Summary

Creator: Lamb, Charles, 1775-1834

Title: Charles Lamb collection of papers

Date: 1797-1934 [bulk 1797-1836]

Size: 118 items

Source: This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, eleven undated commonplace books, an album dating from 1831 to 1843, financial documents, and pictorial works.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature.


Language of the Material: Some correspondence in Latin

Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

Creator History

Charles Lamb was an English poet, essayist, playwright, journalist, and literary critic.

Custodial History

Previous owners include J. Eglington Bailey, Augustine Birrell, Cortlandt Bishop, W. K. Bixby, John L. Clawson, Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, Frank J. Hogan, W. T. H. Howe, Frederick Locker Lampson, John
Howard Payne, Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd, Roderick Terry, and Owen D. Young.

Scope and Content Note

This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, eleven undated commonplace books, an album dating from 1831 to 1843, financial documents, and pictorial works. The manuscripts include poems, portions of plays, notes, essays, and reviews in holograph, as well as manuscripts of essays and poems relating to the author by Thomas De Quincey, George A. Sala, Walter Wilson, William Wordsworth, and others. The correspondence includes letters by the author, dating from 1797 to [1834], to Thomas Allsop, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Hone, Leigh Hunt, Edward Moxon, Robert Southey, and others. Also present are letters relating to the author, dating from 1798 to circa 1818, between various correspondents including Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Mary Lamb, John May, Robert Southey, and others.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Albums
Commonplace books
Correspondence

Names
Lamb, Charles, 1775-1834
Allsop, Thomas, 1795-1880
Bailey, J. Eglington
Birrell, Augustine, 1850-1933
Bishop, Cortlandt F. (Cortlandt Field), 1870-1935
Bixby, William K. (William Keeney), 1857-1931
Clawson, John L. (John Lewis), 1865-1933
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor, 1772-1834
De Quincey, Thomas, 1785-1859
Hazlitt, Sarah Stoddart
Hogan, Francis Joseph, 1877-1944
Hone, William, 1780-1842
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Hunt, Leigh, 1784-1859
Lamb, Mary, 1764-1847
Locker-Lampson, Frederick, 1821-1895
May, John, 1748-1812
Moxon, Edward, 1801-1858
Payne, John Howard, 1791-1852
Sala, George Augustus, 1828-1895
Southey, Robert, 1774-1843
Talfourd, Thomas Noon, 1795-1854
Terry, Roderick T., 1849-1933
Wilson, Walter, 1781-1847
Wordsworth, William, 1770-1850
Young, Owen D., 1874-
Container List

Manuscripts

Oversize (+)(Lamb, C.)

Cressell, Mrs. Daniel. Album of watercolor drawings, pencil sketches, and ms. poems, including 2 poems in Charles Lamb’s hand: one by him and one by Mary Lamb, and 2 poems by Lamb copied in an unknown hand

1831 - 1843 (1 v) (1 v)

Presented to Mrs. Cresswell by her brother, Edward; Y.

Commonplace Books

Cased

Commonplace book, Holograph n.d. (1 v) (1 v)

Frederick Locker, W. K. Bixby bookplates; Y.

Cased


With William Hazlitt’s ms. notes of speeches in the House of Commons. Ms. note on fly-leaf: “This book belonged to Charles Lamb, Mary Lamb, Mrs. Sarah Stoddart Hazlitt, Mr. William Hazlitt, John Payne Collier, [and] Harry B. Smith” S. Stoddart name label; Y.

Cased

Taylor, John [1781-1864]. Holograph commonplace books. Vol. 2 wanting. Written in dummy copies of Taylor and Hessey, publishers Literary diary, 1811. Entries cover up to ca. 1833. Includes list of contributors to the London magazine, including C. Lamb n.d. (9 v) (9 v)

Manuscripts written by Lamb

Oversize (+)

Acrostics to Josepha Maria and Louisa Clare Williams. Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

On verso: Moxon, Emma Isola. Incomplete AL to [Mrs. Grace Joanna Williams] April 7, [1830]. Cecil Turner, Howe

Oversize (+) In:

Upcott, William.

