



The New York Public Library
Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle

Guide to the

Mary Wollstonecraft Manuscript Material

1773-1797

Pforz MS

Compiled by Charles Cuykendall Carter and Susannah Bingham Buck.

Summary

Creator: Wollstonecraft, Mary, 1759-1797

Title: Mary Wollstonecraft Manuscript Material

Date: 1773-1797

Size: 48 items

Abstract: Mary Wollstonecraft, the English author and advocate of women's rights. Her *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* is the most influential work of early feminist philosophy; she also wrote novels, reviews, and books for children. This guide lists and describes the manuscript materials held by the Pforzheimer Collection that were created by Mary Wollstonecraft, including including original holograph writings and letters.

Preferred citation: Citations should refer to individual call numbers and indicate the holding repository.

Language of the Material: Materials in English

Processing note: Compiled by Charles Cuykendall Carter and Susannah Bingham Buck.

Separated Materials:

In addition to manuscripts by Mary Wollstonecraft, the Pforzheimer Collection holds hundreds of manuscripts by her husband, William Godwin; her daughter, Mary Shelley; and many friends and colleagues. Also held are early editions of her published works, including a first edition copy of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* with the ownership signature of Mary Hays. Wollstonecraft-related visual materials held by the Collection include an oil portrait by John Keenan, commissioned by Aaron Burr, copied after John Opie's original, as well as several early engraved portraits.

Additional Mary Wollstonecraft manuscript material is held by the Library's Berg Collection.

Custodial History

The first Mary Wollstonecraft manuscripts added to the Collection were letters acquired by the first Carl

Pforzheimer in the 1920s: the letter to Joseph Johnson regarding money owed her; the letter to Mary Hays accompanying a lent book; and the letter to Maria Reveley, inviting her to dinner. Further acquisitions led to an accumulation of nine items in Wollstonecraft's hand by the time of Pforzheimer's death in 1957. In the following years, under the auspices of the Pforzheimer Library, the Collection acquired over 35 more Mary Wollstonecraft manuscripts, including a number of letters to Mary Hays, fellow writer and friend. Since the Collection's move to The New York Public Library in 1986, five Mary Wollstonecraft manuscripts have been accessioned.

Scope and Content Note

The Mary Wollstonecraft manuscript material in the Pforzheimer Collection consists of writings and correspondence. The writings include a holograph fragment of her essay, "On Poetry", and a holograph review of Karl Gottlieb Cramer's gothic novel, *Albert de Nordenschild*. Also held is a contemporary manuscript fragment of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* which could be in Wollstonecraft's hand, convincingly so to some eyes. The bulk of the correspondence is dated between 1787 and 1797. Correspondents include: Catharine Macaulay, the historian; Mary Hays, the novelist; Joseph Johnson, the bookseller; and over a half dozen others. The fifteen letters to Wollstonecraft's friend Jane Arden are transcripts in an early 19th century copybook, possibly in Arden's hand.

Items treated in *Shelley and his Circle* or in Janet Todd's *Collected Letters of Mary Wollstonecraft* are noted with reference.

Key Terms

Subjects

Authors, English -- 18th century -- Correspondence
English essays -- 18th century -- Manuscripts -- Specimens

Names

Barlow, Ruth, 1755-1818
Dyson, George, 1773-1822
Gabell, Henry, 1764-1831
Gardiner, Jane, 1758-1840
Gisborne, Maria, 1770-1836
Hays, Mary, 1759 or 1760-1843
Johnson, Joseph, 1738-1809
Macaulay, Catharine, 1731-1791
Marshall, James, 1756?-1832
Opie, Amelia, 1769-1853
Robinson, Mary, 1758-1800
Wollstonecraft, Everina, 1765-1841

Container List

Series I. Writings

[?Holograph] fragment from A Vindication of the Rights of Woman [?October 1791-?January 1792]

MW 0010 (3 1/4 pages (double sheet))

In a contemporary hand that could be Wollstonecraft's, convincingly so to some eyes. Includes parts of Chapter XIII; begins, "An immoderate fondness for dress for pleasure and for sway, are the passions of the savages"

SC File

Holograph review of Albert de Nordenschild [August-September 1796]

MW 0005 (1 3/4 pages (single sheet))

A working draft of the piece published in the October 1796 issue of *The Analytical Review*; begins, "An interesting warmth of imagination, and truth and passion, appears in this translation from the German"

SC 15: volume I, page 152

SC File

Holograph essay (fragment), "On Poetry" [April 1797]

