Biographical Note
Edward Coley Burne-Jones was born in 1833 in Birmingham. He studied theology at Exeter College, Oxford, where he became friends with William Morris, and, like Morris, decided pursue a career in art instead of one in the Church. Burne-Jones became one of the leading figures in the contemporary British art world, closely allied with the pre-Raphaelites and with the Aesthetic movement. A founding member (along with Morris) of the firm Morris, Marshall, Faulkner, and Company, Burne-Jones was a significant force in the rebirth of stained glass design in England and designed a number of notable windows, though he was most known for his paintings. Burne-Jones married Georgiana MacDonald in 1860, with whom he had 2 children, Philip and Margaret. He died in 1898.

Source of Acquisition
Clark Library purchase, Sims Reed Rare Books, 2018.

Scope and Contents
This collection consists of letters written by artist Edward Burne-Jones to his daughter Margaret Burne-Jones Mackail, dating from her childhood to his death (approximately 1873-1898). Letters often include sketches by Burne-Jones of birds, cats and other animals, as well as frequent caricatures of Burne-Jones himself. Many letters also include their original envelopes. The earliest letters to Margaret are written in block capitals, clearly for a child just learning to read on her own. Letters often include information about Burne-Jones' work (sometimes quite specific) as well as discussions about those his circle of friends, including William Morris, Henry James and Cormell Price, among others. Though most letters are affectionate and humorous (many include jokes clipped from newspapers), Burne-Jones also shares despondent and depressive thoughts with his daughter, especially frustrations with his work, as well as sadness when she leaves home to marry husband Jack Mackail. The collection also includes one letter from Georgiana Burne-Jones, Margaret's mother, and a letter from Edward Burne-Jones to Jack Mackail.

Letters are housed in modern cloth slipcases.

Related Materials at the Clark Library
Edward Burne-Jones Letters to Violet Maxse, MS.2010.010, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library (online finding aid)

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item, Box/Folder number], Edward Burne-Jones Letters to Margaret Burne-Jones Mackail, MS.2018.011, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Letters -- England -- 19th century
Mackail, Margaret Burne-Jones, 1866-1953

volume 1, Folder 1 Letters 1876-1883
Contents
7 letters, 2 with envelopes, 2 sketches.
volume 1, Folder 2  Letters 1884  
Contents
14 letters, 1 envelope, 3 letters with drawings.

volume 1, Folder 3  Letters 1885-1886  
Contents
8 letters, 6 letters with drawings

volume 1, Folder 4  Letters 1887  
Contents
6 letters, 4 envelopes, all letters with drawings (one with sewn in string connecting a drawing of Margaret, on the first page, to a caricature of Burne-Jones, on the last page)

volume 1, Folder 5  Letters 1889  
Contents
2 letters, 1 envelope, 1 letter with drawing

volume 1, Folder 6  Letters 1892  
Contents
11 letters, 3 envelopes, 4 letters with drawings, many letters with pasted in newspaper clippings (mostly of jokes) as well as one letter with a pasted cheque and a manuscript note from Margaret Mackail, made at a later date.

Volume 2, Folder 1  Letters 1893  
Contents
2 letters, 1 with drawings.

Volume 2, Folder 2  Letters 1894  
Contents
5 letters, all with envelopes, 1 letter with drawings and several with clippings of jokes from the newspaper. One letter is from Georgiana Burne-Jones to Margaret Mackail.

Volume 2, Folder 3  Letters 1895  
Contents
6 letters, 2 envelope, many letters with newspaper clippings (mostly jokes). One letter also has a pasted in paper silhouette of Burne-Jones.

Volume 2, Folder 4  Letters 1896-1898  
Contents
3 letters, 4 envelopes, 1 letter with drawings and one with newspaper clippings.

Volume 2, Folder 5  Letters undated  
Contents
9 letters, 4 envelopes, 7 letters with drawings. Many of these letters appear to date from before 1876 and 2 are written in all block capital letters, presumably to a young Margaret just learning to read.