



A GUIDE TO THE

# MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT SHELLEY

COLLECTION OF PAPERS

IN THE BERG COLLECTION.

*COMPILED BY*

**CHARLES CUYKENDALL CARTER,**  
Bibliographer of the Pforzheimer Collection.



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[brgref@nypl.org](mailto:brgref@nypl.org)

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## Descriptive summary

<b>Title</b>	Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley collection of papers, 1822-1847
<b>Creator</b>	Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft, 1797-1851.
<b>Call Number</b>	Berg Coll MSS Shelley, M. W.
<b>Size</b>	22 items
<b>Abstract</b>	This is a synthetic collection that includes literary manuscripts and correspondence.
<b>Biographical identification</b>	Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was an English novelist, best known as the author of <i>Frankenstein</i> . She also wrote short-stories, poetry, biographies, journal articles, reviews, and edited the works of her husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley.

## Administration information

<b>Source</b>	This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.
<b>Provenance</b>	The letter to Leigh Hunt is tipped into a presentation copy of Hunt's <i>Table-Talk</i> , inscribed to his wife Marianne; it bears the bookplates of the English novelist Anthony Trollope; St. Louis collector Captain J. F. Hinkley; and American publisher and collector W. T. H. Howe. Howe's bookplate is also in the cases for Paola Clairmont's copies of Mary Shelley letters, and two of the letters to Edward Moxon.
<b>Access</b>	Restricted access; Permit must be requested from Berg Collection staff.
<b>Restrictions on Use</b>	For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	[Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.
<b>Related materials</b>	Other divisions of the New York Public Library which hold manuscripts by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley include: The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle ( <a href="#">link to guide</a> ); and The Manuscripts and Archives Division.

## Scope and content note

This is a synthetic collection that includes literary manuscripts and correspondence by Mary Shelley. The manuscripts include one holograph poem (“Stanzas”) and one transcript of a poem by her husband, P. B. Shelley (“To the L[or]d C[hancellor]”). The correspondence dates from between 1822 and 1847. Correspondents include: Claire Clairmont, her stepsister; Leigh Hunt, the journalist and critic; John Howard Payne, the actor and writer; and Edward Moxon, the publisher and poet. Also held are copies of forty letters from Mary Shelley to Claire Clairmont, in the in the hand of Clairmont’s niece, Paola Clairmont.

## Literary manuscripts

LOCATION	ITEM
Manuscript box	· Holograph poem, “Stanzas” : [summer 1832?] : 1 p. (single sheet) : begins, “I must forget thy dark eyes’ love fraught gaze, / Thy voice, that filled me with emotion bland ...”; comprised of three octaves; first published in <i>The Keepsake</i> for 1833.

# Correspondence

Letters are listed in alphabetical order by recipient. Manuscripts published in Betty T. Bennett's *The Letters of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1980-1988) are noted with reference.

LOCATION	ITEM	REFERENCE
	· To <b>Claire Clairmont</b> , her stepsister :	
Cased	— 1 autograph letter signed : 15 Sep 1822 : from Pisa [error for Genoa] : 3 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> pages (double sheet) : begins, "I do not wonder that you were & are melancholy—or that the excess of that feeling should oppress you. Great God! What we have gone through—"	<i>Bennett</i> v. 1, p. 258
	· To <b>Thomas Hookham</b> , publisher :	
Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed : 28 Oct [1845] : from Putney : 3 pages (double sheet) : begins, "From what Mr Finch said I hoped to fine [i.e., find] a line from you telling me what you thought of the man who called on you ..."	<i>Bennett</i> v. 3, p. 245
Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed : 30 Oct [1845] : from Putney : 4 pages (double sheet) : begins, "I have written to Mr Peacock about this affair ..."	<i>Bennett</i> v. 3, p. 248
Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed : [?3 Nov 1845] : [from Putney] : 8 pages (2 double sheets) : begins, "The man has not come—& now some days are gone by—he will doubtless shew himself again."	<i>Bennett</i> v. 3, p. 250
Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed : [?3 Nov 1845] : [from Putney?] : 3 pages (double sheet) : begins, "I send you the rascal's letter."	<i>Bennett</i> v. 3, p. 251
Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed : [?27 Feb 1846] : [from Putney] : 8 pages (2 double sheets) : begins, "You are very good to take all this trouble—the Rascal's notes make me sick."	<i>Bennett</i> v. 3, p. 278
Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed : [?27 Feb 1846] : from Putney : 8 pages (2 double sheets) : begins, "A few more words—I mentioned £1 a piece for any letters of Shelley ..."	<i>Bennett</i> v. 3, p. 279

