Finding Aid for the William Roscoe Collection 1774-1887, undated

Processed by Rebecca Fenning.
William Andrews Clark Memorial Library
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URL: http://www.clarklibrary.ucla.edu/
Language of Material: Undetermined  
Contributing Institution: William Andrews Clark Memorial Library  
Title: William Roscoe Collection  
creator: Roscoe, William 1753-1831  
Identifier/Call Number: MS.2008.023  
Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet 2 boxes and 4 bound volumes  
Date (inclusive): 1774-1887, undated  
Abstract: Contains correspondence to and from William Roscoe, his family circle and various friends, booksellers and colleagues as well as commonplace books compiled by his wife Jane Griffies, portrait engravings and ephemera, dating 1774-1887 and undated.  
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Preferred Citation  
Acquisition Information  
Gift of Professor David H. Weinglass and Marilyn Carbonell, 2008.  
Biography  
William Roscoe was born in 1753 in Liverpool. Although he trained to become an attorney and worked in that capacity for 20 years, his true passion was literature and the arts, particularly the study of Italy. In 1781, Roscoe married Jane Griffies, to whom he was happily married for over 40 years. Their family of seven sons and three daughters was a close and loving one, something that is well-reflected in the correspondence collected here.  
Beginning when he was around 16, Roscoe had published and circulated some poetry that was well-received by the critics, but it was the Life of Lorenzo published in 1796 that earned him his reputation as a writer and historian. This was followed by a Life of Leo X in 1805, which was not as well-received. Roscoe retired from his career in the law soon after the publication of the Life of Lorenzo and dedicated his time to writing and the arts, as well as farming, abolition and politics. In 1816, a bank in which he was a partner failed and Roscoe was forced to sell his home of Allerton Hall as well as his sizeable collections of books, paintings and manuscripts.  
Though Roscoe continued working as a writer and as an advocate for culture in Liverpool, his family moved often because of financial worries. Jane Griffies Roscoe died in 1824 and Roscoe himself died at 78, in 1831.  
Scope and Content  
The William Roscoe collection, dating 1774-1887 and undated, consists primarily of correspondence between Roscoe, his family circle and various friends, booksellers and professional colleagues. The collection also contains 4 volumes of commonplace books compiled by his wife, Jane Griffies Roscoe, contemporary and modern images of Roscoe and his residences, and related ephemera.  
The majority of the correspondence collected here consists of outgoing letters written by Roscoe to his sons and to colleagues and friends in the worlds of publishing, art and politics, as do incoming letters sent to Roscoe and to others. Some letters are brief notes regarding social engagements, while others contain more substantive discussions of topics ranging from slavery to bookselling and art collecting. Frequent correspondents include sons Robert, Richard, Thomas and Henry as well as booksellers Cadell & Davies and artist Martin Archer Shee.  
The four volumes of commonplace books, dating 1774-1790, compiled by Jane Griffies Roscoe contain autograph contributions by Roscoe, as well as works by him written in Jane's hand. The volumes also contain what appear to be Jane's original compositions in addition to works by poets such as William Collins, Thomas Gray, Phillis Wheatley and Anna Laetitia Barbauld.
Ephemera and images, dating 1805-1853 and undated, include portrait engravings of Roscoe and of his residence at Allerton Hall, as well as related newspapers and other clippings. A medal issued on his centenary in 1853 by Joseph Mayer, Liverpool arts patron and possible former owner of parts of this collection, is also included.

The collection is organized into the following series:

- **Series 1.** Correspondence, 1796-1833, 1887, undated. 1 box
- **Series 2.** Poetical commonplace book, 1774-1790. 4 volumes
- **Series 3.** Images and ephemera, 1805-1853, undated. 1 box

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Ephemera -- England -- 19th century
- Letters -- England -- 19th century
- Commonplace books -- England -- 19th century
- Authors, English -- 18th century -- Archives
- Engravings (prints)
- Roscoe, Henry, 1800-1836
- Mayer, Joseph, 1803-1886
- Dunston, Frederick Warburton
- Cadell & Davies
- Weinglass, David H.
- Roscoe, Robert
- Roscoe, Thomas, 1791-1871
- Roscoe, Jane Griffies
- Roscoe, Richard

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**Correspondence Series 1. 1796-1833, 1887, undated**

- **Physical Description:** 0.42 Linear Feet
- 1 box

**Scope and Contents note**

The majority of the correspondence collected here consists of outgoing letters written by Roscoe to his sons and to colleagues and friends in the worlds of publishing, art and politics, though there are also incoming letters addressed to him and others close to him. Some letters are brief notes regarding social engagements, while others contain more substantive discussions of topics ranging from slavery to bookselling and art collecting. Frequent correspondents include sons Robert, Richard, Thomas and Henry as well as booksellers Cadell and Davies and artist Martin Archer Shee.

