

# Guide to the William Beckford Collection

## GEN MSS 102



by William K. Finley

September 1991

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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
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1750-1950 .....	6
LETTERS FROM WILLIAM BECKFORD .....	6
LETTERS TO WILLIAM BECKFORD .....	7
THIRD PARTY CORRESPONDENCE .....	8
Series II: Writings, 1803-34 .....	10
WILLIAM BECKFORD .....	10
ELIZABETH HERVEY .....	10
Series III: Personal Papers, 1735-1844 .....	11
Series IV: Other Papers, 1755-1967 .....	12
Genealogy .....	15
Oversize, 1795-1960 .....	19
Personal Papers .....	19
Indentures .....	19
Other Papers .....	19
Beckford's Library - disposition lists .....	19
Fonthill Abbey: Articles and News Clippings .....	19
Personal Papers .....	19
Indentures .....	19
Other Papers .....	19
Fonthill Abbey: Articles and News Clippings .....	19
Fonthill Abbey: Related Material .....	19
Genealogy .....	19
Selected Search Terms .....	20

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 102

**CREATOR:** Beckford, William, 1760-1844

**TITLE:** William Beckford collection

**DATES:** 1735–1967

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 6.46 linear feet (14 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The William Beckford Collection consists of correspondence, a few manuscripts, personal papers of Beckford family members, a 16mm motion picture film on Beckford with accompanying reel-to-reel soundtrack, and other papers relating to Beckford research and collections.

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

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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.beckford>.

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  
■■■■     item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was formed primarily from gifts by three noted Beckford collectors: James T. Babb, Rowland Burden-Muller, and Ray Livingston Murphy, with additional purchases.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 14: Restricted fragile material (motion picture film and sound recording). Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The William Beckford Collection 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

William Beckford Collection. General Collection. Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Scope and Contents

The William Beckford Collection consists of letters, manuscripts, documents, and printed material relating to the life and career of William Beckford (1760-1844) and the Beckford family. Beckford is best known as the author of the Oriental fantasy *Vathek*, a collector of fine books and art, and the builder of impressive homes at Fonthill-Gifford and Bath. The material in the collection spans the years 1737 to 1967, with the bulk of the material contemporary with Beckford's life.

The collection is divided into four series: I. *Correspondence*, II. *Writings*, III. *Family Papers*, and IV. *Other Papers*.

Series I, [Correspondence](#), consists of correspondence written during Beckford's life and is divided into three subseries: *Letters from William Beckford*, *Letters to William Beckford*, and *Third Party Correspondence*. Letters from Beckford to family, friends, and acquaintances reveal much about his personal life and career. Many letters written from various European cities describe Beckford's travels and meetings with famous people.

Equally significant is the collection of letters from Beckford to his friend the Reverend Samuel Henley, the translator of *Vathek* into English. A number of letters between 1782 and 1784 discuss the writing and publication of *Vathek* and the succeeding "Episodes of *Vathek*." On November 18, 1783 he informs Henley concerning *Vathek*, "You have the only copy which exists of the only production of mine which I am not ashamed of & with which I am not disgusted. Thank God *Vathek* has produced no misunderstanding." He adds a note concerning his *Dreams, Waking Thoughts and Incidents*: "I may still dwell upon the recollection with pleasure; but how can I endure my book of *Dreams* when I reflect what disagreeable *waking thoughts* it has occasioned us...?"

Other letters to Henley implore him to take charge of the education of William Courtenay, the young boy whose association with Beckford caused an intense scandal in 1784. A letter of October 13, 1784, just after his visit to Courtenay at his home, Powderham Castle, alludes to this affair: "You must know we have been in Devonshire & passed a month at Powderham Castle, where I lived in one perpetual worry to use a nursery expression which I have caught at the above mentioned place." He later writes of this affair to Henley, "It is impossible for me to enter into details upon the subject you mention. Let it suffice for me to assure you--that the reports you hear are the grossest calumnies & that a certain young person I once thought my friend--has proved himself the meanest traitor [sic]--& the blackest enemy..."

Series I also contains three bound volumes of copies of letters from Beckford to George Clarke, his principal book agent. These letters, written between 1830 and 1834, reveal Beckford's knowledge of authors, artists, and books and indicate both his own collecting interests and collecting trends of the

early nineteenth century. His letters often become venomous in describing unscrupulous booksellers and collectors, especially those who have wronged him. Although his letters to Clarke primarily concern his book collecting, Beckford occasionally refers to Mozart and other acquaintances and to his own writing. At the end of the final volume of the Clarke correspondence is an incomplete attempt at a topical index.

Letters to H. E. Goodrich, the primary architect of Beckford's Lansdown Tower in Bath, concern the construction of this home and Beckford's tomb and reveal Beckford's knowledge of and attention to architectural details and decor.

A volume of letters to William Smith, Jr, printseller in London, discusses items Beckford had purchased or wished to purchase and discloses much about his interest and tastes in art, mentioning purchases of works by Titian, Van Dyck, Rubens, etc.

