



A GUIDE TO THE

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT

MANUSCRIPT MATERIAL

IN THE PFORZHEIMER COLLECTION.

COMPILED BY

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AND

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The New York Public Library

THE CARL H. PFORZHEIMER COLLECTION OF SHELLEY AND HIS CIRCLE

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Cover illustration: closing and signature from letter to Amelia Alderson (MW 0007).

Identification	Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), English writer and proto-feminist philosopher.
Associated NYPL catalog record	Mary Wollstonecraft manuscript material
Size	48 items
Date range	1773-1797
Preferred citation	The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle – The New York Public Library – Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.
Access	Access is granted by Pforzheimer Collection staff.

Pforzheimer Collection and Shelley and his Circle

The Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle is one of the world's leading repositories for the study of British Romanticism. Comprising over 20,000 items, the collection is conceptually centered on the life and works of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his friends, relatives, and contemporaries. Formerly a part of the much larger and now dispersed Pforzheimer Library, the Pforzheimer Collection came to The New York Public Library in 1986.

Many of the manuscripts listed in this guide have been included in *Shelley and his Circle, 1773-1822*, a multi-volume publication that presents selected manuscripts from the Pforzheimer Collection. *Shelley and his Circle* provides extensive descriptions of the manuscripts, along with commentary, textual analysis, and some facsimile reproductions.

Holdings and provenance

This guide lists and describes the manuscript materials created by Mary Wollstonecraft and held by the Pforzheimer Collection. These items have been acquired throughout the history of the collection, and are kept at the New York Public Library.

The first Mary Wollstonecraft manuscripts added to the collection were letters acquired by the first Carl Pforzheimer in the 1920's: the letter to Joseph Johnson regarding money owed her; the letter to Mary Hays accompanying a lent book; and the letter to Maria Reveley, inviting her for dinner. Further acquisitions led to an accumulation of nine items in Wollstonecraft's hand by the time of Carl H. Pforzheimer's death in 1957. In the following years, under the auspices of the Pforzheimer Library, the collection acquired over 35 more Wollstonecraft manuscripts, including a number of letters to Mary Hays, her fellow writer and friend. Since the collection's move to The New York Public Library in 1986, three Wollstonecraft manuscripts have been accessioned.

Related materials

In addition to manuscripts by Mary Wollstonecraft, the Pforzheimer Collection holds hundreds of manuscripts by her husband, William Godwin; her daughter, Mary Shelley; and many friends and colleagues. Also held are early editions of her published works, including a first edition of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* with the ownership signature of Mary Hays. Wollstonecraft-related visual materials held include an oil portrait by John Keenan, commissioned by Aaron Burr, copied after John Opie's original, as well as several early engraved portraits.

Also held is a letter formerly attributed to Wollstonecraft, addressed to William Godwin, which was included in both Wardle's and Todd's editions, as copied from a transcript. The identity of the writer is not known.¹

Additional Wollstonecraft manuscript material is held by the NYPL's Berg Collection. See the appendix of this guide for an account of the Berg's holdings.

Arrangement

This guide considers the Mary Wollstonecraft manuscript material in two series: Series I, Writings; Series II, Correspondence. Items treated in *Shelley and his Circle* or in Janet Todd's *Collected Letters of Mary Wollstonecraft* are noted with reference.

Scope and content

The Mary Wollstonecraft manuscript material in the Pforzheimer Collection consists of writings and correspondence. The writings include a holograph fragment of her essay, "On Poetry," and a holograph review of Karl Gottlieb Cramer's gothic novel, *Albert de Nordenschild*. The bulk of the correspondence is dated between 1787 and 1797 and discusses her personal life and her published works during the last decade of her life. Correspondents include: Catherine Macaulay, the historian; Mary Hays, the novelist; Joseph Johnson, her publisher; and over a half dozen others.

¹ Pforzheimer Manuscript (G'ANA 0042) : [watermark = 1795] : begins, "Unwilling to suffer the original which I have transcribed on the opposite side of the sheet to quit my own custody from a fear that if superfluous I am not inclined to consider as culpable ..."; Wardle no. 318, Todd no. 326.