MW 0004 (1 page (single sheet))

Title and some punctuation in the hand of William Godwin; begins, "A taste for rural scenes, in the present state of society, appears to be very often an artificial sentiment, rather inspired by poetry and romances"

SC 19: volume I, page 175

SC File

Series II. Correspondence

To Amelia Alderson (later Opie), novelist and poet:

Autograph letter signed "Tuesday night" [11 April 1797]

MW 0007 (3 pages (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "Endeavouring, through embarrassment, to turn the conversation from myself last night, I insensibly became too severe in my strictures on the vanity of a certain lady"

Todd 321: page 408

Pforz BND-MSS+ (Opie)

To Jane Arden (later Gardiner), governess and teacher:

Letter (transcript) [circa spring 1773]

MW 0012 (4 3/4 pages (5 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Beverley]; begins, "According to my promise I sit down to write to you"; includes an anonymous poem titled, "Sweet Beverley."

SC 178: volume II, page 944; Todd 1: page 1

SC File

Letter (transcript) [circa spring 1773]

MW 0013 (1/4 + 2 3/4 pages (4 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Beverley]; begins, "As I think ingratitude worse than impertinence". Includes a poem by "Dr Drake."

SC 179: volume II, page 948; Todd 2: page 6

SC File

Letter (transcript) [circa mid-late 1773]

MW 0014 (1/4 + 4 1/2 pages (6 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Beverley]; begins, "I have just read your account of the oddest mortal". Includes a poem by "Mr Rudd."

SC 180: volume II, page 951; Todd 3: page 9

SC File

Series II. Correspondence (cont.)

To Jane Arden (later Gardiner), governess and teacher: (cont.)

Letter (transcript) [circa mid-late 1773-16 November 1774]

MW 0015 (1/2 + 1/4 pages (2 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Beverley]; begins, "Your behavior at Miss J-'s hurt me extremely"

SC 181: volume II, page 954; Todd 4: page 12

SC File

Letter (transcript) [circa mid-late 1773-16 November 1774]

MW 0016 (3/4 + 1 3/4 pages (3 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Beverley]; begins, "Before I begin I beg pardon for the freedom of my style"

SC 182: volume II, page 955; Todd 5: page 13

SC File

Letter (transcript) [circa mid-late 1773-16 November 1774]

MW 0017 (1/4 + 2 1/2 pages (4 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Beverley]; begins, "I have read some where that vulgar minds will never own they are in the wrong"

SC 183: volume II, page 956; Todd 6: page 14

SC File

Letter (transcript) third person 16 November 1774

MW 0018 (1/2 + 1 1/4 pages (3 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Beverley]; saying, "the book which she would recommend to her particular notice is The Citizen of the World, or letters from a Chinese philosopher residing in London to his friends in the East" Followed by a copy of letter from "Dr. Clegg to Dr. Lathan."

SC 184: volume II, page 958; Todd 7: page 16

SC File

Letter (transcript) [?mid 1779]

MW 0019 (3/4 + 1/2 pages (2 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Bath]; begins, "You will, my dear girl, be as much surprised at receiving a letter from me"

SC 185: volume II, page 963; Todd 8: page 19

SC File

Letter (transcript) [?early 1780]

MW 0020 (1/2 + 4 1/2 pages (6 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Bath]; begins, "I am happy, my dear girl, to find by your letter that you are so agreeably situated"

SC 186: volume II, page 964; Todd 10: page 22

SC File

Letter (transcript) 17 October [?1780]

MW 0021 (1/2 + 2 3/4 pages (4 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Bath]; begins, "It is so long since I received your letter - that I am half ashamed to acknowledge the receipt of it" N.B. Of the fifteen letters in the copybook, the original of this letter only is known to exist, in the Abinger Collection at the Bodleian.

SC 187: volume II, page 967; Todd 11: page 26

SC File

Letter (transcript) [?Christmas 1779]

MW 0022 (1/4 + 2 1/4 pages (4 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Bath]; begins, "I am happy, my dear girl, to hear from you and should sooner have acknowledged the receipt of your friendly Epistle"

SC 188: volume II, page 970; Todd 9: page 20

SC File

Letter (transcript) [?April 1781]

MW 0023 (3/4 + 3 1/4 pages (5 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Windsor]; begins, "Such a variety of things have taken up my attention"

SC 189: volume II, page 975; Todd 12: page 28

SC File

Series II. Correspondence (cont.)

To Jane Arden (later Gardiner), governess and teacher: (cont.)