A rather lengthy letter to Sir William Hamilton reveals Beckford's quest for a peerage (December 15, 1800).

Letters to unidentified correspondents and copies of Beckford's letters collected by James T. Babb have been placed at the end of this subseries.

The *Correspondence* series also contains letters from a number of Beckford's contemporaries, many of whom offer revealing glimpses of Beckford or Fonthill. Letters from Thomas Adams to John Britton (September to November, 1823) speak of the sale of Fonthill Abbey and its effects. An undated letter from H. Austed to Britton says of Beckford, "It must seem very curious to some people to be one day told that a man is totally ruined & in a week in the same paper that he is about to level a great hill or if that is not practicable to raise a Saxon tower to reach the clouds in order to obtain a view of his former residence. . . ." There is also a rather vitriolic exchange of letters between Britton, the author of *Graphical and Literary Illustrations of Fonthill Abbey*, and his illustrator George Cattermole concerning Cattermole's sketches for this work.

[Series II, \*Writings\*](#), consists of writings by Beckford and Elizabeth Hervey, his half-sister. Included are a copy of a portion of Beckford's diary, two short poems by Beckford, and two copies of Hervey's novel *Julia*.

[Series III, \*Personal Papers\*](#), consists of statements of indenture for several members of the Beckford family, a copy of Beckford's will, and items relating to the building of Fonthill Abbey.

[Series IV, \*Other Papers\*](#), consists of various types of material on a number of subjects relating to Beckford, arranged alphabetically by subject. Included are genealogical and biographical information on Beckford and his family; articles on Beckford, his homes, and his writings; prints and photographs of Beckford, his father, Fonthill Abbey, and Lansdown Tower; and correspondence among Beckford collectors and booksellers. The file on Fonthill Abbey is especially rich, with many late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century articles, contemporary descriptions, and sketches. The file on *Vathek* contains articles and notes on the publishing history of Beckford's most significant work. The Rowland Burdon-Miller correspondence file has a number of letters from noted book collector and author John Carter. Filed at the end of the series is a 16mm motion picture film on Beckford, accompanied by a reel-to-reel audio tape soundtrack and documentation. The film features scenes associated with William Beckford in Bath, England. The film was planned and produced by Andrew Barnett and Alan Scott, students at the Kingswood School in Bath, during the 1966 Bath Festival which was devoted to Beckford.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1750-1950

1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

Series I, *Correspondence*, consists of letters to and from William Beckford and third-party correspondence among Beckford's contemporaries.

#### LETTERS FROM WILLIAM BECKFORD

b. 1, f. 1	Adams, Henry	1832 Jan 4
b. 1, f. 1a	Barclay, Robert	1807-16
b. 1, f. 2-3	<a href="#">Beckford, Louisa (typescripts, photocopies)</a>	[1780-84]
b. 1, f. 4-5	<a href="#">Beckford, Susan</a>	1805-08
b. 1, f. 6	Bohn, Henry G.	1840, 1844
b. 1, f. 7-8	Britton, John	1823, 1841
	Clarke, George	
b. 1, f. 8a	2 ALS	1813, n.d.
	"Letters of William Beckford to His Bookseller, 1830-1834" [transcribed for, then corrected by Richard Bentley]	
b. 1, f. 9	Description of the letters	n.d.
b. 1, f. 10-11	Bound volumes	n.d.
b. 2, f. 12	Bound volume	n.d.
b. 2, f. 13	Related material	1900-50
b. 2, f. 13a	Clarke, [William]	1829 Feb 22
b. 2, f. 14	Cozens, Alexander (holograph original and photocopy)	n.d.
b. 2, f. 15-16	English, Edmund <a href="#">See also: Box 3, folder 50</a>	1825, 1841
b. 2, f. 17	<i>Fraser's Magazine</i>	1833 Mar 21
b. 2, f. 18	Goodrich, H. E. (thirteen letters from Beckford, bound in folder)	1825-42
b. 2, f. 19	<a href="#">Gore, Catherine</a>	[1839?]
b. 2, f. 19a	Green, Thomas A.	1797 Jun 4
b. 2, f. 20	Hamilton, Anne, Lady	1805 Oct 24
b. 2, f. 21	Hamilton, Emma Lyon, Lady <a href="#">See also: Box 7, folder 140</a>	1800, 1808
b. 2, f. 22	Hamilton, Susan, Duchess of [?] (letter in French, with typed translation)	1823 Apr 11

