



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## William Worthen Appleton papers 4078653

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
Business Number: (212) 854-5153  
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Summary .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: Letters to William Kenneth, 1825-1835 .....	6
Series II: Letters to or about Sheridan, Richard Brinsley 1773-1775 .....	7
Series III: Letters to James Winston, 1799-1826 .....	8
Series IV: Theatrical letters in alphabetical order by sender .....	9
Series V: Non-theatrical letters .....	12

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Appleton, William W., 1915-2014
<b>Title:</b>	William Worthen Appleton papers
<b>ID:</b>	4078653
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0040
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1773-1853
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.5 linear feet 1 box (44 letters)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William Worthen Appleton papers ; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

William Worthen Appleton, born December 31 1915 in New York received his Masters 1939 and Ph. D. 1949 from Columbia University after graduating with a BA from Harvard University in 1938. He taught at Columbia from 1941 until 1977 having been appointed Professor Emeritus in 1976. His area of interest was early English Theater as evidenced by the several books he wrote and edited including (1960). and In 1969, Professor Appleton donated this collection of 44 letters to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library to augment the performing arts holdings of the Brander Matthews Collection. The letters relate for the most part to early 19th century British theater and in the words of Professor Appleton provide 'a sort of cross-section of rather typical professional theatrical correspondence of that era.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Summary

---

The 44 letters related to British theater in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, dating from 1773 to 1853. The collection is divided into five series: I. Letters to William Kenneth (8); II. Letters to or about Richard Brinsley Sheridan (3); III. Letters to James Winston (5); IV. Theatrical letters arranged alphabetically by sender (26); and V. Non-theatrical letters (2). The two letters in the 5th series are a letter from a solicitor to Lady Emma Hamilton dated 1806 and a letter from Irish poet Thomas Moore dated 1832. Most of the theatrical letters deal with the engagement of players and theater personnel.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Organized by series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.

New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

[rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Revision Description

File created. Updated and container list added, converted from HTML finding aid. kws EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. Description of Thomas Moore letter added to the EAD container list from the earlier HTML finding aid by CCR. 2009-06-26 2018-10-10 2019-05-20 2021-03-30

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is located on-site.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection has no restrictions.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Source of acquisition--Appleton, Professor William W. Date of acquisition--1969. Accession number--M69.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

Gift of Professor William W. Appleton, 1969.

### **Processing Information**

Processed 1969 and revised 1999.

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 03/24/89.

Finding Aid Prepared by GC, February 11, 2000.

### **Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## **Controlled Access Headings**

---

- Theater -- England
- Theatrical managers -- England
- Theatrical agents -- England
- Poets, Irish

- Kenneth, William
- Winston, James
- Moore, Thomas, 1779-1852
- Milliken, Richard, 1783 or 1784-1834

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Series I: Letters to William Kenneth, 1825-1835

#### Scope and Contents

William Kenneth appears to be a London theatrical agent for the provincial circuit. The letters usually concern the engagement of performers by provincial managers or, as in the case of Edwin Simpson, requests for plays and musical pieces to be sent to New York. The 8 letters are in chronological order.

Title/Description	Instances
Barnard, S. W., Brighton To Mr. Kenneth, London, October 3 [n.y.]	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
3 p., a.l.s. Discussing performers including the young Kean	
Brunton, R., Swansea To Kenneth London, [n.d.]	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
1 p. a.l.s. About getting players for Plymouth and Bristol	
Cairnes, Catherine M. To My Dear Kenneth London, June 3, 1825	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
3 p., a.l.s. Authorizing a Miss Phillips to accept offer from Mr. MacReady. [Actor/manager Charles William MacReady, 1793-1873]	
Waldsor, R., Glasgow To Mr. Kenneth London, April 11, 1831	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
3 p., a.l.s. Regarding engagements	
Simpson, E[dmund Shaw, 1784-July 31, 1848] New York To Mr. Kenneth Bow Street, Covent Garden, London, May 31, 1832	box 1

**Scope and Contents**

2 a. l. s. Asking that music and titles be sent. Simpson was manager of the Park Theater

Stanley, G. F., Theatre Worthing To Mr. Kenneth London, October 1, 1833 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

2 p., a.l.s. On reverse, contract for theaters in New Orleans.

Mangeon, Augusta, Warwick To Kenneth London, October 2, 1833 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

2 p., a.l.s.