Series I: Writings

LOCATION	ITEM	REFERENCES
<i>SC File</i>	· Holograph review of <i>Albert de Nordenschild</i> : Aug-Sep 1796 : (MW 0005) : a working draft of the piece published in the October 1796 issue of <i>The Analytical Review</i> ; begins, “A An interesting warmth of imagination, and truth and passion, appears in this translation from the German ...”	<i>SC 15</i> : v. 1, p. 152
<i>SC File</i>	· Holograph essay (fragment), “On Poetry” : Apr 1797 : (MW 0004) : title and some punctuation in the hand of William Godwin; begins, “A taste for rural scenes, in the present state of society, appears to be very often an artificial sentiment, rather inspired by poetry and romances ...”	<i>SC 19</i> : v. 1, p. 175

Series II: Correspondence

LOCATION	ITEM	REFERENCES
	· To Amelia Alderson (later Opie), novelist and poet :	
<i>Oversized bound mss.</i>	- 1 autograph letter signed : “Tuesday night” [ca. 11 Apr 1797] : (MW 0007) : [from London] : begins, “Endeavouring, through embarrassment, to turn the conversation from myself last night, I insensibly became too severe in my strictures on the vanity of a certain lady ...”	<i>Todd no. 321</i>
	· To Jane Arden (later Gardiner), governess and teacher ² :	
<i>SC File</i>	- 1 letter (copy) : “Sunday afternoon 4 o’Clock” [ca. ?1-20 May 1773] : (MW 0012) : [from Beverley] : including a copy of an anonymous poem, “Sweet Beverley”; letter begins, “According to my promise I sit down to write to you ...”	<i>SC 178 : v. 2, p. 944</i> <i>Todd no. 1</i>
<i>SC File</i>	- 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?20 May-3 Jun 1773] : (MW 0013) : [from Beverley] : including a copy of poem by “Dr Drake”; letter begins, “As I think ingratitude worse than impertinence ...”	<i>SC 179 : v. 2, p. 948</i> <i>Todd no. 2</i>
<i>SC File</i>	- 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?4 Jun-31 Jul 1773] : (MW 0014) : [from Beverley] : including a copy of poem by “Mr Rudd”; letter begins, “I have just read your account of the oddest mortal ...”	<i>SC 180 : v. 2, p. 951</i> <i>Todd no. 3</i>
<i>SC File</i>	- 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?4 Jun 1773-16 Nov 1774] : (MW 0015) : [from Beverley] : begins, “Miss A.— Your behavior at Miss J—’s hurt me extremely ...”	<i>SC 181 : v. 2, p. 954</i> <i>Todd no. 4</i>
<i>SC File</i>	- 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?4 Jun 1773-16 Nov 1774] : (MW 0016) : [from Beverley] : begins, “Miss Arden.— Before I begin I beg pardon for the freedom of my style....”	<i>SC 182 : v. 2, p. 955</i> <i>Todd no. 5</i>
<i>SC File</i>	- 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?4 Jun 1773-16 Nov 1774] : (MW 0017) : [from Beverley] : begins, “Dear Jenny, I have read some	<i>SC 183 : v. 2, p. 956</i> <i>Todd no. 6</i>

² All letters to Jane Arden are copied into a single copybook.

where that vulgar minds will never own ...”

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| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) : “November 16 th 1774.” : [from Beverley] : third person; including a copy of letter from “Dr Clegg”; letter begins, “Miss Wollstonecraft presents her compliments to Miss J- A.— the book which she would recommend...” | <i>SC 184 : v. 2, p. 958
Todd no. 7</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?May-Jun 1778] : (MW 0019) : [from Bath] : begins, “You will, my dear girl, be as much surprised at receiving a letter from me ...” [Todd dates as ?mid 1779] | <i>SC 185 : v. 2, p. 963
Todd no. 8</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?May-Jun 1778] : (MW 0020) : [from Bath] : begins, “I am happy, my dear girl, to find by your letter that you are so agreeably situated...” [Todd dates as ?early 1780] | <i>SC 186 : v. 2, p. 964
Todd no. 10</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) ³ : “October 17 th [1778] : (MW 0021) : [from Bath] : begins, “It is so long since I received your letter—that I am half ashamed to acknowledge the receipt of it ...” [Todd dates as 1780] | <i>SC 187 : v. 2, p. 967
Todd no. 11</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?20 Dec 1778 - 5 Jan 1779] : (MW 0022) : [from Bath] : begins, “I am happy, my dear girl, to hear from you and should sooner have acknowledged the receipt of your friendly Epistle ...” [Todd dates as ?Christmas 1779] | <i>SC 188 : v. 2, p. 970
Todd no. 9</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?Apr-Jun 1780] : (MW 0023) : [from Windsor] : begins, “Such a variety of things have taken up my attention ...” [Todd dates as ?Apr 1781] | <i>SC 189 : v. 2, p. 975
Todd no. 12</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?Jun-Aug 1780] : (MW 0024) : [from Windsor] : begins, “Here I am, quite alone....” [Todd dates as ?late summer 1781] | <i>SC 190 : v. 2, p. 977
Todd no. 14</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?Jan-May 1781] : (MW 0025) : from Mr. Bloods, Walham Green, Fulham, Middlesex : begins, “I should be quite ashamed, my dear Jane to own that I received your obliging letter some months ago ...” [Todd dates as mid-late 1782] | <i>SC 191 : v. 2, p. 981
Todd no. 15</i> |