## LETTERS FROM WILLIAM BECKFORD (continued)

b. 2, f. 23-25	Hamilton, William, Sir	1782-1800
b. 2, f. 26-32	Henley, Samuel, Rev.	1782-97, n.d.
b. 2, f. 33	Holford, Mr.	1841 May 6
b. 2, f. 34	Jennings, Robert	1839, 1843
b. 2, f. 35	Lennings, Mr. (Jennings?)	1838 Sep 1
b. 2, f. 36	Mayne, John Thomas	n.d.
b. 2, f. 36a	Molteno & Graves	1834
b. 2, f. 37-43	Morlands, Auriol, and Co. (Duckett, Morlands, and Co.) (mainly checks)	1814-32
b. 2, f. 43a	[Murray, Charles Augustus]	[1839?]
b. 3, f. 44	Nelson, Horatio, Lord (with typescript copy)	1801 Apr 29
b. 3, f. 45	Pedley, John	1835 Jan 30
b. 3, f. 45a	Phillipps, Thomas, Baronet	1811 Dec 1
b. 3, f. 46	<a href="#">Pinkerton, Mr.</a>	1800 Sep 18
b. 3, f. 46a	Pratt, S. T.	1797 Mar 18
b. 3, f. 47	Reade, John Edmund	1840 Jan 12
b. 3, f. 48	Reddings, Mr.	1835 Sep 16
b. 3, f. 49	Smith, Acheson (envelope only)	1818 May 22
b. 3, f. 49a	Smith, John	[1824?] Apr 24
b. 3, f. 50	<a href="#">Smith, Messrs. (art dealers?). (Bound volume of 45 letters from Beckford, with letters from L. Beckett, letters to Edmund English, documents, etc.)</a>	1769-1844
b. 3, f. 51	Smith, Mr.	1841, 1844
b. 3, f. 51a	Still, S. C.	1811 May 30
b. 3, f. 52	Tacet, Monsieur	1792 Jul 22
b. 3, f. 52a	Tiffin, Mr.	1836 Jun 29
b. 3, f. 52b	Vyse, William. ALS (engraving) With: engraving of Beckford as mayor of London.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 53	White, A. L.	1842 Jul 6
b. 3, f. 54-55	Unidentified letters from Beckford	1818-41
b. 3, f. 56	Miscellaneous notes from Beckford	1814, n.d.
b. 3, f. 57	Miscellaneous letters from Beckford (typescripts and photocopies)	n. d.

## LETTERS TO WILLIAM BECKFORD

## LETTERS TO WILLIAM BECKFORD (continued)

b. 3, f. 58-61	<a href="#">Beckford, Louisa (typescript copies and photocopies)</a>	1782-89, n.d.
b. 4, f. 62-65	<a href="#">Beckford, Louisa (typescript copies and photocopies)</a>	1782-89, n.d.
b. 4, f. 66	Bohn, Henry G.	1842 Jul 14
b. 4, f. 67	Britton, John (with engraving of Britton)	1837 Jun 21
b. 4, f. 67a	DeStarck, Henry Savile	1812 Aug
b. 4, f. 68	<a href="#">Franchi, L. (with pencil notes by Beckford and typescript copy with translation)</a>	1822 Feb 24
b. 4, f. 69	Seymour, Georgina Seymour, Henry (typescript copies with letter from T. M. Lewis)	n.d.
b. 4, f. 70	Wyatt, Anthony	n.d.
THIRD PARTY CORRESPONDENCE		
Adams, Thomas		
b. 4, f. 71	Letter to John Britton	1823
Anspach, (Elizabeth), Margravine of, (Lady Craven)		
b. 4, f. 72	Letter to Sir William Hamilton	1789
b. 4, f. 73	Letter to unknown recipient	n.d.
Austed, H.		
b. 4, f. 74	Letter to John Britton	[n.y.] Oct 14
Beckford, Peter		
b. 4, f. 75	Letters to Rev. Samuel Henley	[1783?]
Beckford, Susan		
b. 4, f. 76	Letters to Lady Bellhaven	[1820]
Beckford, William (1709 to 1770)		
b. 4, f. 77-78	Letters to John Curtis (with engraving and clipping)	1765-66
b. 4, f. 79	Letter to Thomas, Stephen and Rose Fullers	1777 Apr 26
b. 4, f. 80	Letter to Mr. Granville	1766 Jun 2
b. 4, f. 81	Letter to John Kirke	1754 May 25
b. 4, f. 82	Letter to Roffey and Chamberlin	1756 Dec
b. 4, f. 83	Letter to Thomas and Stephen Tulley	1757 Oct 3
b. 4, f. 84	Letters to unidentified recipients	1736-68
Britton, John		



## THIRD PARTY CORRESPONDENCE &gt; Britton, John (continued)

b. 4, f. 85	Letter to Thomas Adams	1823
b. 4, f. 86	Letter to Richard Bentley	1835 Jan 8
b. 4, f. 87	Letter to George Cattermole	1822 Nov 15
b. 4, f. 88	Letter to S. C. Hall	1852 May 18
b. 4, f. 89	Letter to William Upcott	1824 Feb 18
	Cattermole, George	
b. 4, f. 90	Letters to John Britton	1822, n.d.
	Hamilton, William, Sir	
b. 4, f. 91	Letter to Mr. Cadell (with engraving of Hamilton)	n.d.
	Higham, Thomas	
b. 4, f. 92	Letter to John Britton (with Britton's response)	1827 Oct 13
	Lettice, John	
b. 4, f. 93	Letter to Clarke and Son, Booksellers	1826 Dec 6
b. 4, f. 94	Letter to Samuel Henley	1805 Sep 15
b. 4, f. 95	Letter to John Pinkerton	1800 Aug 20
b. 4, f. 96	Letter to Isaac Reed	1797 Jul 11
	Sharp, Richard	
b. 4, f. 97	Letter to Rev. Samuel Henley	1786 Jun 14
	Stanhope, Hester Lucy, Lady	
b. 4, f. 98	Letter to Sir Isaac Heard	1800 Oct 22
	Trumbull, Col. [John?]	
b. 4, f. 99	Letters to Jeremiah Wadsworth (typescript and photostat copies, with letter from Theodore Sizer to James T. Babb)	1798-99
	Watts, A. A.	
b. 4, f. 100	Letter to John Britton	1824 Jan 19