Reliques of my contemporaries. 1833 [album, v. 1, p. 33]

Manuscript box

Black in an album, A. Holograph poem. Written for Emma Isola n.d. (1 p) (1 p)

Signed

Manuscript box

"Chorus to the Tabernacle hymn 'The bridegroom's invitation to the worst of sinners,'" Holograph. Addressed to "Mr. Low" 1832 May (1 p) (1 p)

Accompanied his: ALS to Charles Ryle, postmarked March 19, 1832

Cased

"Chusing a name" Holograph poem 1809 Apr. 4 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)

Also 3 holograph poems: "Breakfast," "Chusing a profession," and "Summer friends," by Mary Lamb. 2 l. On first, third, and last pages, an ALS from Robert Lloyd to his wife. H.

Oversize (+)

Dramatic fragment. Holograph of passage from "John Woodvil" n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

With note on verso signed C. L.; H.

Inserted in his:


Essays of Elia, Holograph list of full names of characters in the.

Designated in the printed text by initials only n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
Manuscripts written by Lamb (cont.)

Oversize (+). On p. 1 of: Lamb, Charles. ALS to Miss Maria Fryer, 1831

Love will come. Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Oversize (+)

[Notes on the poems of George Wither written to John Mathew Gutch]
Holograph n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Roderick Terry bookplate; H.

Oversize (+)

Old benchers of the Inner Temple, The. Holograph n.d. (5 leaves) (5 leaves)
Signed "Elia"; H.

Oversize (+)

On Leonardo da Vinci’s "Virgin of the rocks." Holograph n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Ms. note on mount: From the personal album of John Howard Payne; H.

Manuscript box

"One dip" and "What is an album?" Holograph poems n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box

[Popular fallacies. Chapter] 8. That verbal allusions are not wit, because they will not bear a translation. Holograph n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Y.

Manuscript box


Manuscript box

J. Eglington Bailey; Y.

Manuscript box

"Table talk, or, Original essays. By William Hazlitt." Holograph review of the first volume 1821? (20 p) (20 p)
Y.

Oversize (+)

[Thoughts on a present of game: the last ten lines of the essay] Holograph 1833 Nov. 30 (1 item) (1 item)
Signed "Elia"; Y.

Cased

To Margaret W-----. Holograph 1834 Oct. 8 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased

To Miss Gray, or Grey, at Mrs. Gisbon’s school, Enfield. Holograph 1830 (1 p) (1 p)
Roderick Terry bookplate; H.

Manuscript box

To my friend, The Indicator. Holograph poem to Leigh Hunt n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed with ****; Y.

Manuscript box

"What is an album.” Holograph poem n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
On same page with his holograph poem "One dip"

Manuscripts relating to Lamb

(Lamb)

Coleridge, Hartley. [Sonnets II and XI (first two lines cut away) of his Poems, 1833] Ms. copy in Charles Lamb’s hand n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
H.

Manuscript box

De Quincey, Thomas. [Charles Lamb] Holograph beginning, "[But these, you tell me] allow of no such thing," of portion of a paragraph near the end of the essay n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased

De Quincey, Thomas. [Charles Lamb's criticism was always delicate...]
Holograph (incomplete) n.d. (2 p) (2 p)
H.

Manuscript box

De Quincey, Thomas. "In reviewing the life of Lamb." Holograph fragment of essay n.d. (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Guide to the
Charles Lamb collection of papers

Manuscripts (cont.)
Manuscripts relating to Lamb (cont.)

Cased
[Dyer, George] Memoir of Mr. Charles Lamb. Extracted from the Gentleman’s magazine for March, 1835 1835? (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box
Signed "Agnus cordus"; Signed ms. note at end in S. T. Coleridge's hand: "Composed and written by my friend Charles Lamb"; Y.

Manuscript box
Inserted: ALS to Mr. Payne. [n.d.] 1 p.; Y.

Oversize
Signed with initials. H.

Manuscript box
Wordsworth, William. [Written after the death of Charles Lamb] 97 lines beginning with "O he was good, if ere a good man lived!" Holograph 1836 Jan. 14 (2 p) (2 p)
Sent to Sir Thomas Noon Talfourd; Y.

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Oversize (+)
Ainsworth, William Harrison. ALS to 1823 Dec.] 29 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
In case with his: The old benchers of the Inner Temple. Holograph

Manuscript box
Allsop, [Thomas]. ANS to . Mutilated 1820 Feb. 15 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box
Allsop, Thomas. ANS to 1820 Nov. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box
[Allsop], [Thomas]. ALS to 1823 Sept. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Cased
Allsop, Thomas. ALS to 1825 Sept. 24 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box
Allsop, Thomas. ALS to 1829 Jan. 28 (1 p) (1 p)

Cased
Asbury, Dr. Jacob Vale. ALS to 1830 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.

