Finding Aid for the Bentley Family papers, 1849-1970

Processed by Whitney Braun in the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT), with assistance from Kelley Wolfe Bachli, 2009; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Bentley Family papers
Date (inclusive): 1849-1970
Collection number: 1474
Creator: Bentley family.
Extent: 2 document boxes and 1 half document box (1.25 linear ft.)
Abstract: The Bentley family was prominent in the nineteenth-century publishing industry. Richard Bentley (1794-1871), after joining his brother Samuel in a successful printing business (1819), partnered with Henry Colburn (1829) to begin the long-running Standard Novels series. After dissolving the partnership with Colburn (1832), Richard began Bentley's Miscellany (1837), which boasted Charles Dickens then W.H. Ainsworth as editors. Richard's son George Bentley (1828-1895) then grandson Richard Bentley (1854-1936) ran Richard Bentley & Son until 1898, when it was sold to Macmillans. The collection consists of diaries, business- and farm-related records, texts written or published by the Bentley family, and works on Bentley family history.

Language: Finding aid is written in English.
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Restrictions on Access
COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Justin G. Schiller, purchase, 1977.

Processing Note
Processed by Whitney Braun in the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT), with assistance from Kelley Wolfe Bachli, 2009.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Bentley Family papers (Collection 1474). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4230371

Biography
The Bentley family was a prominent nineteenth-century British publishing family. Richard Bentley (1794-1871) joined his brother Samuel Bentley in a successful printing business in 1819. From 1829 to 1832, Richard partnered with publisher Henry Colburn to form Colburn & Bentley. The pair began the series Standard Novels, the successful monthly reprints that ended in 1854 with 126 volumes (and included authors such as William Godwin, Jane Austen, Victor Hugo, Washington Irving, Leigh Hunt, Letitia Landon, and Harriet Beecher Stowe). After the split with Colburn, Richard continued to publish, and in 1837 he created the successful Bentley's Miscellany. Both Charles Dickens and W.H. Ainsworth edited the periodical at various points (with Dickens's Oliver Twist first appearing in its pages), and George Cruikshank contributed illustrations. In 1866, Richard merged Bentley's Miscellany with Temple Bar, and his son George Bentley (1828-1895) became editor the following year, also taking on the leadership of Richard Bentley & Son. George's son, Richard Bentley (1854-1936) then ran the business from the mid-1880s until selling it to Macmillans in 1898.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of manuscript and printed material relating to Richard Bentley (1794-1871), George Bentley (1828-1895), and Richard Bentley (1854-1936), as well as Richard Bentley publishing and Richard Bentley & Son publishing. Manuscript materials include diaries, farm and garden records, collected quotations from literary works, literary essays and humorous journals, lists of works published by Richard Bentley and other firms, stock certificates, and correspondence.
Published works in the collection (often with inscriptions) include texts written or published by the Bentley family, various works related to Bentley family history and current family circumstances (as well as works on Upton and Slough, England), works given to the Bentleys, and printing catalogues.

**Organization and Arrangement**

The collection is organized into two series:

1. **Manuscript Material (Boxes 1, 3)**
2. **Printed Works (Boxes 2, 3)**

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**

Bentley family --Archives.
Bentley, Richard, 1794-1871.
Bentley, George, 1828-1895.
Bentley, R. (Richard), 1854-1936.
Publishers and publishing --England --Archival resources.

**Items Removed from the Collection**

Two books were removed from the collection and individually cataloged.


**Related Material**

[Richard Bentley and Son Papers, 1800-1936 (Collection 830)]. Available at the UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library.

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**Manuscript Material**

**Box 1, Folder 1**

George Bentley (1828-1895), *Deliciae Litterariae* 1857-ca. 1886

Scope and Content Note

Manuscript collection of quotations from various sources. Includes printed excerpts, list of remuneration of authors, an illustration. Last dated entry is 1886. 507 pp.

**Box 1, Folder 2**

Account of "Trent Affair" with Farm Record, Upton 1861 December 4 (Trent Affair); ca. 1911-1932 (Farm Record)

Scope and Content Note

Manuscript book containing brief account of Trent Affair and British ministers. 3pp. Other side of book contains entries on Upton farm and farm animals, pertaining to period 1911-1932. Detailed records of cows.