**Series II: Writings, 1803-34***0.25 linear feet (1 box)*Series II, *Writings*, consists of writings by William Beckford and his half-sister, Elizabeth Hervey.

WILLIAM BECKFORD		
b. 5, f. 101	<a href="#">Diary: typescript copy (pages numbered 276-280 only)</a>	n. d.
b. 5, f. 102	<i>Italy, with Sketches of Spain and Portugal</i> (excerpt: "Visit to the Escorial"). <i>The Mirror</i>	1834 Sep 27
b. 5, f. 102a	[Notes on the coming of Christ] (authorship uncertain)	1837 Feb 21
b. 5, f. 103	"O Astra. O Coelum": photocopy	1800 Oct
b. 5, f. 104	"Ode" ("Written by Mr. Beckford at the Grand Chartreuse"): holograph (in Beckford's hand?)	n.d.
b. 5, f. 105	<a href="#">"Sir Squashaline" (unpublished poem by Beckford): typescript copy</a>	n.d.
ELIZABETH HERVEY		
b. 5, f. 106-07	<i>Julia</i> (2 copies)	1803

**Series III: Personal Papers, 1735-1844***0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Series III, *Personal Papers*, includes statements of indenture for various members of the Beckford family, a copy of William Beckford's will, and items relating to Fonthill Abbey.

b. 6, f. 108	Deed of sale for land in America: photocopy	1789
b. 6, f. 108a	<a href="#">Drawings by William Beckford: Two landscapes and one sketch of Governor Loo (in pencil and ink)</a>	1836, n.d.
b. 6, f. 108b	<a href="#">Drawing by William Beckford's daughter: Two houses (in pencil on letter addressed to Mr. James Orde)</a>	n.d.
Fonthill Abbey		
b. 6, f. 109	<a href="#">Statement of expenses for work at Fonthill by John Soane</a>	1787-88
b. 6, f. 110	"Lists of Plate. . .Belonging to William Beckford. . .": holograph notebook	1818
b. 6, f. 111	Watercolor sketch of bridge and roadway by James Wyatt (with fragment of note by Beckford on verso)	n.d.
Indentures		
b. 6, f. 112	<a href="#">Bond of William Beckford (1709 - 1770) to Thomas Beckford</a>	1735 Oct 20
b. 6, f. 113	Bond of Bathsua Beckford to Thomas Beckford	1743
b. 6, f. 114	Bond of Francis Beckford to Thomas Beckford EMPTY FOLDER: Material transferred to Oversize boxes: Box 12, folder 268	1749 Aug 24
b. 6, f. 115	Bond of Julius Beckford to Francis Beckford EMPTY FOLDER: Material transferred to Oversize boxes: Box 13, folder 276	1754 Dec 19
b. 6, f. 116	<a href="#">Bond of William Beckford and others to John Balaguier</a>	1756 Mar 30
b. art, f. 116a	<a href="#">William Beckford (1709-1770): Portrait (in oil) by Marcellus Laroon</a>	n.d.
b. 6, f. 117	<a href="#">William Beckford (1760-1844): Last will and testament (photocopy, with typescript)</a>	1844 Oct 1
b. 6, f. 118	Francis Beckford(?): signature	n.d.

**Series IV: Other Papers, 1755-1967***2.21 linear feet (6 boxes)*

Series IV, *Other Papers*, consists primarily of writings about Beckford and his homes, prints and photographs of Fonthill Abbey and Lansdown Tower; correspondence of Beckford collectors James T. Babb and Rowland Burdon-Muller; and a 16mm motion picture film on Beckford with accompanying reel-to-reel soundtrack and documentation.

Box 14: Restricted fragile material (motion picture film and sound recording). Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Account book (unidentified, with information about Beckford's lease of Schodelhan Farm)

[See: Oversize, Box 12, folder 269](#)

