

Guide to the Florence Marryat Collection

GEN MSS 994



by Beinecke Staff

2007-05-16

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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 994

CREATOR: Marryat, Florence, 1833-1899

TITLE: Florence Marryat collection

DATES: 1833-1905

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, literary manuscripts, printed ephemera, photographs, drawings and watercolors, scrapbooks, and other papers documenting the life and career of English author and actress Florence Marryat. Visual materials include a wide selection of portraits of Marryat, and drawings and photographs from her time living in South Asia with her first husband; among those are a watercolor portrait of the martyred Sergeant-Major John Lilley (died while imprisoned in Mhow, 1862). Many of Marryat's correspondents were figures in the British literary and theater communities, including Charles Dickens and George Augustus Sala; a scrapbook of letters holds several portrait photographs of those who wrote to her. Also present is material related to Marryat's father, novelist Frederick Marryat, and some third-party correspondence of the London publisher Richard Bentley (1794-1871) and Florence Marryat's writing partner Herbert McPherson.

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

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.marryat>.

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.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Florence Marryat 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.

Preferred Citation

Florence Marryat Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat MSS 104, Uncat MSS 538, Uncat MS Vault File

Florence Marryat (1833-1899)

Florence Marryat, English author and actress, was born in Brighton on July 9, 1833, the youngest of the eleven children of English naval officer and novelist Frederick Marryat (1792-1848) and his wife Catherine Shairp (1791-1883). She was married twice, first to Thomas Ross Church (1831-1926), with whom she lived in India for six years, and later to Colonel Francis Lean (1832-1902). Marryat published her first novel in 1865 and produced more than seventy-five titles before her death; most of her books were popular romances featuring strong-minded professional women, including teachers, nurses, and actresses, as their heroines. She also edited the monthly periodical *London Society* from 1872 to 1876 and published a two-volume biography of her father (1872). Late in life Marryat took to the stage, appearing in roles she created for herself and giving dramatic readings of works by other authors. She died in London on October 27, 1899.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, literary manuscripts, printed ephemera, photographs, drawings and watercolors, scrapbooks, and other papers documenting the life and career of English author and actress Florence Marryat. Visual materials include a wide selection of portraits of Marryat, and drawings and photographs from her time living in South Asia with her first husband; among those are a watercolor portrait of the martyred Sergeant-Major John Lilley (died while imprisoned in Mhow, 1862). Many of Marryat's correspondents were figures in the British literary and theater communities, including Charles Dickens and George Augustus Sala; a scrapbook of letters holds several portrait photographs of those who wrote to her. Also present is material related to Marryat's father, novelist Frederick Marryat, and some third-party correspondence of the London publisher Richard Bentley (1794-1871) and Florence Marryat's writing partner Herbert McPherson.

Arrangement

Organized into four series: I. Correspondence, 1833-1905. II. Writings, 1837-1898. III. Performances, 1889-1890. IV. Personal Papers, 1858-1902.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1833-1905

13 Folders

The series contains letters sent to Florence Marryat and Frederick Marryat, most of which are housed in a scrapbook at the front of the series.

| | | |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| b. 1, f. 1-4 | Scrapbook of correspondence, photographs, sketches, and ephemera Signatures from a disbound scrapbook containing autograph manuscript letters to Florence and Frederick Marryat from friends, authors, and colleagues including Charles Dickens and George Augustus Sala. Some of the letters were written to London publisher Richard Bentley (1794-1871) and were likely acquired by Marryat for their autograph value. Several of the letters have albumen portrait photographs of the letter writer mounted above the letter. The first folder contains two letters from Marryat to her mother. The letters, photographs, and other material remain mounted on their album pages and are in their original order; the fourth folder contains the front and back covers for the album. | 1833-1891 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Bertolotto, Luigi | 1884 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Dickens, Charles | 1857 Aug 6 |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Kingsford, Ninon | 1875 Oct 13 |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Loring, A. K. | 1884-1867 |
| b. 1, f. 9 | Neville, George | 1880-1881 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Other letters to Florence Marryat | 1859-1897 |
| | Third-party correspondence | |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Barry, Ethel M., to Herbert McPherson | 1904-1905 |
| b. 1, f. 12 | Gladstone, W. Z., to Richard Bentley | 1860 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Marryat, Frederick, to his sister Fanny Marryat Bury Palliser | 1875 |

