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# Guide to the Sheridan Papers

OSB MSS 29



by Beinecke Staff

June 1996

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	7

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 29

**CREATOR:** Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, 1751-1816

**TITLE:** Sheridan papers

**DATES:** 1787-1812

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers include correspondence, memoranda, speech drafts, copies of acts, and printed material relating to Sheridan's Parliamentary career. Materials on the union with Ireland and Catholic emancipation include a letter from John Milner, Bishop of Castabala; memoranda in Sheridan's hand; annotated copies of the proposed Disabilities Act of 1800 and of "The Substance of the Speech of the Marquis Wellesley"; and a survey of heads of Catholic religious communities in England. Sheridan's backing of the Prince Regent is documented in letters to George IV and Lord Holland; speeches and speech drafts; and papers relating to the refurbishing of Carlton House in the late 1780s, including inventories of new furniture.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sherosb>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sherosb>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Bequest of James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn.

## **Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.

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## **Conditions Governing Use**

The Sheridan Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## **Preferred Citation**

Sheridan Papers. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## **Processing Information**

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. This list is subject to revision once final folder numbering and labeling have been completed. If this collection contains unlisted or unsorted material, this has been noted.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The Sheridan Papers contain correspondence, manuscripts, speech drafts, printed material and other papers related to the Parliamentary career of Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. +	<p>"A Bill to Explain, Amend, and render more effectual, an Act ... to relieve [Roman Catholics] from certain Penalties and Disabilities"</p> <p>Heavily revised and annotated by R. B. Sheridan. Printed proposal.</p>	1800 Jun 5
b. 1, f. +	<p>[George IV, King of Gt. Brit.], 1762-1830. Documents relating to the alteration and furnishing of Carlton House</p> <p>Documents include an estimate, a petition, a resolution by the House of Commons, a royal order, letters (one by Henry Holland), and accounts. Nine pieces altogether, mostly copies.</p>	1787 May, 1790 Dec 23
b. 1, f. +	<p>George IV, King of Gt. Brit., 1762-1830. Letter (photostat, two copies) to an unnamed recipient, Windsor Castle</p> <p>Signed "G. P." Wishes to explain his "apparent indifference" to her, since "nothing could be further from ye sentiments of my heart."</p>	1781 Oct 12
b. 1, f. +	<p>Grey, Charles Grey, 2d Earl, 1764-1845. Letter (copy) to the Prince of Wales, later George IV</p> <p>Co-authored by Lord William Grenville, with a few holograph revisions by R. B. Sheridan. Express their concern over their treatment by the Prince and Sheridan during the Regency Crisis.</p>	1811 Jan 11
b. 1, f. +	<p>"Lines to the Lord Chancellor of Ceylon -- presented to His Lordship at Oatlands on the Duke of York's birthday August 16th 1807 by a brother labourer in the Vineyard."</p> <p>Anonymous manuscript.</p>	1807 Aug 16
b. 1, f. +	<p><a href="#">"A List of the Principals of the Religious Communities from Abroad, now resident in England, &amp; their Answers to the Circular letter"</a></p> <p>Anonymous manuscript.</p>	1800 Jun
	McMahon, John, col.	
b. 1, f. +	<p>ALS to R. B. Sheridan, Carlton House</p> <p>About Sheridan's not having come to see the Prince Regent as expected.</p>	[n.y.] May 13
b. 1, f. +	<p>ALS to [R. B. Sheridan]</p> <p>To get Charles James Fox to recommend John William Ward Dudley's memorandum to Duke Francis Russell Bedford, for he rests his bar to Lord Moira's introduction of him to the Duke.</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. +	<p><a href="#">Milner, John, Bp. of Castabala, 1752-1826. ALS to R. B. Sheridan, Winchester</a></p> <p>Reviews the situation of Roman Catholics in England and the reasons for their opposition to the Catholic bill in Parliament.</p>	[1800] Jun 15
b. 1, f. +	<p>Payne, John Willett, ca. 1752-1803. ALS to R. B. Sheridan, Carlton House</p> <p>About dinner with the Prince Regent.</p>	n.d.
b. 1, f. +	<p>Perceval, Spencer, 1762-1812. Letter (3d person, copy) to the Prince of Wales, later George IV, [n.p.]</p> <p>Copied by R. B. Sheridan. About the Regency Bill.</p>	[1810 Dec, 1811 Jan]
	Sheridan, Richard Brinsley Butler, 1751-1816	