Babb Collection		
b. 7, f. 119-20	Inventories	1963-67
b. 7, f. 121	"Want List"	n.d.
Beckford Library: disposition lists		
Barnboughe Castle		
<a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 12, folders 270-71</a>		
b. 7, f. 122	Clements Library: catalogue of Beckford books	n.d.
b. 7, f. 123	Clements Library: sale catalogue	1966
b. 7, f. 124	Gennadius Library: typescript list	n.d.
b. 7, f. 125	Bodleian Library Beckford Desiderata list, <i>Bodleian Quarterly Record</i>	1930
b. 7, f. 126	Biographical sketch	1888
b. 7, f. 127-30	Booksellers' catalogues	1933-53, n.d.
b. 7, f. 131	Booksellers' invoices	1929-48
b. 7, f. 132	Burdon-Muller collection: miscellaneous notes	1933, n.d.
Correspondence: James T. Babb		
b. 7, f. 133-35	Alexander, Boyd	1949-65
b. 7, f. 136	"B" general	1933-60
b. 7, f. 137	Boston Public Library	1956-57
b. 7, f. 138-39	Burdon-Muller, Rowland	1933-66
b. 7, f. 140	"C" general	1933-42
b. 7, f. 141	Chapman, Guy	1933-39
b. 7, f. 142	Clements, Colonel H. T. W.	1957-58

## Correspondence: James T. Babb (continued)

b. 7, f. 143	"E-H" general	1936-61
b. 7, f. 144	Harrowby Manuscript Trust (Earl of Harrowby)	1961
b. 7, f. 145	Hobson, Anthony	1957-59
b. 7, f. 146	Holburne of Menstrie Museum of Art	1966
b. 7, f. 147	"I-M" general	1934-64
b. 7, f. 148	Murphy, Ray Livingston	1939
b. 7, f. 149	Oliver, John W.	1933 Jan 5
b. 7, f. 150	"P-R" general	1937-61
b. 7, f. 151	Rosebery, Eva, Lady	1960-65
b. 7, f. 152	"S" general	1957-66
b. 7, f. 153	Summers, Peter G.	1965-66
b. 7, f. 154	"T-Z" general	1957-60
Correspondence: Rowland Burdon-Muller		
b. 7, f. 155-57	Booksellers' Correspondence	1933-42
Correspondence: Others		
b. 7, f. 158	Bennett, Arnold	1910 Oct 16
b. 7, f. 159	Timbs, John (letter about <i>Vathek</i> )	1959 Jun 30
Exhibitions		
b. 8, f. 160	Holburne Museum (Bath)	1966
b. 8, f. 161	Yale University	1959-60
Fonthill Abbey: Articles and Newspaper Clippings		
b. 8, f. 162	"Fonthill." <i>The Adventurer of the Nineteenth Century</i>	1823 Jun 28
b. 8, f. 163	"Fonthill Abbey." <i>The Mirror of Literature, Amusement, and Instruction</i>	1826 Jan 28
b. 8, f. 164	[Fonthill Abbey]. <i>The Mirror of literature, Amusement, and Instruction</i>	1826 Jul 15
	"Fonthill Abbey and Domain," <i>Evans and Ruffy Farmer's Journal</i> <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 12, folder 272</a>	1822 Oct 21
b. 8, f. 165	"Fonthill Mansion, Wilts, to be sold..." <i>The Courier</i> EMPTY FOLDER: Material transferred to Oversize boxes: Box 13, folder 277	1807 Aug 11
b. 8, f. 166	"Fonthill, Wiltshire" (articles by John Harris and Boyd Alexander). <i>Country Life</i>	1966 Nov-Dec
b. 8, f. 167	"Fonthill, Wiltshire."	n.d.

## Fonthill Abbey: Articles and Newspaper Clippings (continued)

b. 8, f. 168	"Fonthill-Gifford" (topographical dictionary entries)	1837, n.d.
b. 8, f. 169	Garbett-Archt, W. "Remarks on the Architecture of Fonthill Abbey." Holograph (marked "Gents Mag.")	n.d.
b. 8, f. 170	Lewis, Kensington. "Fonthill Abbey--The Topaz Vase." Advertisement to the Editor of <i>The Morning Chronicle</i> (holograph) EMPTY FOLDER: Material transferred to Oversize boxes: Box 12, folder 273	n.d.
b. 8, f. 171	"Magnificent and Valuable Effects, Fonthill to be Sold by Auction...," <i>The Sun</i> EMPTY FOLDER: Material transferred to Oversize boxes: Box 13, folder 278	1801 Jul 27
b. 8, f. 172	Mayhew, Edgar. "A View of Fonthill Abbey." <i>Register of the Museum of Art of the University of Kansas</i>	1957 Dec
	"Sale of the Beckford Collection." <i>The Illustrated London News</i> See: Oversize, Box 12, folder 274	1845
b. 8, f. 173	Storer, James. <i>Description of Fonthill Abbey, Wiltshire.</i>	1812
b. 8, f. 174	"Strange Freaks of a Millionaire." <i>Exeter News-Letter</i> <a href="#">EMPTY FOLDER: Material transferred to Oversize boxes: Box 13, folder 279</a>	1859 Feb 28
b. 8, f. 175	Collection of contemporary notes and published articles on Fonthill and William Beckford, kept by John Britton	n.d.
b. 8, f. 176	<a href="#">Magazine excerpts and descriptive notes on Fonthill Abbey, with partial list of items sold at auction (collected by John Britton?)</a>	1822-23, n.d.
b. 8, f. 177-78	Newspaper clippings	1755-1960
Fonthill Abbey: related material		
b. 8, f. 179	EMPTY FOLDER	
b. 8, f. 180	Description of Fonthill Abbey (by unidentified author). Holograph	n.d.
b. 8, f. 181	"List of Subscribers to Fonthill" (letters copied by John Britton)	[1822?]
b. 8, f. 182	"Plan and Survey of the Estate of William Beckford, Esq..."	[1800?]
b. 8, f. 183	Price list for books at Fonthill Sale (of Fonthill Abbey). Holograph	1780, n.d.
Prints and Photographs		
	"A view at Fonthill Abbey" (with dwarf), (lithograph) <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 13, folder 280</a>	n.d.
b. 9, f. 184	Collection of sketches and descriptions (collected by John Britton?)  Colored engraving (print) by H. R. Havell and Son; drawn by H. Gartineau from sketch by T. Higham See: Oversize, Box 13, folder 280	1823, nd.
b. 9, f. 185	Sketches (reproductions)	1957, n.d.
b. 9, f. 186-87	Photographs	1966