- Manuscript box — 1 autograph letter signed : [?2 Mar 1846] : [from Putney?] : 3 pages (double sheet) : begins, “I am in bed far too ill to attend to business—The letters were stolen...” *Bennett v. 3, p. 280*
- Manuscript box — 1 autograph letter signed : [?3 Mar 1846] : [from Putney?] : 3 pages (double sheet) : begins, “You are very kind—I dare say it seems odd to you how I bargain with this fellow ...” *Bennett v. 3, p. 280*
- Manuscript box — 1 autograph letter signed : [?11 Mar 1846] : from 24 Chester Square : 3 pages (double sheet) : begins, “I cannot express the great pleasure it has given me to have the letters you last sent.” *Bennett v. 3, p. 282*
- Manuscript box — 1 autograph letter signed : 12 Sep [1846] : from Baden-Baden : 7 ½ pages (2 double sheets) : begins, “I of course expected this sort of thing to happen—And you know how totally hardened I am against this species of rascality...”; with thin mourning border. *Bennett v. 3, p. 297*
- Manuscript box — 1 autograph letter signed : 12 Sep 1846 : from 153 Promenade, Baden-Baden : 2 pages (double sheet) : begins, “I authorize you to possess yourself of & to keep possession of the copies of letters ...” ; with thin mourning border. *Bennett v. 3, p. 298*

· To **Leigh Hunt**, journalist and critic:

- Tipped in: Hunt, L. Table-talk. London, 1851. Copy 1 — 1 autograph letter signed : [?Aug 1839-Mar 1846] : [from Putney?] : 1 page (single sheet) : begins, “When I told Percy you were coming next week he said ‘What a bore!’” *Bennett v. 2, p. 321*

· To **Edward Moxon**, publisher and poet :

- Cased — 1 autograph letter signed : [?30 Jan 1846] : from Putney : 4 pages (double sheet) : begins, “How good of you to send me these books.” *Bennett v. 3, p. 274*
- Cased — 1 autograph letter signed : 20 Sep [1843] : from White Cottage, Putney : 4 pages (double sheet) : begins, “I wrote to you soon after my return ...”; with the envelope. *Bennett v. 3, p. 93*
- Cased — 1 autograph letter signed : 2 May [1839] : from Putney : 4 pages (double sheet) : begins, “There was some delay at the beginning of April through my being to ill to write at all...” *Bennett v. 2, p. 315*

· To **John Howard Payne**, American writer and actor :

Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed : 22 Nov [1826] : from Kentish Town : 2 pages (double sheet) : begins, “You have not been tempted by fogs or mist or rain or mud and all the dear English variety of fine weather to come to Kentish Town...”	<i>Bennett v. 1, p. 336</i>
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· To unidentified recipients :

Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed to “Sir” : 4 Dec [1847] : from 24 Chester Square : 4 pages (double sheet) : begins, “I have for a long time been an invalid & writing is so disagreeable to me in consequence that I am very dilatory. I have not seen Capt. Medwin’s book ...”	<i>EXCERPT ONLY Bennett v. 3, p. 330</i>
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Manuscript box	— 1 autograph letter signed to “Dear Sir” : 23 Dec [1847] : from 24 Chester Square : 3 pages (double sheet) : begins, “My time has been so occupied that I have not been able to answer your note ...”	<i>EXCERPT ONLY Bennett v. 3, p. 331</i>
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## Transcripts in Mary Shelley’s hand

LOCATION	ITEM
Manuscript box (under Shelley, P. B.)	· Copy of P. B. Shelley’s poem, “To the L[or]d C[ancello]r” : [original date 1817; transcript date uncertain] : 3¼ pages (double sheet) : begins, “Thy country’s curse is on thee, darkest crest / of that foul, knotted, many-headed worm ...”; comprised of sixteen quatrains.

# Transcripts of Mary Shelley manuscripts

Manuscripts for which the original autograph is published in Bennett are noted with reference.