**Arrangement note**

Items are arranged in two subseries: Subseries 1. Correspondence from William Roscoe, 1797-1830, undated and Subseries 2. Correspondence and material from others, 1796-1833, 1887, undated.

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**Outgoing correspondence from William Roscoe Subseries 1. 1797-1830, undated**

- **Physical Description:** 47 letters

**Arrangement note**

Letters are arranged in chronological order.

- **box 1, folder 1**
  - To James Heath (1757-1834) 4 March 1797
    - **Physical Description:** 1 item

- **box 1, folder 2**
  - To Cadell & Davies [1797?]
    - **Physical Description:** 1 item
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 3</td>
<td>From Rev. Henry Boyd, with appended note from Roscoe to Cadell &amp; Davies, booksellers August 1802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 4</td>
<td>To Messrs. Lackington, Allen &amp; Co., booksellers 8 December 1803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ordering 13 books and requesting book catalog.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 5</td>
<td>To unknown correspondent 8 February 1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regarding an engraving of Allerton Hall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 6</td>
<td>To unknown correspondent 9 June 1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 7</td>
<td>To Joseph Cooper Walker 26 August 1805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 8</td>
<td>To Rev. William Parr Greswell (1765-1854) 22 June 1806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 9</td>
<td>To Cadell &amp; Davies 6 September 1806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 10</td>
<td>To Richard Taylor (1781-1858) 30 January 1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 11</td>
<td>To [David Steuart Erskine], Lord [Buchan] 3 March 1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 12</td>
<td>To William Barber 19 March 1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 13</td>
<td>To Thomas Winstanley 6 April [1807?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 14</td>
<td>To [Thomas Cadell?] 5 December 1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 15</td>
<td>To [Cadell &amp; Davies] [24 January 1808]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>List of persons to whom WR would like sent his Considerations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 16</td>
<td>To Cadell &amp; Davies 26 May 1808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 17</td>
<td>To Martin Archer Shee (1769-1850) 4 November 1808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 18</td>
<td>To W[illiam] M[acdowal] Tartt 2 January 1809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box Folder</td>
<td>To Whom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 19</td>
<td>William Wilberforce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 20</td>
<td>Henry Wilckens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 21</td>
<td>Unknown correspondent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 22</td>
<td>[Dawson Turner (1775-1858)]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 23</td>
<td>Martin Archer Shee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 24</td>
<td>Robert Roscoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 25</td>
<td>Archibald Constable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 26</td>
<td>Thomas Winstanley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 27</td>
<td>William Bullock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 28</td>
<td>Edward Rushton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 29</td>
<td>Unknown recipient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 30</td>
<td>William Earle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 31</td>
<td>[James Cropper?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 32</td>
<td>Mrs. [Frances Smith] Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 33</td>
<td>Miss [Margaret] Holford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 34</td>
<td>[Mr. Barclay?]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 35</td>
<td>Unknown correspondent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Correspondence Series 1.1796-1833, 1887, undated
Outgoing correspondence from William Roscoe Subseries 1.1797-1830, undated

box 1, folder 36  To Rev. Domenico Moreni 20 January 1826
Physical Description: 1 item
Scope and Contents note
In Italian.

box 1, folder 37  To J. Wesley? 29 September 1826
Physical Description: 1 item
Scope and Contents note
Name of correspondent from docket; not clearly legible.

box 1, folder 38  To Jonathan Trevanion Hatfield (1793-1840) [February 1827]
Physical Description: 1 item
General note
Signature and date cut away from original letter, affecting several lines of text.
Modern paper inlaid, with missing text supplied in pencil and autograph supplied from another source.

box 1, folder 39  To [William] Jevons 15 August 1827
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 40  To Thomas Thompson (1776-1861) 5 December 1827
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 41  To Samuel Parker 7 December [1827]
Physical Description: 1 item
Scope and Contents note
Remargined and repaired with modern paper.

box 1, folder 42  WR autograph and poetical quotation 26 March 1829
Physical Description: 1 item
Scope and Contents note
With pencil note from one of WR's grandchildren. Remargined in modern paper.

box 1, folder 43  To George Smith 23 July 1829
Physical Description: 1 item
General note
Tipped onto gray album page.

box 1, folder 44  To [Nathaniel Wallich] 17 May 1830
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 45  To Mr Dodd 20 September 1830
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 46  To John McCreery (1768?-1832) undated
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 47  To William Rathbone (1787-1868) undated
Physical Description: 1 item
### Correspondence from others Subseries 2. 1796-1833, 1887, undated

Physical Description: 14 letters

**Arrangement note**

Letters are arranged in chronological order.