## Fonthill Abbey: related material (continued)

b. 9, f. 188	"Refreshments at Fonthill Abbey." Printed bill of fare	1823
b. 9, f. 189	Tribute dinners at Fonthill. Invitations and menu	1823-24
Genealogy		
b. 9, f. 190	Brief outline of Beckford genealogy	n.d.
b. 9, f. 191	<a href="#">"Succinct Memoirs of the Family of Beckford with Genealogical Tables"</a>	n.d.
b. 9, f. 192-93	"Table Showing the Immediate Paternal Connexion [sic] of William Beckford, Esquire" EMPTY FOLDERS: Material transferred to Oversize boxes: Box 13, folder 281	n.d.
b. 9, f. 194	Miscellaneous	n.d.
Lansdown Tower		
b. 9, f. 195	Lansdown Tower Restoration	1956
b. 9, f. 196	"The Battle of Lansdown." <i>The Athenaeum</i>	1844
b. 9, f. 197-98	Sketches	n.d.
b. 9, f. 199	Photographs	1966
b. 9, f. 200	Slides (with slides of Fonthill Abbey)	1967
	"Lansdown Tower." <i>The Illustrated London News</i> <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 12, folder 275</a>	
Miscellaneous writings		
b. 9, f. 201	"Bath." <i>The Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales</i>	1866
b. 9, f. 202	Carter, John. "Two Beckford Collections." <i>The Colophon</i> (offprint)	1939 Mar
b. 9, f. 203	[Gibbon]. Comments on Edward Gibbon by William Beckford and Virginia Woolf (unknown compiler): typescript	n.d.
b. 9, f. 204	Higginson, Henry. "A Visit to Steepleton House--The Home of Peter Beckford." <i>The Sportsman</i>	1934 Jan
b. 9, f. 205	"John Francis, Publisher of <i>The Athenaeum</i> ." <i>The Athenaeum</i>	n.d.
b. 9, f. 206	<i>The Land We Live In</i> (Part XVIII): <i>Bath</i>	1849
b. 9, f. 207	Stirling, W. "The Cloister Life of Charles V." <i>The Quarterly Review</i>	1852 Dec
b. 9, f. 208	Tomb of William Beckford: holograph description	n.d.
b. 9, f. 209	Tomb of William Beckford (d. 1731), Thomas Beckford, etc.: inscription (holograph copy)	1844
b. 9, f. 210	Watts, Susanna. <i>Tasso's Jerusalem: Proposal, For Publishing by subscription a New Translation of the Gerusalemme Liberata, Dedicated to William Beckford, Esq., of Fonthill</i>	n.d.
b. 9, f. 211-13	Miscellaneous	1930, n.d.

## Prints and photographs

[See also: Box 9, folders 184-87, 197-200](#)

b. 9, f. 214	Beckford, Margaret, Lady (?)	n.d.
b. 9, f. 215-17	<a href="#">Beckford, William (1709-1770)</a>	n.d.
b. 9, f. 218-19	Beckford, William (1760-1844)	n.d.
b. 9, f. 220	Beckford Estate, Jamaica (slides)	1951
b. 9, f. 221	Beckford titles	n.d.
b. 9, f. 221a	Sketch of William Beckford's tomb, Lansdown Cemetery (watercolor by unidentified artist)	1877 Aug 5
<i>Vathek</i>		
b. 10, f. 222	Dehan, Richard. <i>Vathek</i> ("Liberally Adapted from the Romance of William Beckford"): notes	n.d.
b. 10, f. 223	Note on <i>Vathek</i> and Italy	n.d.
b. 10, f. 224-25	" <i>Vathek</i> ." <i>The Athenaeum</i>	1909 Nov 29
b. 10, f. 226	" <i>Vathek</i> : The Henley Papers." <i>The Athenaeum</i>	1909 Dec 25
The Lausanne edition of <i>Vathek</i>		
b. 10, f. 227	Carter, John. "The Lausanne Edition of Beckford's <i>Vathek</i> ": typescript	n.d.
b. 10, f. 228	"Journal de Lausanne." (Transcription of first number: (December 2, 1986): holograph	n.d.
b. 10, f. 229	"Notes copied from manuscripts attached to the copy of Lausanne edition belonging to Monsieur Ch. Ph. Dumont": holograph	n.d.
b. 10, f. 230	"Notes on the Lausanne Edition of <i>Vathek</i> , in reference to the so called Chevannes Copy" (notes by Rowland Burdon-Muller): holograph notebook	n.d.
b. 10, f. 231	Notes on "Journal de Lausanne" and Edouard-Louis Chevannes (by Rowland Burdon-Muller?)	n.d.
William Beckford (1709-1770)		
b. 10, f. 232	Biographical Tribute. Printed broadside	n.d.
b. 10, f. 233-34	United East-India Company enlistment vouchers, signed by William Beckford	1763
b. 10, f. 235	Summons to appear before William Beckford as alderman	1768 Apr 23
b. 10, f. 236	Disposition of Michael Kimerer (signed by Beckford)	1769 Dec 12
b. 10, f. 237	"Instructions Given to Sir Robert Ladbroke, Knt., William Beckford, Esquire, Representations of the City of London: By Their Constituents." Printed broadside	1769 Feb 10