LOCATION	ITEM	REFERENCE
Cased	· Manuscript copy of forty letters to Claire Clairmont : [original dates 1842-1849; transcript dates unknown] : 40 double sheets, 4 single sheets : transcribed in the hand of Paola Clairmont. <sup>1</sup>	
	· 4 Mar 1842 : [from 34 Half Moon Street] : begins, "I was indeed surprised at your not appearing on Friday ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 22</i>
	· 28 Jun [1842] : from Kissengen, Bavaria : begins, "I have been intending to write to you every day but my eyes are weak ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 31</i>
	· 4 Nov [1842] : from Casa Quadri, Firenze : begins, "Percy wrote to tell you of our arrival here ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 43</i>
	· 5 Nov [1842] : from Casa Quadri, Firenze : begins, "I wrote you so uncomfortable a letter yesterday dear Claire ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 44</i>
	· 3 Dec 1842 : from Casa Quadri, Firenze : begins, "You will be surprised to get another letter from me so soon..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 51</i>
	· 23 Mar [1843] : from Rome : begins, "My last letter was a most uncomfortable one ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 62</i>
	· 15 Apr [1843] : from Rome : begins, "I am sorry you write so seldom & I am sorry when you write, that you adjure me not to do the thing I wish to do ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 68</i>
	· 30 Aug [1843] : from London : begins, "I found fine weather when I quitted Paris ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 83</i>
	· 11 Sep [1843] : from London : begins, "Just now I sent you a letter under cover to Alexy ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 88</i>
	· 20 Sep [1843] : from White Cottage, Putney : begins, "To begin—don't cross your letters when you write on such very thin paper—it becomes very difficult to read them ..."	<i>Bennett</i> <i>v. 3, p. 90</i>

<sup>1</sup> All but two of the originals autograph letters are now held by the Huntington Library. Paola Clairmont's copies occasionally make omissions and deletions, and bear a few annotations in the hand of Claire Clairmont. Also included is a copy of a letter to Claire Clairmont from Percy Florence Shelley, dated 23 Jan 1844.



- 7 Oct [1843] : from Putney : begins, “Hammy has left her letter open that I may write a word to you ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 97*
- [13-16] Oct 1843 : from [?Putney] : “I am going to town & will get & enclose cement.” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 99*
- 10 Nov 1843 : [from Putney?] : begins, “You do not say whether you want more cement...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 104*
- [?23 Feb-10 Mar 1844] : from Putney : begins, “Winter is come now with snow ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 115*
- [22 Mar 1844] : [from Putney] : begins, “I congratulate you on your recovered health ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 119*
- 19 Apr 1844 : [from Putney] : begins, “Guitera tells me that you are not gone to Mm de Maistre ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 122*
- 27 Apr 1844 : from Putney : begins, “I saw Gregson yesterday & all things seem to go smoothly enough...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 127*
- 4 Jun [1844] : from Putney : begins, “I am very sorry to hear you are so ill ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 134*
- [?23 Jul 1844] : [from Putney] : begins, “I answer you[r] letter directly to say that I have nothing to do with paying your money ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 143*
- 14 May [1845] : from Putney : begins, “Your letter seems in better health & spirits ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 179*
- 27 May [1845] : [from 4 Connaught Place] : begins, “I write from Mrs Sanfords ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 183*
- 23 May [1845] : [from Putney] : begins, “Your letter & consent dear Claire has come very unexpectedly ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 181*
- [23 Jun 1845] : [from Putney] : begins, “I send you a letter I got on Saturday from Ld. William ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 188*
- 5 Jul [1845] : [from Putney] : begins, “Gregson wrote to me asking to whom the money was to be paid ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 191*
- [17 Jul 1845] : [from Putney] : begins, “I called on the Sanfords yesterday ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 195*
- 5 Aug [1845] : from Putney : begins, “I was beginning to wonder at your silence ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 198*
- [8 Oct 1845] : [from Bright on] : begins, “I wrote you a wild letter yesterday ...” *Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 213*

- [22 Dec 1845] : from Putney : begins, "After writing to you on Saturday, I went up to town ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 270*
- 23 Jan 1846 : [from Putney] : begins, "The last words are merely an excuse for idleness ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 273*
- 30 Jan 1846 : from Putney : begins, "You ask me to do the impossible ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 275*
- [26 Aug 1846] : from Baden Baden : begins, "I write in great haste to save the post ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 293*
- [28 Jul 1847] : [from Brighton] : begins, "I shall be very glad to see you for a fortnight ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 324*
- [1 Aug 1847] : from Brighton : begins, "I have Mrs [Booth] with me & it is quite unknown when she will go ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 325*
- [10 Feb 1848] : from 24 Chester Square : begins, "I talked to Hookham today about the Opera ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 332*
- [8 Apr 1848] : [from 24 Chester Square] : begins, "I was disappointed not seeing you yesterday when we made that long journey ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 337*
- [30 Aug 1848] : from Field Place : begins, "We held conclave over your letter ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 347*
- [23 Nov 1848] : [from Brighton] : begins, "I suppose it was the excitement of seeing Percy, but I had a violent nervous attack ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 350*
- [10 Dec 1848] : from 77 Warwick Square : begins, "At length I can give you news of your box ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 352*
- [11 Feb 1849] : [from Field Place] : begins, "I write seldom & shabby letters..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 357*
- 26 Apr 1849 : from F[ield] P[lace] : begins, "By this time Cleary I hope is with you ..."  
*Bennett*  
*v. 3, p. 367*