**Box 1, Folder 3**

Diary of Richard Bentley (1854-1936), vol. 1 1854 May-1870 September

Scope and Content Note

Includes Bentley's own illustrations (often maps), as well as published illustrations/engravings; Bentley's note published in the Aberystwyth Observer (1869); list of Masters at Tonbridge School (1870); genealogies of the Bentley, Watkin (of Cynnull Mawr and Moelcernai), and Botten families; expenses from 1864-1870; index to the first volume; genealogy of languages. 82 pp.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 4</th>
<th>Diary of Richard Bentley (1854-1936), vol. 2 1870 September-1873 May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Includes Bentley's own illustrations (often maps), as well as published illustrations/engravings; printed portraits of Richard Bentley (1794-1871); marriage and death announcements (Richard Bentley, Charlotte Bentley, Napoleon III, others); barometrical chart by George Bentley (1872); expenditures for 1872; address locations of family members (Christmas 1872); index to the second volume. 75 pp.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 5</th>
<th>Diary of Richard Bentley (1854-1936), vol. 4 1873 July-1875 September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Includes photographs, published illustrations/engravings, Bentley's illustrations, address locations of family members (Christmas 1874), list of Burlington Street establishment (Christmas 1874), expenditures for 1874, index to the fourth volume, genealogy of the Bentley family. 58 pp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 6</th>
<th>Diary of Richard Bentley (1854-1936), vol. 5 1875 September-1877</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Includes photographs; barometrical readings for Penmaenmawr, North Wales (1875 September); Great Eastern Railway notices; notes for continuation of journal (1876 July-September); death notice of Charlotte Maria Bentley; marriage notice of Frances Mary Bentley (1877). 132 pp, incomplete.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 7</th>
<th>Note-Book, Vol. 1 1875</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Manuscript book containing reflections on the lives and works of Jean-Jacques Rousseau (14 pp.) and Samuel Pepys (4 pp.). Title page inscribed &quot;Upton, Slough. 1875.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 8</th>
<th>Library List 1868 January- ca. 1869</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Manuscript book. Title page reads &quot;Wanted An Atlas&quot; and &quot;Library List January 1868.&quot; Contains lists grouped under headings: Historical Works; Biographical Works; Essays, Sketches, etc.; Works of Fiction; Poetry; Miscellaneous; Divinity; Voyages and Travels; Dramatic Works; Dictionaries, etc.; and Classical Works. Includes lists &quot;Pamphlets found&quot;; &quot;Register of books lent, etc&quot; (1869); printed list of &quot;Books sold by Auction Wednesday, 25th August 1869&quot;; manuscript and printed lists of Standard Novels; various publishers' and authors' works; &quot;books bought on April 21st, 1868 At the sale of Thomas Bottens&quot;; &quot;Six Shilling Series.&quot;</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 9</th>
<th>Valentine, and note from John J. Sprigge 1858 (Valentine), 1922 May 9 (note)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Box contains both Valentine and note. Text on box reads &quot;Anagram on my name by Mr. George Johnson brother of our friend Mr. Cuthbert Johnson on 1858.&quot; Probably by George Bentley. Elaborate Valentine has feathers and cloth flowers, contains lines of written text with first letters spelling &quot;Bentley.&quot; Note, probably to Richard Bentley (1854-1936), from John J. Sprigge regards membership ticket and subscription to Slough Cricket Club.</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 10</th>
<th>Rose list 1867-1878</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>Manuscript book entitled &quot;Rose Leaves.&quot; Detailed record of roses, characteristics, dates planted and bloomed, location. Includes charts of garden (1875, 1876) and loose papers with lists of roses and chart of &quot;new garden&quot; (1878 April).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 1, Folder 11  Address book ca. 1891  
Scope and Content Note  

Box 1, Folder 12  George Bentley (1828-1895), A Common Place Book undated  
Scope and Content Note  
Manuscript collection of quotations from various sources. Includes cyanotype and printed excerpts, with two excerpts dated 1878 and 1887. 179 pp, plus index.

Box 3, Folder 3  The Slough Gazette and North Buckinghamshire Journal, No. 2-5, by Richard Bentley (1854-1936) 1867 February 1-1867 May 1  
Scope and Content Note  
Humorous manuscript journal with illustrations.

Box 3, Folder 4  Richard Bentley (1854-1936), stock certificates and receipt 1882 June 14-1886 March 17  
Scope and Content Note  
Manuscript records of financial transactions with stockbrokers Haggard, Hale & Pixley

Box 3, Folder 5  Letter from [Walter] Frewen Lord to Mr. [Richard] Bentley 1897 November 12
Box 3, Folder 6  Letter from Henry Romeike to Mary Russell Mitford, c/o Bentley & Son 1883 December 22  
Scope and Content Note  
Romeike promotes his news-clipping agency.

Printed Works

Scope and Content Note  
Contains clipping of review of Bentley’s Plautine Emendations, by E.A. Sonnenschein, in The Academy, No. 588

Box 2, Folder 2  Robert Cradock Nichols. Memoir of the late John Gough Nichols, F.S.A. Westminster. 45 pp. 1874 June  
Scope and Content Note  
Inscribed “To George Bentley [Esq.] from Mrs. John Gough Nichols, Holmwood Park, October 26th, 1874.”