## William Beckford (1709-1770) (continued)

b. 10, f. 238	"To the Memory of William Beckford, Esq., Who Died June 21, 1770, Aged 65." Included in holograph manuscript entitled "Manuscript Poetry" (author unknown)	n.d.
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## William Beckford (1760-1844) (articles)

b. 10, f. 239	Alexander, Boyd. Trumbull Lecture on William Beckford of Fonthill: typescript	n.d.
b. 10, f. 240	Anton, P. "The Author of <i>Vathek</i> : The Story of a Magnificent Idler." <i>The People's Friend</i>	1898 Jan 16-17
b. 10, f. 241	"The Author of <i>Vathek</i> ." <i>Time</i>	1883 Apr
b. 10, f. 242	"The Caliph of Fonthill." <i>The Times Literary Supplement</i> (photocopy)	1932 Nov 3
b. 10, f. 243	"A Critical Study of the Works of William Beckford:" typescript	n.d.
b. 10, f. 244	Jaloux, Edmund. "La jeunesse de William Beckford": holograph manuscript	n.d.
b. 10, f. 245	Lansdown, Henry Venn. "Recollections of the Late William Beckford, Bath...": holograph notebook (with letter from Charlotte Lansdown)	1838
b. 10, f. 246	"The Late William Beckford." <i>The Mirror</i>	1844 May 11
b. 10, f. 247	"The Late William Beckford, Esq." (obituary). <i>The Athenaeum</i>	1844 May 18
b. 10, f. 248	"A Literary Millionaire" (review of <i>Memoirs of William Beckford of Fonthill</i> )	1859 Feb 5
b. 10, f. 249	"Mr. Beckford and Fonthill." <i>Chambers' Edinburgh Journal</i>	1844 Aug
b. 10, f. 250	"Mr. Beckford and Fonthill Abbey." <i>The Mirror</i>	1835 Sep 12
b. 10, f. 251	Moussa-Mahmoud, Fatma. "A Monument to the Author of <i>Vathek</i> ." <i>Études Anglaises</i> (offprint)	n.d.
b. 10, f. 252	Moussa-Mahmoud, Fatma. Review of André Parreux, <i>William Beckford, Auteur de Vathek (1760-1844)</i> <i>Cairo Studies in English</i>	1961-62
b. 10, f. 253	"New Books." Review of Beckford's <i>Recollections of an Excursion to the Monasteries of Alcaba and Batalba</i>	1835 Jul 18
b. 10, f. 254	North, William. "Memoir" of William Beckford for <i>Vathek</i> (London, 1849 edition)	[1849]
b. 10, f. 255	Oliphant, Mrs. "William Beckford and His Sons" (excerpt on the Beckford Library)	1857
Parreux, André. <i>Portugal in the Works of William Beckford</i>		
b. 10, f. 256-57	Typescript	n.d.
b. 11, f. 258	Typescript, bound	n.d.
b. 11, f. 259	Sizer, Theodore. "William Beckford and His American Property." <i>Yale University Library Gazette</i> (offprint)	1964 Jul
b. 11, f. 260	Watson, Francis J. B. "Beckford, Mme. De Pompadour, The Duc de Bouillon, and the Taste for Japanese Lacquer in Eighteenth-Century France"	1963