Oversize (+)
Ayrton, William. ALS to 1815 Oct. [14 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Oversize (+)
Ayrton, William. ALS to. In verse [1817] May 12 (3 p) (3 p)
H.

Cased
Ayrton, William. ALS to 1825 Oct. [37 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased
[Baldwin, R. or John Taylor]. ALS to 1821 May 22 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box
Cary, Francis. ALS to 1833 Dec. 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box
[Cary], [Rev. H. F.]. ALS to. Mutilated 1828 June 10 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
Y.

Manuscript box
Cary, Rev. H. F. AL to. In Charles Lamb’s hand 1834 Sept. 12 (1 p) (1 p)
Signed C[harles] and M[ary] Lamb Y.

Oversize (+)
Clarke, Charles Cowden. ANS to 1828? May (1 p) (1 p)
With his: [Notes on the poems of George Wither] Holograph
Guide to the
Charles Lamb collection of papers

Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Cased
[Clarke], [Charles Cowden]. ALS to 1828 Oct. (1 p) (1 p)
Signed with initials CL and ML. H.

Manuscript box
[Clarke], [Charles Cowden]. ALS to 1832 Apr. 14 (1 p) (1 p)
With suggestions for textual alterations for Clarke’s Tales from Chaucer; ms. note by Clarke
*Charles Lamb’s writing. C. C. C.*; H.

Manuscript box
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to 1797 Jan. 2 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Y.

Oversize (+)
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to. In Latin 1802 Oct. 5(? (3 p) (3 p)
Y.

Cased
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to 1821 May 1 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Oversize (+)
Dilke, Charles W. ALS to. Relates to the death of Joseph S. Munden 1832
Feb. 9 (3 p) (3 p)
Frank J. Hogan bookplate; B.

Cased
Dilke, Charles Wentworth. ALS to 1833 May 13 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased
Dodwell, Henry. ALS to 1816 July (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.

Cased
Dodwell, Henry. ALS to 1827 Oct. 7 (3 p) (3 p)
H.

Cased
Dyer, George. ALS to [1828] Apr. 29 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Oversize (+)
Elton, Sir Charles Abraham. AL to 1829? Aug. 17 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Signature removed. H.

Oversize (+)
Fryer, Miss Maria. ALS to 1831 (2 p) (2 p)
With a poem, “Love will come” on the first page. H.

Cased
Gillman, James. ALS to 1821 May 2 (1 p) (1 p)
In case with: Lamb, C. ALS to Samuel Taylor Coleridge. May 1, 1821. 1 p.; H.

Cased
Gillman, James. ALS to 1830? (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box
Godwin, [William]. ALS to 1817 Dec. 10 (1 p) (1 p)
Cortlandt Bishop; Howe

Cased
Hazlitt, William. ALS to 1820 Sept. 2? (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box
Hessey, [James, of Taylor and Hessey]. ALS to 1825 Feb. 17 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box
Hessey, [James]. ALS to 1825 Mar. 30 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box
H[essey], [James]. ALS to 1825 Apr. 1 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Cased
Hone, William. ALS to 1825 Aug. 12 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box
[Hone], [William]. ALS to 1827 June (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Cased
Hone, William. ALS to 1827 Oct. 6 (3 p) (3 p)
H.
Guide to the
Charles Lamb collection of papers

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box

Hone, William. ANS to 1828 May 2 (1 p) (1 p)
Unsigned ms. note: "Given me by Edward Moxon," with ms. note signed J. R. R. above it stating that he bought the letter from Alexander Ireland to whom it was given by E. Moxon; Y.

Manuscript box

Hone, William. ALS to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Cased

Hood, Thomas. ALS to 1824 Aug. 10 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Y.

Inserted in:

Reynolds, Mrs. Mrs. Leslie and her grandchildren. London, 1827

Manuscript box

Hood, [Thomas]. Photographic reproduction of an AL to n.d. (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased

Hunt, Leigh. ALS to 1826 May 4 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased

Hunt, Leigh. ALS to 1827 Dec. 11? (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box

Isola, Harriet. ALS to. Entitled "To H. I. for her birthday, 14 Feb.y." In verse. Mutilated 1833 Feb. 11 (1 p) (1 p)
Unsigned ms. note: "Presented to S. Davey by "Miss Isola" to whom these lines here addressed; 'Y.