³ Of the fifteen letters in the copybook, only the original of this letter is known to exist. It can be found in the Abinger Collection, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford.

- SC File* - 1 letter (copy) : [ca. ?20 Oct 1782-6 Jan 1783] : (MW 0026) : [from Walham Green] : begins, "I congratulate you, my dear Jane, on account of your Sister's wedding ..."
- SC 192 : v. 2, p. 983
Todd no. 16*
- To **Ruth Barlow**, wife of poet and diplomat Joel Barlow :
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter signed : [ca. 1-14 Feb 1793] : (MW 0028) : from Rue Meslée, Paris : begins, "I can scarcely tell you how much I was gratified by your kind letter ..."
- SC 359 : v. 4, p. 862
Todd no. 121*
- To **George Dyson**, translator and painter :
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter signed : "Tuesday Morning" [ca. ?Dec 1795 - 29 Mar 1797] : (MW 0011) : [from London] : begins, "I received your note at the peep of dawn ..."
- SC 013 : v. 1, p. 141
Todd no. 282*
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter signed : [28 Apr 1797] : (MW 0029) : Polygon N° 29 [Somers Town] : begins, "Mr. Godwin, my dear Sir, would fain persuade me that I was rude ..."
- SC 361 : v. 2, p. 885
Todd no. 324*
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter unsigned : "Monday Morning" [ca. ?15 May 1797] : (MW 0030) : N° 29 Polygon, Somers Town : begins, "I have been reading your remarks and I find them a little discouraging...."
- SC 362 : v. 2, p. 887
Todd no. 325*
- To the **Rev. Henry Dyson Gabell**, headmaster of Winchester College :
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter signed : "Friday morning, two O'clock" [ca. ?9 Feb - 15 Apr 1787] : (MW 0031) : [from Dublin] : begins, "I thought it would be uncivil to send the promised little book without a line ..."
- SC 355 : v. 4, p. 856
Todd no. 50*
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter signed : 16 Apr [1787] : (MW 0034) : from Dublin : begins, "The evening I received your letter I intended answering it; but was prevented ..."
- SC 356 : v. 4, p. 856
Todd no. 58*
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter signed : 13 Sep [1787] : (MW 0032) : from Henley : begins, "It is a long time since I wrote to you ; but I think you would excuse me did you guess how many cares harass my mind ..."
- SC 357 : v. 4, p. 859
Todd no. 64*
- SC File* - 1 autograph letter signed : [9-19 Oct 1787] : (MW 0033) : from London : begins, "I have received both your letters,
- SC 358 : v. 4, p. 861
Todd no. 66*

and would wish to write many things in answer to them;
but an ugly giddiness in my head ..."

