



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

Guide to the

**Thomas Holcroft manuscript material**

1797

Pforz Ms

## Summary

**Creator:** Holcroft, Thomas, 1745-1809

**Title:** Thomas Holcroft manuscript material

**Date:** 1797

**Size:** 2 items

**Abstract:** Thomas Holcroft, English writer. A proponent of radical reform, and an early supporter of the French Revolution, Holcroft had a major influence on the political mind of William Godwin, who considered him one of his "four principal oral instructors." Believed to have aided in the publication of Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man*, Holcroft was indicted for treason and arrested in 1794, though he was subsequently acquitted and released. Much of Holcroft's work exhibits reformist social criticism, including his greatest theatrical success, *The Road to Ruin* (Covent Garden, 1792); and his novel, *The Adventures of Hugh Trevor* (1794-7). &#xB7; To Mary Hays, writer : 2 letters : -- 1 autograph letter third person : 20 Sep 1797 : (MISC 2206) : begins, "Holcroft presents his compliments to Miss Hays and hopes he shall not incur an increase of her displeasure by avoiding all unkind contest or altercation." With irregular loss at the fold edge of the lettersheet, affecting much of the text. -- 1 autograph letter signed : 26 Sep 1797 : (MISC 2207) : from Newman Street; begins, "Few things dear Madam are more affecting than to see persons who are as it were delegated to the high office of instructing the world forget their own benevolent percepts as to contend in very bitterness of spirit with each other." -- Both are letters published in Marilyn Brooks's edition of Mary Hays correspondence.

**Preferred citation:** Thomas Holcroft manuscript material : 2 items, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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## Scope and Content Note

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