## William Beckford (1760-1844) (articles) (continued)

b. 11, f. 261	Whibley, Charles. "The Caliph of Fonthill." <i>The New Review</i>	1897 Jan
b. 11, f. 262	"William Beckford, Esq., of Fonthill." <i>The European Magazine and London Review</i>	1797
b. 11, f. 263	"W. Beckford, Esq." (obituary). <i>The Athenaeum</i>	1844 May 11
b. 11, f. 264	"William Beckford and Vathek" (outline of a short article)	n.d.
Newspaper clippings		
Box 14 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.		
b. 11, f. 265	William Beckford	1910-62
b. 11, f. 266	Book reviews	1928-62
b. 11, f. 267	Miscellaneous	1937-67
b. 14, ■■■■ 39002109979063	Beckford film <i>1 Film Reel (8mm) 00:26:24 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The film is accompanied by a soundtrack (two versions one reel-to-reel audio tape, each version on a different track). The film features scenes associated with William Beckford in Bath, England. The film was planned and produced by Andrew Barnett and Alan Scott, students at the Kingswood School in Bath, during the 1966 Bath Festival which was devoted to Beckford.  Accompanied by a typescript description of the film, its scenes, projection and sound synchronization instructions, and distinctions between the two soundtracks; an undated autograph manuscript letter, signed, from Barnett to James T. Babb describing the film; and an autograph manuscript note, unsigned, describing the film.  Box 14: Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1966
b. 14, ■■■■ 39002109979071	Beckford film soundtrack <i>1 Audiotape Reel; 1/4 inch; diameter 5 inches 01:15:09 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program is distorted at times. The program is in silence from about 11:07-20:00. <a href="#">[Aviary] genmss010239002109979071a01.u.mp3</a>  This is a soundtrack (two versions one reel-to-reel audio tape, each version on a different track) that accompanies the 16 mm film. The film features scenes associated with William Beckford in Bath, England. The film was planned and produced by Andrew Barnett and Alan Scott, students at the Kingswood School in Bath, during the 1966 Bath Festival which was devoted to Beckford.  Accompanied by a typescript description of the film, its scenes, projection and sound synchronization instructions, and distinctions between the two soundtracks; an undated autograph manuscript letter, signed, from Barnett to James T. Babb describing the film; and an autograph manuscript note, unsigned, describing the film.  Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1966

**Oversize, 1795-1960**

3.5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Personal Papers		
Indentures		
b. 12, f. 268	<a href="#">Bond of Francis Beckford to Thomas Beckford</a>	1749 Aug 24
Other Papers		
b. 12, f. 269	Account book for South Sea stock, etc. (unidentified, with information about Beckford's lease of Schodelhan Farm)	[1795]
Beckford's Library - disposition lists		
b. 12, f. 270-71	<a href="#">Barnbougle Castle [photocopies]</a>	[1960, n.d.]
Fonthill Abbey: Articles and News Clippings		
b. 12, f. 272	"Fonthill Abbey and Domain," <i>Evans and Ruffly Farmer's Journal</i>	1822 Oct 21
b. 12, f. 273	Lewis, Kensington, "Fonthill Abbey - The Topaz Vase," Advertisement to the Edition of <i>The Morning Chronicle</i> [holograph]	n.d.
b. 12, f. 274	"Sale of the Beckford Collection," <i>The Illustrated London News</i>	1845 Nov 29
b. 12, f. 275	"Lansdown Tower," <i>The Illustrated London News</i>	1845 Nov 22
Personal Papers		
Indentures		
b. 13, f. 276	<a href="#">Bond of Julius Beckford to Francis Beckford</a>	1754 Dec 19
Other Papers		
Fonthill Abbey: Articles and News Clippings		
b. 13, f. 277	"Fonthill Mansion, Wilts, To be Sold...," <i>The Courier</i>	1807 Aug 11
b. 13, f. 278	"Magnificent and Valuable Effects, Fonthill to be Sold by Auction...," <i>The Sun</i>	1801 Jul 27
b. 13, f. 279	"Strange Freaks of a Millionaire," <i>Exeter News Letter</i>	1859 Feb 28
Fonthill Abbey: Related Material		
b. 13, f. 280	"A view at Fonthill Abbey" (with dwarf), (lithograph)	n.d.
b. 13, f. 280	Fonthill Abbey. Colored engraving (print) by R. Havell and Son; drawn by H. Gartineau from sketch by T. Higham	n.d.
Genealogy		
b. 13, f. 281	"Table Showing the Immediate Paternal Connexion [sic] of William Beckford, Esquire" (with explanatory notes [holograph])	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.

### **Subjects**

Architecture, Domestic -- England  
Architecture, Gothic  
Art -- Collectors and collecting  
Authors, English -- 19th century  
Book collectors  
English fiction -- 18th century  
English literature -- 18th century  
Fantasy in literature  
Private libraries -- England  
Travel  
Travelers -- England

### **Geographic Names**

Bath (England) -- History  
England -- Antiquities  
England -- Intellectual life -- 18th century  
Europe -- Description and travel  
Europe -- Description and travel -- Early works  
to 1800  
Lansdown Tower

### **Genres / Formats**

Audiovisual materials  
Motion pictures (visual works)  
Sound recordings

### **Names**

Beckford, William, 1709-1770  
Beckford, William, 1760-1844  
Britton, John, 1771-1857  
Carter, John, 1905-1975  
Cattermole, George, 1800-1868  
Clark, John  
Hamilton, William, Sir, 1730-1803  
Henley, Samuel, 1740-1815  
Wyatt, James, 1746-1813

### **Corporate Body**

Fonthill Abbey