Oversize (+)

Kenny [sic], James and Louisa. ALS to 1816 Oct. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.

Cased

Kenny [sic], Mrs. [James]. ALS to 1822 Sept. 11 (3 p) (3 p)
With note to Sophia [Holcroft Kenney] on p. 3. B.

Manuscript box

Kenny [sic], [James]. ALS to 1823? Sept. (3 p) (3 p)
Y.

Manuscript box

Lloyd, Jr., Mrs. C[harles]. ALS to 1818 July 20 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased

Lloyd, Robert. ALS to 1801? Apr. (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.

Cased

Manning, Thomas. ALS to 1825 Jan. 26? (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box

Morgan, Mrs. ANS to 1826 Jan. 19 (1 p) (1 p)

Manuscript box

Moxon, [Edward]. AL to 1833 Jan.] or [1833 Feb. (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box

[Moxon], [Edward]. ANS to 1833 Sept. 26? (1 item) (1 item)
Written at the end of a galley proof of Lamb’s poem "To a friend on his marriage"; Y.

Manuscript box

Moxon, Edward. ALS to 1833 Dec. 31 (1 p) (1 p)
Frederick Locker Lampson; Augustine Birrell; Howe

Cased

Novello, Mrs. Vincent. ALS to 1829 May (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased

Ollier, Charles. ALS to [1824] Jan. 13 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box

[Ollier], [Charles]. ALS to 1826 Mar. 16 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
Correspondence (cont.)
Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

Manuscript box  Ryle, Charles. ALS to 1832 Mar. 19 (1 p) (1 p)
Accompanied by “Chorus to the Tabernacle hymn ‘The bridegroom’s invitation to the worst of sinners,’” Holograph, May 1832, addressed to “Mr. Low,” 1 p.; ALS from Sylvia Strutt to Walter T. Spencer, Dec. 18, 1924, 1 l.; Y.

Manuscript box  Southey, Robert. ALS to 1798 Nov. 3 (3 p) (3 p)
Y.

Manuscript box  Southey, Robert. ALS to 1799 Apr. 20 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)
With extract from “The witch” H.

Manuscript box  Southey, Robert. ALS to 1804 Nov. 7 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box  [Taylor and Hessey], ALS to. Mutilated 1823 Apr. 15 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box  Taylor, John. ALS to 1821 July 21 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Cased  Taylor, John. ALS to 1821 July 25? (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased  Taylor [?], John. ALS to 1822[?] Sept. 23 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Cased  Watts, Alaric Alexander. ALS to 1824 Dec. 28 (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Oversize (+)  Wilson, Walter. 2 ALS to 1823 Feb. 24, 1829 Nov. 15 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
Engraved portrait laid in. John L. Clawson bookplate; Y.

Related Correspondence

Cased  Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. ALS to J[ohn] H[ookham] Frere. Relates to Charles Lamb 1816 July 16 (2 leaves) (2 leaves)
H.

Manuscript box  Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. AL to Joseph Henry Green. Mentions Charles Lamb and William Wordsworth ca. 1818 (1 leaf) (1 leaf)

Oversize (+)  Lamb, Mary. ALS to Mrs. Thomas Clarkson 1808 [Dec. 10 (3 p) (3 p)
With note by Charles Lamb H.

Cased  Southey, Robert. 2 ALS to John May. Relates to Charles Lamb. One letter endorsed as received Dec. 31, 1798 1798 June 15 (3 p. each) (3 p. each)
Y.

Financial Documents

Manuscript box (Lucas, E. V.)  Streeter, C. H. Holograph bill, rendered Edward Verrall Lucas for the caretaking of Charles Lamb's grave from Nov. 1, 1934-Oct. 31, 1935 1934 Nov. (1 item) (1 item)
H.

Pictorial Works

Oversize (+)  Brock, C. E. Original sketch for Charles Lamb's A dissertation upon roast pig 1899 (1 item) (1 item)
In case with: Lamb, Charles. A dissertation upon roast pig. Dublin, 1889