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| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter unsigned : [ca. ?16 May 1797] : (MW 0049) : [from London] : | <i>Todd no. 326</i> |
| · To Mary Hays, novelist : | | | |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : 11 Aug [1792] : (MW 0037) : from Store Street, Bedford Square [London] : begins, "Intending to call upon you I put off answering your letter from time to time ..." | <i>Todd no. 109</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : 25 Nov 1792 : (MW 0035) : from Store Street, [postscript from] St Paul's [London] : begins, "I yesterday mentioned to Mr Johnson your request and he assented ..." | <i>Todd no. 115</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : "Saturday morning" [ca. late 1792] : (MW 0046) : from Stone Street [London] : begins, "I have just cast my eye over your sensible little pamphlet ..." | <i>Todd no. 116</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : "Saturday evening" [ca. late 1795] : (MW 0036) : [from London] : begins, "I have promised to dine with Mr. Johnson to morrow, and he requested me to invite you. ..." | <i>Todd no. 215</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : "Sunday morning" [1796] : (MW 0044) : [from London] : begins, "Pray do not make any more allusion to painful feelings ..." | <i>Todd no. 223</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : [15 Sep 1796] : (MW 0002) : [from London] : begins, "I send you the fourth volume of T-S. there are but six ..." | <i>SC 16 : v. 1, p. 158</i>
<i>Todd no. 249</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : [20 Sep 1796] : (MW 0042) : [from London] : begins, "If this letter should not be forwarded, pray request ..." | <i>Todd no. 253</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : "Wednesday morning" [ca. 26 Oct 1796] : (MW 0045) : [from London] : begins, "I have | <i>Todd no. 262</i> |

not received a letter from M^{rs}. Cotton ...”

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| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : “Monday morning” [ca. Nov 1796] : (MW 0040) : [from London] : begins, “My Good friend, not receiving a line with the book ...” | <i>Todd no. 269</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : [14 Dec 1796] : (MW 0038) : [from London] : begins, “Mary telling me that you could not decide ...” | <i>Todd no. 280</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph note signed : [ca. Jan 1797] : (MW 0043) : [from London] : begins, “I have sent you the Gossips Story to review, as you wish to read it ...” | <i>Todd no. 296</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : [15 Dec 1797] : (MW 0039): [from London] : begins, “My Sister’s cold has been so troublesome ...” | <i>Todd no. 305</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : “Friday morning” [ca. early 1797] : (MW 0041) : [from London] : begins, “I have now to request you, <u>as a particular favour</u> , to thank ...” | <i>Todd no. 310</i> |

· To **Joseph Johnson**, publisher :

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| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : 5 Dec [1786] : (MW 0009) : from Mitchelstown [Ireland] : begins, “When I had the pleasure of seeing you, if I mistake not, you mentioned to me that M ^{rs} Barbauld intended undertaking a new plan of education ...” | <i>SC 4 : vol. 1, p. 66
Todd no. 45</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : 2 May 1793 : (MW 0001) : from Paris : begins, “On demand pay to Mess ^r Turnbull, Forbes and C ^o Thirty pounds Sterling for value which I have received here of M ^r Christie ...” | <i>SC 9 : vol. 1, p. 121
Todd no. 122</i> |
| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph note signed : 13 Jul 1793 : (MW 0003) : from Paris : begins, “Please pay to M ^r Thomas Christie, or order, twenty pounds for value received by me ...” | <i>SC 10 : vol. 1, p. 127
Todd no. 127</i> |

· To **Catherine Macaulay**, historian and political polemicist :

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| <i>SC File</i> | - | 1 autograph letter signed : “Thursday Morning” [ca. Dec 1790] : (MW 0047) : [from London] : including Macaulay’s response copied on third page of the double sheet; begins, “Now I venture to send you [<i>words excised</i>] with | <i>SC 767 : vol. 9, p. 1
Todd no. 99</i> |
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a name utterly unknown to you in the title page ...”
Macaulay's reply is copied in a different hand on the second sheet.

- To **James Marshall**, copy editor, indexer, and translator (friend of Godwin) :

<i>SC File</i>	-	1 autograph letter signed : “Monday Morning” [ca. ?21 Aug 1797] : (MW 0048) : [from London] : begins, “I thank you for your kind enquiries; I am very well, only a little impatient to regain my activity ...”	<i>SC 768 : vol. 9, p. 24 Todd no. 351</i>
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- To **Maria Reveley** (later Gisborne), of the Godwin circle :

<i>SC File</i>	-	1 autograph letter signed : [26 Jun 1797] : (MW 0008) : [from London] : begins, “Will you, my dear Mrs Reveley, dine with us next Wednesday, to meet the same party ...”	<i>SC 20 : vol. 1, p. 179 Todd no. 334</i>
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- To **Mary Robinson**, author and actress :