Letter (transcript) [late summer 1781]

MW 0024 (3/4 + 3 1/4 pages (5 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Windsor]; begins, "Here I am, quite alone"

SC 190: volume II, page 977; Todd 14: page 33

SC File

Letter (transcript) [circa mid-late 1782]

MW 0025 (3/4 + 1 3/4 pages (3 leaves within bound copybook))

From Mr. Bloods, Walham Green, Fulham, Middlesex; begins, "I should be quite ashamed, my dear Jane -- to own that I received your obliging letter some months ago"

SC 191: volume II, page 981; Todd 15: page 36

SC File

Letter (transcript) [circa late 1782]

MW 0026 (1/4 + 1 1/2 pages (3 leaves within bound copybook))

[From Walham Green]; begins, "I congratulate you, my dear Jane, on account of your sister's wedding"

SC 192: volume 2, page 983; Todd 16: page 38

SC File

To Ruth Barlow, wife of poet and diplomat Joel Barlow:

Autograph letter signed [circa 1-14] February [1793]

MW 0028 (2 3/4 pages (double sheet))

From Rue Meslée, Paris; begins, "I can scarcely tell you how much I was gratified by your kind letter"

SC 359: volume IV, page 862; Todd 121: page 220

SC File

To George Dyson, translator and painter:

Autograph letter signed "Tuesday Morning" [circa late 1796]

MW 0011 (1 page (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I received your note at the peep of dawn"

SC 13A: volume 1, page 141; Todd 282: page 385

SC File

Autograph letter signed [28 April 1797]

MW 0029 (1 page (double sheet))

From Polygon No. 29 [Somers Town]; begins, "Mr. Godwin, my dear Sir, would fain persuade me that I was rude"

SC 361: volume II, page 885; Todd 324: page 411

SC File

Autograph letter unsigned "Monday Morning" [circa 16 May 1797]

MW 0030 (3 1/4 pages (double sheet))

From No. 29 Polygon, Somers Town: begins, "I have been reading your remarks and I find them a little discouraging"

SC 362: volume II, page 887; Todd 325: page 411

SC File

To the Rev. Henry Dyson Gabell, headmaster of Winchester College:

Autograph letter signed "Friday morning" [circa early 1787]

MW 0031 (1 3/4 pages (double sheet))

[From Dublin]; begins, "I thought it would be uncivil to send the promised little book without a line"

SC 355: volume IV, page 856; Todd 50: page 103

SC File

Series II. Correspondence (cont.)

To the Rev. Henry Dyson Gabell, headmaster of Winchester College: (cont.)

Autograph letter signed 16 April [1787]

MW 0034 (3 pages (double sheet))

From Dublin; begins, "The evening I received your letter I intended answering it; but was prevented"

SC 356: volume IV, page 856; Todd 58: page 119

Oversize SC Drawer

Autograph letter signed 13 September [1787]

MW 0032 (4 pages (double sheet))

From Henley; begins, "It is a long time since I wrote to you; but I think you would excuse me did you guess how many cares harass my mind"

SC 357: volume IV, page 859; Todd 64: page 134

SC File

Autograph letter signed [between 9 and 19 October 1787]

MW 0033 (2 1/2 pages (double sheet))

From London; begins, "I have received both your letters, and would wish to write many things in answer to them; but an ugly giddiness in my head"

SC 358: volume IV, page 861; Todd 66: page 137

SC File

To Mary Hays, novelist:

Autograph letter (signature clipped away) 11 August [1792]

MW 0037 (1 page (double sheet))

From Store Street, Bedford Square [London]; begins, "Intending to call upon you I put off answering your letter from time to time"; the missing closing and signature are copied on to page 3 of the letter sheet in another hand.

Todd 109: page 202

SC File

Autograph letter signed 25 November 1792

MW 0035 (4 pages (double sheet))

From Store Street [London]; begins, "I yesterday mentioned to Mr Johnson your request and he assented"; the postscript is from St. Paul's.

Todd 115: page 209

SC File

Autograph letter signed "Saturday morning" [circa late 1792]

MW 0046 (2 pages (double sheet))

From Store Street [London]; begins, "I have just cast my eye over your sensible little pamphlet"

Todd 116: page 211

SC File

Autograph letter signed "Saturday evening" [circa late 1795]

MW 0036 (1 page (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I have promised to dine with Mr. Johnson tomorrow, and he requested me to invite you"

Todd 215: page 337

SC File

Autograph letter (fragment) signed "Sunday morning" [1796]

MW 0044 (1/2 page (partial sheet))

[From London]; begins, "Pray do not make any more allusion to painful feelings"

Todd 223: page 344

SC File

Series II. Correspondence (cont.)