Series II: Writings, 1837-1898*11 Folders*

Series II contains writings by Florence Marryat, her father Frederick Marryat, and others.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------|
| Writings by Florence Marryat | | |
| b. 1, f. 14 | "The Gamekeeper," by Florence Marryat and Howard McPherson; typescript carbon, in four parts | undated |
| b. 1, f. 15 | "The Gamekeeper"; contract, stage play license, letterhead, program, photographs of Brighton | 1898, undated |
| b. 1, f. 16 | "Love Letters," by George Grossmith and Florence Marryat; autograph manuscript | circa 1880 |
| Writing by Frederick Marryat | | |
| b. 2, f. 17 | "Joseph Rushbrook, or the Poacher"; autograph manuscript draft, incomplete | circa 1837 |
| Other writings | | |
| b. 2, f. 18 | "The Duchess of Montemayor," by Frank Rogers; manuscript | 1874 |
| b. 2, f. 19 | "The Red Phantom"; typescript, corrected, in four parts | undated |
| b. 2, f. 20 | "Tiger Bay"; manuscript | undated |
| b. 2, f. 21-24 | Untitled plays and notes; typescript and manuscripts | 1873, undated |

Series III: Performances, 1889-1890*9 Folders*

Series III contains material related to Florence Marryat's career as a performer. It includes a brochure advertising the programs she created and made available, as well as autograph manuscript and printed texts that she edited, annotated, and used in her dramatic readings.

| | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| b. 2, f. 25 | Advertising brochure | undated |
| b. 2, f. 26 | Program for Joseph A. Cave benefit | 1889 Jul 18 |
| b. 2, f. 27 | Notebook with various excerpts | undated |
| b. 2, f. 28 | Notebook with various excerpts | 1890 |
| b. 3, f. 29 | Excerpts from Wilkie Collins, Robert S. Hichens, and others' writings | undated |
| b. 3, f. 30 | Excerpts from Charles Dickens' writings | undated |
| b. 3, f. 31 | Excerpt from "Love's Conflict" by Florence Marryat | undated |
| b. 3, f. 32 | Excerpts from Frederick Marryat's writings | undated |
| b. 3, f. 33 | Excerpts from William Shakespeare's writings | undated |

Series IV: Personal Papers, 1858-1902*9 Folders*

| | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| b. 3, f. 34 | Biographical essay by Florence Marryat's daughter, published in St. Paul's | 1899 Dec 30 |
| b. 3, f. 35 | Essay on Frederick Marryat's sea novels; author unidentified | undated |
| b. 3, f. 36 | Graphics Contains drawings, photographs, and prints; watercolor images include Wimbledon House in Surrey, an unidentified graveyard, a scene in Singapore, and a portrait of Sergeant-Major John Lilley (died in India on May 26, 1862); graphite landscape drawings of Rangoon and Great Britain; salted paper photographs of Tinnevely (now Tirunelveli), India; and a dried leaf from a "monkey cup" in Bangalore (1858). The drawings are unsigned and undated | 1858, undated |
| b. 3, f. 37 | Portraits of Florence Marryat Includes commercially produced photographs in a variety of formats as well as printed portraits. | 1888, undated |
| b. 3, f. 38 | Portrait photographs of others | 1872, undated |
| b. 3, f. 39 | Printed ephemera | 1880-1896, undated |
| b. 3, f. 40 | School of Literary Art announcement | undated |
| b. 3, f. 41 | Scrapbook Contains clipped reviews of works by Florence Marryat and others, with three autograph letters, signed, from fans, and two poems in French by Emile de la Roche in honor of Florence Marryat. | 1865-1868 |
| b. 3, f. 42 | Will, funeral invitation, and letters to executor Herbert McPherson | 1896-1902 |

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

Authors, English -- 19th century
English literature -- 19th century

Geographic Names

Rangoon (Burma) -- Pictorial works
Singapore -- Pictorial works
Tirunelveli (India) -- Pictorial works

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works) -- Great Britain -- 19th century
Photographs -- Great Britain -- 19th century
Scrapbooks -- Great Britain -- 19th century
Scripts (documents) -- Great Britain -- 19th century
Watercolors (paintings) -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Occupations

Authors -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Names

Bentley, Richard, 1794-1871
Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870
Lilley, John, -1862 -- Portraits
Marryat, Florence, 1833-1899
Marryat, Florence, 1833-1899 -- Portraits
Marryat, Frederick, 1792-1848
McPherson, Herbert
Sala, George Augustus, 1828-1895

Contributors

Marryat, Florence, 1833-1899
Marryat, Frederick, 1792-1848