Scope and Content Note  
Inscribed by Richard Bentley (1794-1871): “To my dear Sister Isabelle. Richard Bentley.”

Box 2, Folder 5  Rev. Samuel Bentley. A Guide to the Village of Bosbury in Herefordshire. Malvern: Miss Baylis; Ledbury: Mr. Tilley. 27 pp. ca. 1890s  
Scope and Content Note  
Includes illustrations.
Box 2, Folder 6

Scope and Content Note
Title page notes "Seventy-five copies printed at Guildford, 1921."

Box 2, Folder 7

Scope and Content Note
Description of contents on title page. Days of sale: 1970 October 26-27. Contains note to Mrs. L.R. Bentley regarding listing of her property as items 438 (autograph receipt of Richard Bentley (1662-1742), dated 1732 May 23, concerning his edition of Paradise Lost) and 439 (documents of Richard L'Estrange, dated 1688 March 26, assigning rights to books to Richard Bentley, Jacob Tonson, Joseph Hindmarsh).

Box 2, Folder 8

Scope and Content Note
Contains note "I thought that this little book might be useful sometimes, though I know that Dick has the best ones on the subject - Its size attracted me - G.B."

Box 2, Folder 9

Scope and Content Note
Inscribed: "To Richard Bentley with the affectionate love of the Author. Feby 21 1884."

Box 2, Folder 10

Scope and Content Note
Inscribed: "To my dear Aunt with the affectionate love of the Author."

Box 2, Folder 11
Susanna Cottee, James Munnings. James Munnings: An Outline of his Life. To Which is Added, His "Attempts at Sermons." Privately printed. 106 pp. 1877

Scope and Content Note
Preface by George Bentley.

Box 2, Folder 12

Scope and Content Note
Includes illustrations and correspondence. Note pasted inside reads "For R Bentley [...] B Nichols, affectionate Regards."

Box 2, Folder 13

Scope and Content Note
"This Limited Edition compiled and printed by John Murray VII for his friends and the friends of Fifty Albemarle Street." Contains illustrations and inscription: "To Mrs. Bentley with very affectionate thoughts from all the Murrays. Xmas 1964. Young John's first production!"
Box 3, Folder 2  
**Proof binding for Miss Tod and the Prophets, by Mrs. Hugh Bell. Bentley. ca. 1898**

*Scope and Content Note*
Bound with blank pages. Contains handwritten note "Size-Copy 'Miss Todd.'"

Box 3, Folder 7  
**The Will of Thomas Bentley, M.D., Second President of the Royal College of Physicians and Doctor to King Henry VIII, with a Brief Note on His Career. 28 pp. 2 copies. printed in 1913**

*Scope and Content Note*
Probably by Richard Bentley, according to dealer.

Box 3, Folder 8  

*Scope and Content Note*
Contains article "Richard Bentley, 1854-1936: A Bookman's Tribute," by Michael Sadleir (pp. 131-133).

Box 3, Folder 9  
**Monographs I, II, III, V regarding members of the Bentley family. undated**

*Scope and Content Note*

Box 3, Folder 10  
**Tear-sheets from book Men of Business, pp. 145-156, 159-164. Sections on William (b. 1601) and Edward (1817-1861) Bentley, Robert Bentley (1825-1893), Holman Bentley, Edward Bentley (b. 1753). undated**

*Scope and Content Note*
Entries "William and Edward Bentley" and "Edward Bentley" include some ink corrections and note "Revise 22-7-96."

Box 3, Folder 11  
**Thomas Carlyle and Anne Benson Procter. Letters addressed to Mrs. Basil Montagu and B.W. Procter by Mr. Thomas Carlyle. London: Printed for private circulation by Chiswick Press. 33 pp. 1881**

*Scope and Content Note*
Preface by Anne Benson Procter. Inscribed "Mr. Bentley from Mr. Kemble."

Box 3, Folder 12  

*Scope and Content Note*
Copy is unbound and uncut.

Box 3, Folder 13  
**A List of Electro- and Stereo-Type Plates, Papier-Mache Moulds, and also Illustration Blocks in Wood or Metal (not Steel- or Copper-Plates, or Litho-Stones), the Property of, or Partly Owned by, Messrs. Richard Bentley & Son. 16 pp. 1883 January, February**

*Scope and Content Note*
Cover states "Part I. Private."
Box 3, Folder 14

A List of Steel and Copper Plates, Lithographic Stones, Negatives, &c. (not Illustrations 'worked in or with the text'), the Property of, or Partly Owned by, Messrs. Richard Bentley and Son, Now in the hands of various Firms. [England.] 123 pp. 1884 May, June

Scope and Content Note
Cover states "Part II. Private."