

Guide to the Liverpool Emancipation Society Records

MS 1451



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Marisa Gonzales

February 1990

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1451

CREATOR: Liverpool Emancipation Society

TITLE: Liverpool Emancipation Society records

DATES: 1863-1865

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The records include correspondence, notes, printed circulars, and memorabilia which document the organization and functioning of the Liverpool Emancipation Society. The society sought to educate the public and thereby garner support for the Union side during the American Civil War. The society also raised funds to aid distressed freedmen.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1451>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1451>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Nelson Works, 1986.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Liverpool Emancipation Society Records (MS 1451). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

The Liverpool Emancipation Society was founded in 1863. As was true of other emancipation societies in Britain, the Liverpool society was founded to "instruct the public mind in England of the true conditions of the American question through lectures and public discussions." The society was, in a city looked upon as a stronghold of southern and pro-slavery sentiment, avowedly abolitionist and supportive of Abraham Lincoln. John Croper served as chairman of the society and Robert Trimble was its secretary. The society's leadership tried to secure the participation of many of the local clergy.

Scope and Contents

The Liverpool Emancipation Society records include correspondence, notes, printed circulars, and other memorabilia, which document the activities of the society from its founding in 1863 until the end of the American Civil War in 1865. The records are arranged in chronological order.

Correspondence addressed to the society's secretary Robert Trimble comprises the bulk of the records. Most correspondents write either accepting or rejecting membership in the society. Those declining membership express their opinions on the seriousness with which the North was pursuing the abolition of slavery. There is also correspondence with other local emancipation societies such as those in Manchester and London. Several letters in 1865 included donations of money and supplies to aid distressed freedmen. Other records concern arrangements and speakers for society meetings and fund raising events. Henry Ward Beecher appeared at the October 30, 1863, meeting of the society.

Nelson Works donated the records to the Yale University Library in 1986.

Collection Contents

- | | |
|------------|---|
| b. 1, f. 1 | 1863 Jan-Feb |
| | A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy. |
| b. 1, f. 2 | 1863 Mar-Oct |
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| b. 1, f. 3 | 1864-1865 |
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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.

Subjects

Slavery -- Great Britain -- Antislavery
movements

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865
-- Foreign public opinion, British

Names

Cropper, John
Trimble, Robert

Corporate Body

Liverpool Emancipation Society