**Scope and Contents note**

This subseries includes letters written to Roscoe, as well as letters written to third parties connected to him. Several letters communicate messages to and from Roscoe to other parties via his sons Robert, Richard, Thomas and Henry. A letter from 1887 to great-grandson Frederick Warburton Dunston documents his acquisition of the items detailed in Series 2 of this finding aid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 48</td>
<td><strong>From Cadell &amp; Davies to WR 30 Oct [1796]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apparent draft copy of a letter to WR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 49</td>
<td><strong>From Georgiana Cavendish, Dutchess of Devonshire, to Dr. John Moore (1729-1802) [19 December 1798]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter intended to be forwarded by Moore to WR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 50</td>
<td><strong>From Mary Ann Roscoe Jevons to Mr Marples 9 January 18--?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 51</td>
<td><strong>From William Parr Greswell to Cadell &amp; Davies 6 April 1801</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 52</td>
<td><strong>From Richard Roscoe to Cadell &amp; Davies [ca. 1814]</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 53</td>
<td><strong>From Robert Roscoe to Cadell &amp; Davies 7 June 1819</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gives instructions sent from WR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 54</td>
<td><strong>From Robert Roscoe to [?] Horwood 2 October 1826</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter and autograph of W. Roscoe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 55</td>
<td><strong>From Henry Roscoe to unknown correspondent 19 June 1833</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regards his biography of WR and the unknown's friendship with WR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 56</td>
<td><strong>From Richard Roscoe to unknown correspondent undated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, 57</td>
<td><strong>From Henry Roscoe to unknown correspondent undated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
box 1, folder 58  From Thomas Roscoe to Cadell & Davies undated  
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 59  From Henry Roscoe to John McCreery undated  
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 60  Excerpt from The butterfly's ball and the grasshopper's feast in Jane Griffies Roscoe's hand undated  
Physical Description: 1 item

box 1, folder 61  From Sotheran and Co., booksellers, to Frederick Warburton Dunston 15 July 1887  
Physical Description: 1 item

Poetical commonplace book Series 2. 1774-1790  
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet 4 bound volumes  
Scope and Contents note  
This series consists of 4 volumes of commonplace books kept by William Roscoe's wife Jane Griffies Roscoe before and after their marriage. The volumes each contain contributions from Roscoe in his own hand, as well as poems written by him but copied by his wife. They also appear to contain original work written by Jane, as well as works by poets such as William Collins, Thomas Gray, Phillis Wheatley, Anna Laetitia Barbauld, Lord Lyttleton and Samuel Johnson. Each volume contains an inscription on the first page by Frederick Warburton Dunston, dated 3 November 1893, noting that he purchased the "volumes at Sotheby's on or about 19 July 1887" and that the transcriber was Jane Griffies, afterwards wife of Wm. Roscoe of Liverpool." Dunston owned 5 volumes of this commonplace, but there are now only 4 volumes and it is unclear when the fifth may have been lost. He believed that all 5 volumes were at "one time in the possession of the late Joseph Mayer of Liverpool," who probably purchased them "from the widow of my great uncle Richard Roscoe MD," who had been a great collector of Roscoe family documents.  
Arrangement note  
The four volumes of this work are organized in chronological order.

box MS.2008.023  Volume 1 1774  
Physical Description: 180 p. ; 21 cm.  
Scope and Contents note  
Calligraphic title page with ink drawings, reading "Poems extracted from several authors : with a few originals, JG, 1774." Contains what appear to be original compositions by JGR and WR on pages 1-21, and in other places throughout the volume.

box MS.2008.023  Volume 2 1775  
Physical Description: 7, [173] p. ; 21 cm.  
Scope and Contents note  
Calligraphic title page with embellishments reads, "Poems, JG, 1775."

box MS.2008.023  Volume 3 ca. 1775-1780  
Scope and Contents note  
Calligraphic title page reading, "Poems collected by JG, Liverpool." There are black and white watercolor illustrations presumably by Jane Griffies on both the title page and a later page in the text. "To Julia" (the title has been supplied in pencil) on p. 1 is in the hand of William Roscoe.
Volume 4 ca. 1780-1790

Physical Description: [180] p.; 21 cm.
Scope and Contents note
No title page. Several works apparently by JGR or WR; several works closer to the end of the volume signed "WR."

