



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

Guide to the

Harry Buxton Forman manuscript material

1877-1913

Pforz MS

Summary

Creator: Forman, H. Buxton (Harry Buxton), 1842-1917

Title: Harry Buxton Forman manuscript material

Date: 1877-1913

Size: 60 items

Abstract: Harry Buxton Forman, English bibliographer and forger. He wrote a great deal of critical and bibliographic literary scholarship throughout his life, most notably on Shelley and Keats, all the while maintaining a career in the Post Office. In 1886 Forman met fellow bibliographer T. J. Wise through the Shelley Society, and the two began secretly printing counterfeit publications of works of famous authors, subsequently validating the authenticity of the books through their own bibliographic works. Their scheme remained largely undetected until nearly two decades after Forman's death, with the publication of John Carter and Graham Pollard's *Enquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets*. The Harry Buxton Forman manuscript material in the Pforzheimer collection consists of writings and correspondence. The writings include: the holograph text of his *Memoir of Shelley*, as published in the 1892 Aldine edition of Shelley's works ; papers relating to his "The Building of the Idylls," an essay on Tennyson ; and over a dozen essays and works of criticism on Shelley or Shelley-related publications. The correspondence is dated from between 1877 and 1913, and mostly discusses Shelley scholarship. Correspondents include: Paola Clairmont, niece of Claire Clairmont ; Mary Cowden Clarke, literary scholar and writer ; E. J. Trelawny, writer and adventurer ; and Thomas James Wise, book collector and forger.

Access: Restricted access.

Preferred citation: Harry Buxton Forman manuscript material : 60 items, Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle, The New York Public Library

Related Materials:

Additional Harry Buxton Forman manuscript material at the New York Public Library can be found in The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature

Creator History

Harry Buxton Forman, English bibliographer and forger. He wrote a great deal of critical and bibliographic literary scholarship throughout his life, most notably on Shelley and Keats, all the while maintaining a career in the Post Office. In 1886 Forman met fellow bibliographer T. J. Wise through the Shelley Society, and the two began secretly printing counterfeit publications of works of famous authors, subsequently validating the authenticity of the books through their own bibliographic works. Their scheme remained largely undetected until nearly two decades after Forman's death, with the publication of John Carter and Graham Pollard's *Enquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets*.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

Bibliographers -- Great Britain -- 19th century -- Correspondence
Bibliographers -- Great Britain -- 20th century -- Correspondence
Forgers -- Great Britain -- 19th century -- Correspondence
Forgers -- Great Britain -- 20th century -- Correspondence

Titles

Forman, H. Buxton : manuscript material

Names

Forman, H. Buxton (Harry Buxton), 1842-1917
Axon, William E. A. (William Edward Armytage), 1846-1913
Bell, Mackenzie, 1856-1930
Clairmont, Paola, 1825-1891
Clarke, Mary Cowden, 1809-1898
Dowden, Edward, 1843-1913
Ebsworth, Joseph Woodfall, 1824-1908
Ellis, Frederick Startridge, 1830-1901
Locock, C. D. (Charles Dealtry), 1862-
Newman, Henry Roderick, 1843-1917
Rendall, Vernon, 1869-
Rhys, Ernest, 1859-1946
Rogers, Benjamin Bickley, 1828-1919
Rossetti, William Michael, 1829-1919
Shelley, Percy Bysshe, 1792-1822
Shelley, Susanna, d. 1920

Shelley-Rolls, John Courtown Edward, Sir, 1871-1951
Trelawny, Edward John, 1792-1881
Wise, Thomas James, 1859-1937