A GUIDE TO THE

JOHN CAM HOBHOUSE

MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL

IN THE PFORZHEIMER COLLECTION.

COMPiled BY

CHARLES CUYKENDALL CARTER.
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Identification

John Cam Hobhouse, first Baron Broughton (1786-1869), English politician and friend of Lord Byron.

Associated NYPL catalog record

John Cam Hobhouse manuscript material

Size

47 items

Date range

1818 – 1864

Preferred citation


Access

Access is granted by Pforzheimer Collection staff.
Pforzheimer Collection

The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle is one of the world's leading repositories for the study of British Romanticism. Comprised of over 20,000 items, the collection is conceptually centered on the life and works of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his friends, relatives, and contemporaries. Formerly a part of the much larger and now dispersed Pforzheimer Library, the Pforzheimer Collection came to The New York Public Library in 1986.

Holdings and provenance

This guide lists and describes the manuscript materials held by the Pforzheimer Collection that were created by John Cam Hobhouse, first Baron Broughton, whether in his own hand, or in that of an amanuensis. These items have been acquired throughout much of the history of the Collection, and are kept at the New York Public Library.

The first Hobhouse manuscripts added to the Collection were part of a trove of materials relating to Thomas Love Peacock, acquired through auction in 1949. Only a few Hobhouse manuscripts were accessioned over the next two decades, but in the 1970's over a dozen were purchased, through various auctions and book dealers. Since the Pforzheimer Collection's 1986 move to the New York Public Library, six Hobhouse manuscripts have been acquired.

Because the Pforzheimer Collection collects actively, its holdings in John Cam Hobhouse manuscript material may grow in the future as items become available for acquisition.
Related materials

In addition to manuscripts by Hobhouse, the Pforzheimer Collection also holds copies, in first or early editions, of most of Hobhouse’s works published during his lifetime. Included among the Hobhouse printed materials is a presentation copy to the politician Edward Ellice of the 1820 parliamentary proceedings relating to Hobhouse’s anonymous pamphlet, *A Trifling Mistake*. Also held are a small handful of portraits of Hobhouse, including a large mezzotint, engraved by Charles Turner after James Lonsdale; and a smaller stipple-engraved portrait by James Hopwood after Abraham Wivell. Among the Collection’s Hobhouse-related secondary sources are Michael Joyce’s biography *My Friend H* (1948); and *Byron’s Bulldog* (1984), a selection of Hobhouse letters to Byron, edited by Peter W. Graham.

Across the hall from the Pforzheimer Collection, the Library’s Berg Collection holds four holograph diaries of Hobhouse’s, dating from 1814 to 1816, and containing material related to Lord Byron.

Arrangement

This guide considers the John Cam Hobhouse manuscript material in two series: Series I, Writings; and Series II, Correspondence.

Series descriptions

**Series I : Writings.** These manuscripts are listed chronologically by date of creation.

**Series II: Correspondence.** These manuscripts are listed alphabetically and chronologically, by recipient.
Scope and content

The John Cam Hobhouse manuscript material in the Pforzheimer Collection consists of writings and correspondence. The writings include: a holograph English translation from the original Greek of Thomas Love Peacock's poem, “A White-Bait Dinner”; a holograph poem addressed to Peacock, “Ad, or In, Titum-Amorellum Pavonium”; and notebook of holograph notes in Italian and English on Berni, Montaigne, Bayle, Roscoe, and others. The correspondence is dated chiefly between 1823 and 1850, and discusses publishing matters, his political career, and various matters relating to Lord Byron and his legacy. Correspondents include: Thomas Love Peacock; the politician and writer Sir John Bowring; the philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts; the portrait painter John Jackson, and over a dozen others.

The bookplate of John Cam Hobhouse, from Lord Byron's copy of the works of Pope, which Hobhouse bought after Byron's death.
Series I: Writings

· Holograph inscription to Edward Ellice: 1820: (JCH 0040): in a copy of the parliamentary proceedings relating to Hobhouse’s radical pamphlet entitled *A Trifling Mistake*. Shelved with books under “Hobhouse.”