Images and ephemera Series 3. 1805-1853, undated

Physical Description: 0.42 Linear Feet 1 box
Scope and Contents note
This series contains various pieces of Roscoe-related ephemera and images of Roscoe himself and his residences, collected by donor David H. Weinglass. Many items are undated, but the bulk of material appears to date from the first half of the 19th century. A medal issued on Roscoe's centenary (1853) by Joseph Mayer, a Liverpool arts patron and possible former owner of parts of this collection is also included.

"Allerton Hall, Lancashire" colored engraving in frame undated

Physical Description: In frame 23 x 27 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Additional unframed copy of this print in Box 1, Folder 74.

"Birth-place of William Roscoe, Liverpool" hand-colored engraving in frame undated

Physical Description: In frame 23 x 27 cm.

Memoir of William Roscoe, Esq. The European Magazine July 1822

Physical Description: 10 p.
Scope and Contents note
An article about WR published in 1822, with an engraved portrait by J. Thompson.

Engraved monogram "J McC" undated

Physical Description: 1 item
Scope and Contents note
 Possibly the monogram of WR correspondent and Liverpool printer John McCreery.

"W. Roscoe aetat: 38" black and white engraving from Bohn's standard library edition of the Life of Leo the Tenth undated

Physical Description: 6 p.
Scope and Contents note
Engraving and several pages from a later 19th century edition of WR's work.

"Roscoe" engraving with pencil attribution to Williamson and Edwards undated

Physical Description: 26.5 x 17.5 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Apparently original printing of the same portrait as in folder 64. Light foxing to edges of sheet.

Photograph reproduction of Roscoe portrait in Walker Art Gallery collection undated

Physical Description: 18.5 x 16 cm.

Engraving of Roscoe portrait by J. Lonsdale, undated

Physical Description: 21 x 16 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Engraved by S. Freeman.
Prospectus for the Landscape Annual, edited by Thomas Roscoe 1830

Physical Description: 1 item

Roscoe portrait etching by Alfred Croquis undated

Physical Description: 22 x 13 cm., mounted to 25 x 21 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Published by James Fraser, 245 Regent Street, London. Pasted to gray album page.

Cabinet card photograph of Roscoe portrait undated

Physical Description: 10 x 6.5 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Captioned "Wm. Roscoe" in ink. Produced by E. Cox-Walker, Liverpool & Rock Ferry.

Engraving of Roscoe portrait by Hopwood 1815

Physical Description: 12.5 x 10.5 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Published by I.W.H. Payne, July 1st, 1815. Trimmed down from original size.

Modern Roscoe related postcards and ephemera 20th century

Physical Description: 4 items

Engraving of Allerton Hall by J. Storer from a drawing by E. Goodwin 1805

Physical Description: 21.5 x 13 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Captions read "For the Beauties of England and Wales" and "Allerton Hall, the residence of W. Roscoe, Esqr., Lancashire." Published by Vernor & Hood Poultry, March 1, 1805.

"Allerton Hall, Lancashire" colored engraving undated

Physical Description: 20 x 13 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Framed copy of the same engraving stored separately, as above.

William Roscoe, Esq., Engraved by C. Picart from an original picture by M. Haughton in the possession of Mr. J. McCreery 1813

Physical Description: 36 x 23.5 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Published Jan. 11, 1813 by T. Cadell & W. Davies, Strand, London.

"Letter to William Roscoe, Esquire of Toxteth Park near Liverpool" from Roberts Vaux, Philadelphia, 10 May 1827. In Paulson's American Daily Advertiser 18 May 1827

Physical Description: 4 p.
Scope and Contents note
4 pages from the American Daily Advertiser of Philadelphia.

Roscoe centenary commemorative medal 8 March 1853

Physical Description: 1 item
Scope and Contents note
Recto with Roscoe bust in profile also reads "Mayer Liverpool direxit" and "Allen & Moore [sic]." Joseph Mayer, the former owner of parts of this collection, is the likely candidate for the "Mayer" mentioned here.