<i>SC File</i>	-	1 autograph letter signed : “Friday evening, or rather night” [ca. 15 Apr 1796 - 29 Mar 1797] : (MW 0027) : [from London] : begins, “I believe it is scarcely necessary to inform you that Miss Hays will accept your invitation ...”	<i>SC 360 : vol. 4, p. 877 Todd no. 285</i>
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- To **Everina Wollstonecraft** (her sister) :

<i>SC File</i>	-	1 autograph letter signed : 11-12 May 1787 : (MW 0006) : Dublin : begins, “Your silence, and George's long absence makes me very uneasy ...”	<i>SC 5 : v. 1, p. 74 Todd no. 59</i>
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Call number index

(MW 0001)	ALS to Joseph Johnson : 2 May 1793
(MW 0002)	ALS to Mary Hays : 15 Sep 1796
(MW 0003)	ANS to Joseph Johnson : 13 Jul 1793
(MW 0004)	Essay (fragment), "On Poetry" : Apr 1797
(MW 0005)	Review of <i>Albert de Nordenschild</i> : Aug-Sep 1796
(MW 0006)	ALS to Everina Wollstonecraft : 11-12 May 1787
(MW 0007)	ALS to Amelia Alderson : ca. 11 Apr 1797
(MW 0008)	ALS to Maria Reveley : 26 Jun 1797
(MW 0009)	ALS to Joseph Johnson : 5 Dec 1786
(MW 0010)	[n/a; number not used]
(MW 0011)	ALS to George Dyson : ca. ?Dec 1795 - 29 Mar 1797
(MW 0012-0026)	15 L (copies) to Jane Arden : 1773-1783
(MW 0027)	ALS to Mary Robinson : ca. 15 Apr 1796 - 29 Mar 1797
(MW 0028)	ALS to Ruth Barlow : ca. 1-14 Feb 1793
(MW 0029)	ALS to George Dyson : 28 Apr 1797
(MW 0030)	AL to George Dyson : ca. ?15 May 1797
(MW 0031)	ALS to Henry Dyson Gabell : ca. ?9 Feb - 15 Apr 1787
(MW 0032)	ALS to Henry Dyson Gabell : 13 Sep [1787]
(MW 0033)	ALS to Henry Dyson Gabell : 9-19 Oct 1787
(MW 0034)	ALS to Henry Dyson Gabell : 16 Apr [1787]
(MW 0035)	ALS to Mary Hays : 25 Nov 1792
(MW 0036)	ALS to Mary Hays : [ca. late 1795]
(MW 0037)	ALS to Mary Hays : 11 Aug [1792]
(MW 0038)	ALS to Mary Hays : [14 Dec 1796]
(MW 0039)	ALS to Mary Hays : [15 Dec 1797]
(MW 0040)	ALS to Mary Hays : [ca. Nov 1796]
(MW 0041)	ALS to Mary Hays : [ca. early 1797]
(MW 0042)	ALS to Mary Hays : [20 Sep 1796]
(MW 0043)	ANS to Mary Hays : [ca. Jan 1797]
(MW 0044)	ALS to Mary Hays : [1796]
(MW 0045)	ALS to Mary Hays : [ca. 26 Oct 1796]
(MW 0046)	ALS to Mary Hays : [ca. late 1792]
(MW 0047)	ALS to Catherine Macaulay : [ca. Dec 1790]
(MW 0048)	ALS to James Marshall : [ca. ?21 Aug 1797]

Appendix

Mary Wollstonecraft Manuscript Material in the Berg Collection

The Henry A. and Albert W. Berg Collection of English and American Literature is in room 320 of the Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, just across the hall from the Pforzheimer Collection. For admission, contact Berg staff at berg@nypl.org. The following Mary Wollstonecraft manuscript is held by the Berg Collection:

LOCATION	ITEM	REFERENCES
	· To Hamilton Rowan, Irish politician :	
<i>m.b.</i>	- 1 autograph letter signed : 26 Jan [1796] : from London : begins, "Thought I have not heard from you I should have written to you, convinced of your friendship could I have told you any thing of myself that would have afforded you pleasure ..."	<i>Todd no. 216</i>