John Ruskin Collection: Finding Aid

Initial 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
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
© 2015
The Huntington Library. All rights reserved.
Overview of the Collection

Title: John Ruskin Collection
Dates (inclusive): 1833-1888
Collection Number: mssHM 6097-6129, etc.
Additional Collection Numbers: mssHM 6097-6129; mssHM 7586-7622; mssHM 12881; mssHM 18908; mssHM 21655-21664; mssHM 24179; mssHM 25801-25861; mssHM 26320; mssHM 26353; mssHM 30341-30369; mssHM 30653-30658; mssHM 30883-30885; mssHM 31088-31098; and mssHM 32002-32014.
Creator: Ruskin, John, 1819-1900.
Extent: Approximately 175 items in 2 boxes and 8 loose volumes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2191
Email: reference@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: This collection contains approximately 175 pieces of correspondence and manuscripts related to English author John Ruskin (1819-1900) and his career as a writer, professor, and art critic.

Language: English.

Note:
Finding aid last updated on November 5, 2015.

Publication Rights
The Huntington Library does not require that researchers request permission to quote from or publish images of this material, nor does it charge fees for such activities. The responsibility for identifying the copyright holder, if there is one, and obtaining necessary permissions rests with the researcher.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. John Ruskin Collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance
The collection was assembled from various sources, including:

• Sotheby's, June 1-2, 1959 (Countess of Abingdon), Lot 385 (HM 25801)
• W.S. Allen, 1925 (HM 7586-7589, 7591)
• Sotheby's, March 14, 1967, Lot 225 (HM 30344-30369)
• Sotheby's, December 12, 1967, Lot 514 (HM 30657-30657)
• Sotheby's, December 10, 1968, Lot 796 (HM 31088-31098)
• Hofmann & Freeman, Catalog 31: 126, June 1970 (HM 32003-32014)

Specific provenance information is written on the item folder.

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; and in 1887, Albert Fleming edited and published a selection of these letters. Their voluminous correspondence was carried on until Beever's death in 1893. He 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 these brain fevers.

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

This collection contains approximately 175 pieces of correspondence and manuscripts related to English author John Ruskin (1819-1900) that deal chiefly with his career as a writer, professor, and art critic. The earliest item in the collection is a volume titled *Practical Geometry*, containing problems and exercises, with some additional sketches and notes by Ruskin, dated 1833 (HM 6103).

The correspondence series includes:

- 61 letters, dated 1858-1873, to Louisa Anne De La Poer Beresford, Marchioness of Waterford, a Pre-Raphaelite watercolorist.
- 11 letters to Sarah Corliss (circa 1850-1865)
- 12 letters to actor Norman Forbes in 1888
- 26 letters to novelist Margaret Raine Hunt, from 1867 to 1887
- 6 letters to John Henry Larkin


- **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 galleyproof 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 papers (mssJR 1-874)**
- **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 in the following 2 series:

- Manuscripts arranged by title
- Correspondence and manuscripts arranged 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.
- University of Oxford.
- Art critics -- Great Britain -- 19th century.
- Authors, English -- 19th century -- Archives.
**Forms/Genres**
- Drawings -- Great Britain -- 19th century.
- Letters (correspondence) -- Great Britain -- 19th century.
- Manuscripts -- Great Britain -- 19th century.

**Contributors**
- Allen, George, 1832-1907, recipient.
- Appleton, Charles Edward Cutts Birch, 1841-1879, recipient.
- Corlass, Sarah, recipient.
- Crawley, Frederick, recipient.
- Forbes, Norman, 1858-1932, recipient.
- Hunt, Alfred William, Mrs., 1831-1912, recipient.
- Larkin, Henry, 1820-1899, recipient.
- Louisa Anne, Marchioness of Waterford, 1818-1891, recipient.

**Manuscripts and correspondence arranged by title**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loose volume</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Physical Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HM 6104</td>
<td>Gold; a dialogue. 1863</td>
<td>MS.S. 24 leaves 4to. In the hand of an amanuensis. Content connected with the subject of &quot;Munera Pulveris.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM 6099</td>
<td>Lectures on architecture and painting: &quot;The Edinburgh Lectures.&quot; c. 1854</td>
<td>A.MS. 201 leaves 4to. and fol. The versos of some of the leaves have eleven line-and-wash sketches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM 6102</td>
<td>[Notes on Samuel Prout and William Hunt]. 1879-1880</td>
<td>MS. (partly autograph) 88 leaves. Some printed pages, most with autograph corrections; includes pen-and-ink sketch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM 6100</td>
<td>[Notes on the Royal Academy and other exhibitions]. c. 1855</td>
<td>A.MS. 53 leaves fol. and 8 proof sheets. Includes pen-and-ink sketches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM 6103</td>
<td>Practical Geometry. 1833</td>
<td>A.MS. 38 leaves 4to. A note of presentation and page headings in ornamental pen work, in another hand; with inscription on the flyleaf: Master Ruskin, Jan. 21, 1833.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HM 6098</td>
<td>Unto the Last. [c. 1862]</td>
<td>A.MS. 82 leaves. Essays three and four only, &quot;Que Judicati&quot; and &quot;Ad Vaolrem.&quot; Includes several small pen-and-ink sketches, and on leaf 82, there is a large original drawing by Ruskin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Manuscripts and correspondence arranged by title

