Company. Record of the registration in Stationers' Hall of John Ruskin's *Hortus Inclusus* entered by Susan Beever. 1887 September 20.**

JR 808-816. **Mackrell, H. Perceval. To Albert Fleming. 1887.**

9 letters.

JR 817-834. **Powell, R. To Albert Fleming. 1893.**

18 letters.

JR 835. **Richardson, Margaret. To Albert Fleming. 1901 January 10.**

JR 531. **Ruskin, John. To [Joan Agnew Severn?]. [c. 1875].**

Box 9

JR 532. **Ruskin, John. [Poem, 1 stanza begins:] "Be thou glad, oh my love." [c. 1883].**

JR 533. **Ruskin, John. [Last Will and Testament]: Summary of Will & Codicils. 1883-1887.**

JR 534. **Ruskin, John. Epitaphs on the tombstones of John James Ruskin and Margaret Cox Ruskin in Shirley Church Yard. 1887 [April 23].**

JR 535. **Ruskin, John. To [----]. 1887 June.**

In the handwriting of Albert Fleming and concerning H. Perceval Mackrell.

JR 536. **Ruskin, John. To George Allen. 1888 June 2.**

JR 836. **S----, A----. To Albert Fleming. 1893 October 18.**

JR 837. **S----, A----. To Albert Fleming. 1893 October 21.**

JR 838. **Stokes, H. To Albert Fleming. 1893 October 19.**

JR 839-842. **Thomson, George. To Albert Fleming. 1887-1890.**

4 letters.

JR 874. **Tomlins, M. To [----] Miller. 1887 May 7.**

JR 843. **Tuckwell, William. To Albert Fleming. 1893 October 18.**

JR 844-852. **Wedderburn, Alexander Dundas Ogilvy. To Albert Fleming. 1901-1902.**

9 letters.

JR 853. **Wollaston, Constance. To Albert Fleming. [1888] May 8.**

JR 854. **[----], Michael. To Albert Fleming. [1893 October 18].**

JR 553. **[----]. To Susan Beever. 1883 February 21.**

JR 554. **[----]. To Miss Beever. 1870 November 28.**