Simpson, E[dmund Shaw]1784-July 31, 1848, New York To unknown [n.p.], November 7, 1835 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a. fragment s. Discussing business and mentions Stephen Price who with Simpson managed the Park Theater. See also letter dated May 31, 1832

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Series II: Letters to or about Sheridan, Richard Brinsley 1773-1775**

**Scope and Contents**

Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1861), dramatist, theater manager and statesman, is best known for his 1777 play.

**Title/Description**

**Instances**

Stott, C. To Sheridan [n.p.], July 8, 1773 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Asking for money

Portal, Abraham To Sheridan Orchard Street, Portman Square, London, November 27, 1775 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

2 p., a.l.s. Complimenting him on his comic opera [*The Duenna*]

Sheridan, Thomas To Will, envelope addressed To Knight [n.p.], [n.d.] box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. About father, Richard Brinsley Sheridan  
(1751-1816)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Series III: Letters to James Winston, 1799-1826**

**Scope and Contents**

The actor and theater manager James Winston (1773?-1843) became the proprietor of the Richmond (Surrey) Theatre in 1799 under the name of James Neville. In 1805, as James Winston, he purchased an interest in the Haymarket Theatre in London. From 1819 to 1927 he was acting manager of the Drury Lane Theater on behalf of the actor/manager and lessee, Robert William Elliston.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Baker, Robert, town functionary To James Neville [Winston], Proprietor of Richmond Theatre, Surrey [n.p.], Oct. 1, 1799</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>1 p., a.l.s. Refusing permission to perform masquerade</p>	box 1
<p>Reeve, Thomas, Jr., nephew of composer W. W. Reeve, (1715-1815) To Winston, Haymarket London, March 31, 1807</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>1 p., a.l.s. Asking to be engaged</p>	box 1
<p>Faucit, I., Actor, Theatre Royal, Norwich To James Winston, Haymarket Theatre London, January 23, 1813</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>2 p., a.l.s. Faucit and wife will remain with Norwich Company.</p>	box 1
<p>Bellamy, B. P., Theatre Royal, Norwich To Winston, Haymarket Theatre Dean Street, Soho, London, April 28, 1813</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>1 p., Regarding his engagement at the Haymarket for the 1814 season</p>	box 1
<p>Penley, W., Windsor Envelope To Winston with letter To Mr. Dunn Drury Lane, London, July 8, 1826</p>	box 1



**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Concerning a promissory Note from Mr. Elliston. Actor/manager Robert William Elliston (1774-1831) was the lessee and Dunn the treasurer of the Theater Royal, Drury Lane

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

**Series IV: Theatrical letters in alphabetical order by sender**

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Barnett, Edward To unknown [n.p.], June 6 [n.y.]</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>1 p., a.l.s. Concerning casting</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Bass, Charles, Actor-Manager, Perth, Scotland To unknown n. p., October 7, 1829</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>2 p., a.l.s. Requesting players</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Bucke, Charles (1781-1846), Dramatist and author, Suffolk To Mr. Wood, Bookseller London, May 23, 1802</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>1 p., a.l.s. Proposing the publication of a writer's Notebook</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Cushman, Charlotte, American actress To unknown [n.p.], [n.d.]</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>1 p., a.l.s. End of letter asking for a residence and to be met at the train. Cushman was acting in London 1845-1849</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Cuyler, Mrs. [Margaret], Actress To Mr. Peake [n.p.], September 19 [n.y.]</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>1 p., a.n.s. Requesting back pay. Peake was the treasurer for Drury Lane appointed by Richard Sheridan.</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Dobbs, J., Actor, Brighton Theatre To Mr. Abbott Theatre Royal, Dublin, November 21, 1824</p>	<p>box 1</p>

**Scope and Contents**

2 p. a.l.s. Requesting employment

---

Elizabeth, Margravine of Brandenburg-Anspach To  
unknown [n.p.], March 26, 1794 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Receipt of a loan. The Margravine put on  
private theatrical events

---

Emmet, Robert, New York To Charles MacReady  
(1793-1873), actor/manager London, October 6, 1841 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

3 p., a.l.s. Letter of introduction

---

Fairbrother, Robert, Coburg Theatre To Peter Moore  
London, September 21, 1818 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Theater job recommendation for Peter May