Box 1, Folder 1

**Manuscripts.**

Physical Description: 9 pieces

HM 21659. [Arrows of the Chace: Fragments from "The Arts As a Branch of Education" and the "Turner Sketches and Drawings"] [1857-1858]

A. MSS. 1 leaf fol. And 1 leaf 9 x 8 3/8 in. 2 pieces. Includes pencil sketch.

HM 7587 The Elements of Perspective. [c. 1859]


HM 21662. [Expedition of Darius into Scythia] [c. 1836]

A. MS. 1 leaf fol. Fragment; includes sketches.

HM 7589 Fors Clavigera. [c. 1878]


HM 21661. [Fragment of notes relating to the competitive designs submitted for the new Government buildings] [c. 1857]

A. MS. 3 leaves fol.

HM 7591 Miscellaneous notes. [c. 1870]

A. MS. 10 p. fol. Includes a pen-over-pencil sketch.

HM 21660. [Notes for: Essay on Baptism] [c. 1850]

A. MS. 1 leaf fol.

HM 7586 Pre-Raphaelitism. [c. 1851]


HM 7588 To Dear Dr. Acland, 2nd letter on the Oxford Museum. [c. 1859]

A. MS. 12 p. fol. Includes pen-and-ink sketch. Incomplete letter to Sir Henry Wentworth Acland, with a fragment of a second draft, with cuttings from proofs pasted on.

HM 7590 To Henry Swan [notes and draft for an article on Fra Filippo Lippi and Carpaccio]. [1879 January 12]

A. MS. 11 p. 8vo.

Manuscripts and correspondence arranged by author

**Loose volume**

Physical Description: 1 volume

Loose volume

HM 6105-6129 Ruskin, John. To Edward Clayton. 1839-1845

25 letters. HM 6110 and 6118-20 include pen-and-ink sketches. Many of these letters were published as Letters addressed to a college friend during the years 1840-1845 (1894).

Box 1

**Manuscripts and correspondence, Ruskin to A-D**

Physical Description: 82 pieces

HM 21655. Ruskin, John. To George Allen. [1873, October 14].

HM 21656. Ruskin, John. To George Allen. [1875 November-December].

HM 21657. Ruskin, John. To George Allen. [1876, November 4].
Manuscripts and correspondence arranged by author

HM 30653-30657. Ruskin, John. To Charles Edward Cutts Birch Appleton, Editor of Academy. [between 1873 and 1879].

5 letters.

HM 7612. Ruskin, John. To Daniel Bromly. 1877, April 15.
HM 7622. Ruskin, John. To Francis H. Butler. [1886, March 9].
HM 12881. Ruskin, John. To George Butterworth. [c. 1870].

6 letters.

HM 7621. Ruskin, John. To Frederick Crawley. 1882, November 14.

61 letters. Includes a note by Euphemia Chalmers (Gray) Millais in HM 25801 and pen-and-ink sketches in HM 25839-40.

Box 2

Manuscripts and correspondence, Ruskin to E-Z

Physical Description: 83 pieces


11 letters.


12 letters.

HM 7592. Ruskin, John. To Frederick James Furnivall. [1850].
HM 7613. Ruskin, John. To Frederick Gale. 1878, July 2.

26 letters. HM 30353 includes a pen-and-ink sketch.

HM 30885. Ruskin, John. To "Dearest Isola" [----]. [c. 1870?].
HM 7595. Ruskin, John. To George Jones. [1855, October 6].

6 letters. HM 7598-99 include pen-and-ink sketches.


3 letters.

HM 30883. Ruskin, John. To Coventry Kersey Dighton Patmore. [1871?].
HM 30658. Ruskin, John. To [----] Pattison. [before 1879].
HM 7600. Ruskin, John. To Charles Richardson. [1867, May 15].
HM 7593. Ruskin, John. To George Smith. [1851 August 3].
HM 7594. Ruskin, John. To George Smith. [1855, May].

3 letters.
HM 21663. Ruskin, John. To [----]. [between 1856 and 1871].
HM 39921. Ruskin, John. To "Dear Sir". 1862 April.
HM 26320. Ruskin, John. To "My dear Sir" (with sepia photograph of Ruskin). [before 1871].