· Holograph annotations in Byron’s copy of Pope’s Works: 1827: (JCH 0039): including a partially trimmed inscription on the title page, “Belonged [to Lord Byron] / at Genoa / J.C. Hobhouse / 1827”; and another inscription on the blank leaf facing the title page, “I bought the set at Evans / when part of Ld. Byron’s / books were sold by auction / JCH.” With occasional annotations throughout, some initialed by Hobhouse. Shelved as “Pforz BT (Byron, G.) 03.”

· Holograph poem, “Though ‘tis not a sight we are likely to see”: [w/m = 1843]: (JCH 0042): begins, “Though ‘tis not a sight we are likely to see / How I wish the two hundred and sixty and three …”

· Holograph poem, “Ad, or In, Titum-Amorellum Pavonium”: [w/m = 1844]: (JCH 0005): 4 p.; to Thomas Love Peacock; begins, “Peacock! Examiner of all things East, / Thinks I’ve forgot his promise -- not the least -- ...”; along with a contemporary copy in an unknown hand (P’ANA 0068).

· Holograph poem, “New Year’s Day”: [w/m = 1847]: (JCH 0041): 2 p.; begins, “Another year to many brings / Hope gurgling from a thousand springs – / Another year to many shows / A prospect of diminished woes …”

· Notes on Berni, Montaigne, Bayle, Roscoe, etc.: [w/m = 1849]: (JCH 0010): 22 p.; in Italian and English.

· Holograph poem, “A Babrian Fable addressed to the two universities”: [ca. 1850]: (JCH 0012): 3 p., six stanzas; begins, “Once on a time a Bear did dwell / Within a rocky den …”

· Holograph poem, “A Babrian Fable addressed to the Two Universities”: [ca. 1850]: (JCH 0043): 2 p., five stanzas; begins, “Once on a time a Bear did dwell / Within a rocky den ...” Along with a lithographed circular of the poem, titled in English, “A Babrian Apologue Applicable to ye. present circumstances of ye. University in respect to a Commission,” dated 25 April 1850, with the text in Greek, probably translated by Thomas Love Peacock. The circular bears Peacock’s manuscript copy of the poem in Latin (also likely his translation), and his manuscript copy of Hobhouse’s original English (TLP 0103); also included are manuscript copies of all three versions of the poem in unknown contemporary hands (P’ANA 0071a-b). Shelved as “Pforz BT (Peacock, T.) 01.”
Holograph poem, “Fish Feast”: [1851]: (JCH 0003): a translation from Latin and Greek of Thomas Love Peacock's printed leaflets, “A White-Bait Dinner at Lovegrove's at Blackwall.” Along with: a fair copy in an unknown hand (P'ANA 0014a); a draft of a different version of the poem, in an unknown hand (P'ANA 0014b); and a fragment in an unknown hand (P'ANA 0014c), apparently being notes on some printed piece on Peacock, written by someone who knew him; mentions “the Fish Dinner” and Hobhouse's “metrical translation”; also that “Mr. Peacock told me that Shelley was very much amused at the delineation of himself as Scythrop.”

Holograph poem, “A birth day”: 27 Jun 1862: (JCH 0007): begins, “This neck, in spite of sandy cricks / thus lasted me to seventy six – ”

Transcribed passage from Antonio Nibby's Viaggio Antiqua ne' contorni di Roma: [no date; after 1819]: (JCH 0046): begins, “Tanto le parole DOMNI PREDIA, quanto quelle che sequono la parola MANDELANE ...”
Series II: Correspondence

· To Henry Adams at 18 Queen Street, South Mall, Cork, Ireland:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 27 Jun 1826: (JCH 0013) from London; with an autograph letter cover, enclosing the requested autograph of Lord Byron (B 0049). Filed under Byron.