---

Fawcett, Anne To Mr. Brandon Covent Garden Theatre, Nov  
27, 1813 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.n.s. Pay Mr. Prickett by order of Mr. Harris  
[Thomas Harris, Manager]

---

Foote, Sam G., Brighton To unknown [n.p.], June 2 [n.y.] box 1

**Scope and Contents**

2 p., a.l.s. Invitation to visit Brighton

---

Grove, D. To J. P. Harley, Actor, St. James Theatre London,  
[c.1835?] box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Plans to see play at St. James. Harley was  
in the St. James Theatre Company for a short time c.  
1835

---

Hippolyte, N., Dublin To unknown n. p., August 2, 1845 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

2 p., a.l.s. Concerning terms of a lease

---

Holcroft, Fanny To J. Cooper (1810-1870) London, [n.d.]  
[after 1820] box 1

**Scope and Contents**

2 p., a.l.s. Complimenting his performance of Henry VIII at the Drury Lane. Cooper's first performance at Drury Lane took place November 1, 1820

---

Inchbald, Elizabeth (1753-1891), playwright To Mrs. Pope. box 1  
[Elizabeth (1744?-1797)] [n.p.], [n.d.] [c. 1791]

**Scope and Contents**

3 p., a.l.s. Is altering play in favor of the part Mrs. Pope plays. Possibly referring to Lady Eleanor Irwin, a part Mrs. Pope originated in the play *Everyone Has His Fault*.

---

Killigrew, William To unknown [n.p.], [n.d.] box 1

**Scope and Contents**

a.env.s., empty envelope

---

Knight, Thomas (d. 1820), actor and playwright, Liverpool box 1  
To unknown [n.p.], July 28, 1814

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Unable to hire. Knight at the time was leasing the Liverpool Theatre

---

Love, E. To Mr. Cooke [n.p.], [n.d.] box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Asks for appointment to discuss a part

---

MacDonald, Andrew (1755?-1790), Playwright To John box 1  
Murray, bookseller London, May 18, 1788

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.n.s. Receipt for Vimonda

---

Northcote, James To Mr. Cooke London, February 2, 1825 box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 p., a.l.s. Wants to buy print of his playing in Shakespeare's King John

---

Raymond, George To unknown London, March 24, 1830 box 1

### Scope and Contents

2 p., a.l.s. Apology for the behavior of Miss Cubitt.  
Raymond is possibly the biographer of the actor/  
manager Robert William Elliston (1774-1831)

---

Stephens, George (1800-1851), Dramatist, Hertfordshire To J. Webster [London], October 21, 1840 box 1

### Scope and Contents

3 p., a.l.s. Asking Webster to advise his brother to produce Stephens' play *The Patriot* next season at the Haymarket. Quotes from a letter from the actor-manager William Charles MacReady. The brother in question may be Benjamin N. Webster (1797-1882) who was managing the Haymarket at the time when another brother, Frederick Webster, was stage manager.

---

Tilbury, W. H. To T. F. Robson (1822?-1864), Actor, Haymarket London, December 13, 1853 box 1

### Scope and Contents

3 p., a.l.s. Complimenting his performances. Robson played Desmarets in *Plot and Passion* by Tom Taylor and Jem Bags in *Wandering Minstrel* by Henry Mayhew, both in 1853

---

Webster, Benjamin N. (1797-1882), actor-manager, dramatist To Mr. Cooke, London, November 18, 1833 box 1

### Scope and Contents

2 p., a.l.s. Will accomodate him at any time

---

Welch, J., Buxton To Mr. Westmore London, July 15, 1801 box 1

### Scope and Contents

2 p., a.l.s. Terms for engagement

---

Yarnold, George, Theatre Royal, Worthing To unknown [London], September 26, 1824 box 1

### Scope and Contents

1 p., a.l.s. Has Elliston signed articles for Yarnold? Elliston is actor-manager Robert William Elliston (1774-1831).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Haslewood, William, solicitor To Lady Hamilton London, February 1, 1806</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>3 p., a.l.s. Statement of efforts on behalf of Lady Hamilton</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Moore, Thomas (1779-1852), Poet, Wiltshire, to Richard Milliken, Chichester, 1832 July 26</p> <p><b>Scope and Contents</b></p> <p>[n.p.], 1 p., a.l.s. Note: General news and progress of book.</p>	<p>box 1</p>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)