To Mary Hays, novelist: (cont.)

Autograph letter signed [15 September 1796]

MW 0002 (1 3/4 pages (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I send you the fourth volume of T-S. there are but six"

SC 16: volume I, page 158; Todd 249: page 364

SC File

Autograph letter signed [20 September 1796]

MW 0042 (1 page (single sheet))

[From London]; begins, "If this letter should not be forwarded, pray request ...".

Todd 253: page 367

SC File

Autograph letter signed "Wednesday morning" [circa 26 October 1796]

MW 0045 (1 page (single sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I have not received a letter from Mrs. Cotton"

Todd 262: page 373

SC File

Autograph letter signed "Monday morning" [circa November 1796]

MW 0040 (1 1/2 pages (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "My Good friend, not receiving a line with the book"

Todd 269: page 378

SC File

Autograph letter signed [14 December 1796]

MW 0038 (1 1/2 pages (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "Mary telling me that you could not decide"

Todd 280: page 384

SC File

Autograph letter unsigned [circa January 1797]

MW 0043 (1 1/4 pages (single sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I have sent you the Gossips Story to review, as you wish to read it"

Todd 296: page 392

SC File

Autograph letter signed 15 February 1797

MW 0039 (3/4 page (single sheet))

[From London]; begins, "My Sister's cold has been so troublesome"

Todd 305: page 397

SC File

Autograph letter signed "Friday morning" [circa early 1797]

MW 0041 (2 pages (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I have now to request you, as a particular favour, to thank the persons to whom you have applied for Mary"

Todd 310: page 400

SC File

To Joseph Johnson, bookseller:

Autograph letter signed 5 December [1786]

MW 0009 (2 1/2 pages (double sheet))

From Mitchelstown [Ireland]; begins, "When I had the pleasure of seeing you, if I mistake not, you mentioned to me that Mrs Barbauld intended undertaking a new plan of education"

SC 4: volume I, page 66; Todd 45: page 94

SC File

Series II. Correspondence (cont.)

To Joseph Johnson, bookseller: (cont.)

Autograph bill of exchange signed 2 May 1793

MW 0001 (1 page (single sheet))

From Paris; begins, "On demand pay to Messr Turnbull, Forbes and Co Thirty pounds Sterling for value which I have received here of Mr Christie"

SC 9: volume I, page 121; Todd 122: page 222

SC File

Autograph bill of exchange signed 13 July 1793

MW 0003 (1 page (single sheet))

From Paris; begins, "Please pay to Mr Thomas Christie, or order, twenty pounds for value received by me"

SC 10: volume I, page 127; Todd 127: page 227

SC File

To Catharine Macaulay, historian and political polemicist:

Autograph letter signed "Thursday Morning" [December 1790]

MW 0047 (1 page (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "Now I venture to send you [*words excised*] with a name utterly unknown to you in the title page"; with Macaulay's copy of her reply to Wollstonecraft on page 3 of the letter sheet.

SC 767: volume IX, page 1; Todd 99: page 185

SC File

To James Marshall, copy editor, indexer, and translator (friend of Godwin):

Autograph letter signed "Monday Morning" [21 August 1797]

MW 0048 (1 page (single sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I thank you for your kind enquiries; I am very well, only a little impatient to regain my activity"

SC 768: volume IX, page 24; Todd 351: page 435

SC File

To Maria Reveley (later Gisborne), of the Godwin circle:

Autograph letter signed [26 June 1797]

MW 0008 (2 1/4 pages (double sheet))

[From London]; begins, "Will you, my dear Mrs Reveley, dine with us next Wednesday, to meet the same party"

SC 20: volume I, page 179; Todd 334: page 424

SC File

To Mary Robinson, author and actress:

Autograph letter signed "Friday evening, or rather night" [circa late 1796]

MW 0027 (1 page (single sheet))

[From London]; begins, "I believe it is scarcely necessary to inform you that Miss Hays will accept your invitation"

SC 360: volume IV, page 877; Todd 285: page 387

SC File

To Everina Wollstonecraft, teacher (her sister):

Autograph letter signed 11 May 1787

MW 0006 (4 pages (double sheet))

From Dublin; begins, "Your silence and George's long absence makes me very uneasy"

SC 5: volume I, page 74; Todd 59: page page 122

SC File