· To James Bandinel, civil servant:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 28 Oct [1831]: (JCH 0019) from Hastings; requesting he forward a letter from Lady Tweeddale; with remarks about cholera.

· To Sir John Bowring, politician, diplomat, and writer:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 7 Sep 1824: (JCH 0009) begins, “The two things which I should have wished omitted from the article on Lord Byron are the alleged expressions of ‘I had rather shoot myself’ and ‘I will torment you’…”
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 29 Jan 1828: (JCH 0047) begins, “I should be very glad to write for the Westminster of any of the Reviews advocating the principles which distinguish that useful publication…” Mounted on leaf 4 of the Album of Autograph Letters to John Bowring. Shelved with oversized manuscript volumes.

· To Angela Burdett-Coutts, philanthropist:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 26 Jun 1845: (JCH 0016) from Erle Stoke Park, Westbury, Wiltshire; begins, “I write just to account for not paying my respects to you this evening…”

· To Mr. P. [Croker?] :
  — 1 autograph letter signed: [Jul 1840]: (JCH 0026) begins, “Please to enquire – Has any report been received from India…”

· To Thomas Davidson, printer at 5 Lombard St., Whitefriars:
  — 1 autograph note signed: 20 Jan [1818?]: (JCH 0036): from Whitton; including, “I hope that there has been no delay in getting out the volume
...” Davidson printed Hobhouse's Historical Illustrations of the Fourth Canto of Childe Harold in 1818.

· To Edward Law, Lord Ellenborough, politician:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 2 Dec 1846: (JCH 0001): begins, “This post brings me your note with the inclosure from Sir Charles Napier…”

· To Pietro Gamba, Italian nobleman, friend of Lord Byron:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 15 Sep 1824: (JCH 0017): from Buxton; in French; on the debt of Greek deputies to the executors of Byron.

· To John Gardner, at 127 Strand:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: [1823]: (JCH 0034): from 6 Albany; begins, “Sir F. Burdett and myself certainly dine with the [Spanish] Ambassador tomorrow…”

· To Hall, Virtue, and Co., publishers:
  — 1 autograph letter third person: 3 May 185[3?]: (JCH 0035): from 42 Berkeley Square: appealing to the editor of Boyle's Court Guide to correct his entry: “the address is not Broughton de Gyfford – but Broughton –”; with envelope addressed to Hall & Co., stamped 2 Apr 1853.

· To Edward Hobhouse, his brother:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 16 Jun [no year]: (JCH 0023): begins, “I should be very much obliged if you would have the kindness to send the letter to Bermuda…”

· To (Richard) Belgrave Hoppner, diplomat and friend of Byron:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: [1823]: (JCH 0027): from 6, Albany Court; begins, “I regret extremely having been away from London when you were so kind to call…”

· To Joseph Hume, radical and politician:
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 11 Mar 1832: (JCH 0020): from 42 Berkeley Square; complying with a request for a sample of Byron's handwriting (B
Both mounted in Pforzheimer copy 3 of the first edition of Byron's Bride of Abydos. Shelved as *Pforz 558R 22.

· To **John Jackson**, portrait painter and copyist:
  
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 10 Feb [between 1825-1831]: (JCH 0038): from 6 Albany; begins, “I took the liberty of calling at your house...”; refers to a proposal to raise a monument to Lord Byron. Mounted on the 2nd leaf following p. 42 in v. I of the grangerized copy of Nichol's Byron.

· To **William Jeffs**, bookseller at 15 Burlington Arcade:
  
  — 1 autograph letter signed: 8 Oct 1864: (JCH 0029): from Tedworth House, Marlborough; begins, “I am exceedingly obliged to you for your information about Todleben ...”

· To **Thomas Love Peacock**, satirical novelist and poet:
  

  — 1 autograph letter signed: 31 Oct 1851: (JCH 0004): from Erle Stoke, Westbury; begins, “Do not forget that you are under and engagement, implied or positive, to come here during the Saturnalia.”