b. 1, f. +	AL (draft) to [General Lake], [n.p.] Printed in Cecil Price, The Letters of RBS, II, 214, # 503, with some differences. About the reversion of the grant of the Duchy of Cornwall, whereupon the Prince of Wales appointed Sheridan. Gerard Lake could not accept the office when he was outside the country.	[1804?]
b. 1, f. +	AL (draft) to the Prince of Wales, later George IV, [n.p.] Printed, in slightly different form, in Cecil Price, The Letters of RBS, III, 36, # 672. Apologizes and explains misunderstanding on "my vote on Ld William Wellesley-Pole Mornington business," the Catholic question, and the Spanish question.	[1808 Jul 23]
b. 1, f. +	Letter (copy) to [the Prince of Wales, later George IV], [Barnes-Green] Variant copy, printed in Cecil Price, The Letters of RBS, III, 95, # 840. With a few pencilled marginalia in another hand. About an examination of King George III by his physicians being shown to the Privy Council, and the adjournment of Parliament.	[1810 Dec 9]
b. 1, f. +	Letter (draft copy) to Lord Henry Holland, [Queen Street] Heavily revised by Sheridan. Printed in Cecil Price, The Letters of RBS, III, 100, # 744. Defends his treatment of Lords Grey and Grenville during the Regency crisis.	[1811 Jan 15]
b. 1, f. +	Memorandum, holograph, to the Prince of Wales, later George IV, [n.p.]	1812 Jan 11
b. 1, f. +	Holograph draft or copy of "By the King A Proclamation." A Proclamation by King George III.	n.d.
b. 1, f. +	Memorandum, holograph Concerning the reliability of newspaper reports of an incident at Newmarket, involving the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Bedford.	n.d.
b. 1, f. +	<a href="#">Memoranda, holograph, on Irish and Catholic question</a>	n.d.
b. 1, f. +	[Speech in Parliament on the Regency] About the order of succession in choosing a regent, Parliament's responsibilities, royal prerogatives, etc. Possibly written in preparation for Sheridan's speech of 1788 Dec 22. Anonymous manuscript.	[1788 Dec 12, 1789 Feb 12]
b. 1, f. +	"The Substance of the Speech of the Marquis Wellesley, on the 31st of January, 1812, in the House of Lords, on the Motion of Earl Fitzwilliam, respecting the Present State of Ireland." Printed pamphlet. Heavily annotated by R. B. Sheridan, 8 p.	1812 Jan 31
b. 1, f. +	"Verses, which obtained in June last, the Prize of the Gold Medal, given by the Prince Regent to Winchester School. On the Retreat of the French from Santarem in Portugal" Printed copy.	n.d.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Preferred Titles

*The substance of the speech of the Marquis Wellesley on the 31st January, 1812, in the House of Lords, on the motion of Earl Fitzwilliam, respecting the present state of Ireland*

### Subjects

Catholic emancipation  
Catholics -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- Ireland  
Irish question

### Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Politics and government -- 1789-1820

### Names

George, King of Great Britain, IV, 1762-1830  
Grey, Charles Grey, Earl, 1764-1845  
Holland, Henry Richard Vassall, Baron, 1773-1840  
Milner, John, 1752-1826  
Perceval, Spencer, 1762-1812  
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, 1751-1816  
Wellesley, Richard Wellesley, Marquess, 1760-1842

### Corporate Bodies

Carlton House (London, England)  
Catholic Church -- Great Britain  
Great Britain. Parliament