  — 22 Apr 1861: (JCH 0006): from Berkeley Sqr.; begins, “The books, card-directed, will go to you ...”

  — 1 autograph letter: 18 Jul 1862: (JCH 0008): from Berkeley Sqr.; begins, “Pardon me for sending you the inclosed doggerel”; in reference to his poem, “A birth day” (JCH 0007).

· To **Miss Honoria [Perkins?]** at Pelham Crescent, Hastings:
  
  — 1 autograph address panel signed: (JCH 0044): from London: mounted on p. 15 of the Martin Archer Shee Autograph Album. Shelved with bound manuscript volumes under “Shee.”

· To “**My dear Rice**”:
  
  — 1 autograph letter (fragment): [Feb 1837?]: (JCH 0024): begins, “The object of the proposed Bill is to permit the Board & Court if they see fit to appoint a Board of Examiners...”
· To Martin Archer Shee, portrait painter and writer:

— 1 autograph letter signed: 6 May 1839: (JCH 0045): begins, "My friend Mr Fuller & Mr Hamilton, our [awful?] secretary, dine with me on Sunday ..." Tipped into the Martin Archer Shee Autograph album following p. 81. Shelved with bound manuscript volumes under "Shee."

· To Sir John Morillyon Wilson, army officer:

— 1 autograph letter signed: 25 Mar 1836: (JCH 0028): from India Board; 25 Mar 1836: on the transfer of East India standards and trophies to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

· To unidentified recipients:

— 1 autograph letter: 8 Jun [before 1820]: (JCH 0037): from 42 Berkeley Square; begins, “The King has appointed Wednesday next to receive the Prince at a private audience ...”

— 1 autograph letter signed: 30 Nov 1823: (JCH 0022): from Kirby Park, Melton; including, “Lord Byron writes in health and spirits – he was only waiting for the positive invitation of the Greek Government ...”; also, on his arrival to Cephalonia, the death of Marco Botsaris, &c.

— 1 autograph letter: 21 Dec 1824: (JCH 0015): from Whitton Park; begins, “Pray have the goodness, if you have the time, to jog the memory ...”

— 1 autograph letter signed: 10 Aug 1828: (JCH 0033): from Whitton Park; begins, “Understanding that it is the will of the vestry clerk of the Parish of St James Westminster ...”

— 1 letter signed: 27 Feb [1832 or 33]: (JCH 0018): from the War Office; body of the letter in the hand of an amanuensis; including, “... I regret therefore that it is not in my power to gratify your request.”

— 1 autograph letter signed: 27 Jun 1833: (JCH 0030): from 42 Berkeley Square; begins, “I had not the least notion that I had any thing to do with the Queen's Plate money ...”

— 1 autograph letter signed: 14 Feb 1835: (JCH 0014): from 42 Berkeley Square; begins, “Your letter of this day's date has reached me -- and I beg to say that I feel much flattery ...” Mounted in the album of Lord Byron Family and Friends. Shelved as *Pforz 558R 25.
1 autograph letter third person (fragment) : 7 Jan 1840 : (JCH 0025) : from India Board; letter never completed; reads, “Sir John Hobhouse presents his compliments”.

1 autograph letter signed : 12 Aug 1860 : (JCH 0031) : from Tedworth, Marlborough; begins, “Your note has followed me to this place ...”

1 autograph letter signed : 15 Dec [no year] : (JCH 0002) : from 21 Charles Street : begins, “I send you the pictures – pray take care of the Byron – As for my portrait it will be advisable for your engraver to cut off the whiskers & make it look more Christian ...”

1 autograph letter signed : [no date] : (JCH 0021) : addressed to “My dear Recorder”; begins, “After the most mature consideration I beg leave to withdraw the frivolous & vexating objection which I made ...”

1 autograph letter signed : [no date] : (JCH 0032) : from 10 Hill Street, Berkeley Square; begins, “Mr. Lambton has very readily given to me his name as Steward for the proposed Reform dinner ...”
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