



# ArchivesSpace

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## William Evarts Benjamin papers 4079157

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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>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Benjamin, William Evarts, 1859-1940
<b>Title:</b>	William Evarts Benjamin papers
<b>ID:</b>	4079157
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0100
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1817-1940
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14 linear feet 26 boxes 4 volumes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

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

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## Biographical / Historical

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William Evarts Benjamin (1859-1940) was a prominent publisher and collector.

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## Summary

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Correspondence, manuscripts, documents, financial records, photographs, drawings, engravings, and printed materials of Benjamin. The personal and business papers concern Benjamin's publishing and bookselling company, his numerous benefactions, the disposal of his collections, and many printed catalogs for his company, 1883-1940. The two major correspondents are the business and financial records for the printing, binding, and extensive

promotion through a network of agents of Stedman's *A LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME*; new ed. (New York, W.E. Benjamin, 1894). There are also letters, manuscripts, documents, and drawings of English literary figures collected by Benjamin. Among these are six letters of George Eliot, 47 letters and six manuscripts of John Ruskin, and three letters and one manuscript of Joseph Mallord Turner, with four letters relating to the artist. In addition there ten drawings and watercolors by Ruskin.

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## Summary

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Also, 37 letters and one manuscript were removed from Benjamin's copy of Robert Langton's *THE CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH OF CHARLES DICKENS* and cataloged for this collection. One letter from Langton and 32 from others were addressed to Charles Roach Smith, a well-known antiquary of London. Several letters are concerned with numismatics (including two from John Stuart, Earl of Darnley, one each from William Henry Ashe, baron Heytesbury, and Chase Spence), but most of these letters relate to Charles Dickens: three letters from his son, Sir Henry Fielding Dickens, six from Henry Gardiner Adams, of the Mechanics' Institute of Chatham and Rochester, one each from Frederick William Fairholt, and Charles Stewart Montgomerie Lockhart, manuscript notes by John Gough Nichols, a letter from John Bowen Rowlands, one each from W.J. Taylor and Joseph Cotton Wigram, Bishop of Rochester, two from Humphrey Wood of the Mechanics' Institute, and of particular interest the two letters from Sampson Seaton, whose father was a friend of the father of the famous novelist. Many of these letters were written at the time of Dickens' death from people living in the area of Rochester and Chatham, his early childhood homes.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged into 7 series.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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535 W. 114th St.  
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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

Legacy finding aid created from Pro Cite. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-01-21 2019-05-20

### Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

### Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

### Alternate Form Available

Royal Cortissoz and John Ruskin letters are on: microfilm.

### 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--Cartwright, Beatrice Benjamin and Henry Rogers Benjamin. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1943. Accession number--M-43.

## Ownership and Custodial History

Gift of Beatrice Benjamin Cartwright & Henry Rogers Benjamin, 1943.

## Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 04/04/89.

Processed by RBML staff; revised by BRC 11/74 and 11/81.

## 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.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Publishers and publishing -- New York (State) -- New York
- Booksellers and bookselling -- New York (State) -- New York
- Authors, English
- Numismatics
- Paintings (visual works)
- Photographic prints
- Engravings (prints)
- Drawings (visual works)
- Phelps, Charles Henry
- Stedman, Edmund Clarence, 1833-1908
- Eliot, George, 1819-1880
- Ruskin, John, 1819-1900
- Turner, J. M. W (Joseph Mallord William), 1775-1851
- Langton, Robert, 1825-1900
- Smith, Charles Roach, 1807-1890
- Darnley, John Stuart, Earl of
- A'Court, William Henry Ashe, 2nd Baron Heytesbury, 1809-1891
- Heytesbury, William Henry Ashe Holmes-à Court, Baron, 1809-1891
- Spence, Chase
- Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870
- Dickens, Henry F., Sir (Henry Fielding), 1849-1933
- Adams, H. G. (Henry Gardiner), 1811 or 1812-1881
- Fairholt, F. W (Frederick William), 1814-1866
- Lockhart, C. S. M (Charles Stewart Montgomerie)

- Nichols, John Gough, 1806-1873
- Rowlands, John Bowen
- Taylor, W. J
- Wigram, Joseph Cotton
- Wood, Humphrey
- Seaton, Sampson
- Mechanics' Institute of Chatham and Rochester

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Cataloged Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Abbott, Lyman	box 1
Adams, Henry Gardiner	box 1
Benjamin, William Evarts	box 1
Burke, John Bernard	box 1
Byron, Anne Isabella Noël	box 1
Campbell, Thomas	box 1
Carrington, Katherine S. Batts	box 1
Coleridge, Samuel Taylor	box 1
Coles, Jonathan Ackerman	box 1
Cirtisso, Royal	box 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
[Available on microfilm]	
Crockett, Samuel Rutherford	box 1
Cumberland, Richard	box 1
Darnley, John Stuart, 6th earl	box 1
Davis, Richard Harding	box 1
Dickens, Charles	box 1
Dickens, Dir Henry Fielding	box 1
Dix, Morgan	box 1
Dumas, Alexander, fils	box 1
Edgeworth, Maria	box 1
Eliot, George	

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	box 1
Fairholt, Frederick William	box 1
Fawkes, Walter Ramsden	box 1
Gilbert, Thomas "Bishop of Shropshire"	box 1
Gilder, Jeannette L.	box 1
Goldwin, J. H.	box 1
Hale, Edward Everett	box 1
Hay, John	box 1
Heytesbury, William Henry Ashe, 2nd Baron	box 1
Homer, Winslow	box 1
Hubbard, Elbert	box 1
Hughes, Charles Evans	box 1
Ireland, Joseph N.	box 1
Jones, William Alfred	box 1
Kitton, Frederick George	box 1
Langton, Robert	box 1
Leigh, Oliver	box 1
Lockhart, Charles	box 1
Lockhart, Charles Stuart Montgomerie	box 1
Lubbock, Sir John, 1st Baron Avebury	box 1
Lupton, Thomas	box 1
Maas, Joseph	box 1
Mayer, Joseph	box 1
Mellon, Andrew W.	box 1
Mills, Ogden L.	box 1
Mitchell, Donald Grant	box 1
Moore, Thomas Sir	box 1
Nichols, John Gough	box 1
Overall, William Henry	box 1
Pearman, Augustus John	box 1
Phelps, Charles Henry	box 1
Purland, Theodosius	box 1



Rheade, Louis J.	box 2
Rockefeller, John D.	box 2
Rowlands, John Bowen	box 2
Ruskin, John	box 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>	
[Also on microfilm]	
Seaton, Sampson	box 2
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley	box 2
Smith, Charles Roach	box 2
Spence, Chas.	box 2
Stedman, Edmund C.	box 3
Symons, Arthur	box 3
Taylor, W. J.	box 3
Turner, Joseph Mallord William	box 3
Vanderbilt, George W.	box 3
Walcott, Mackenzie Edward Charles	box 3
Wigram, Joseph Cotton, Bishop of Rochester	box 3
Wilson, Harriett	box 3
Wood, Humprey	box 3
Wright, Thomas	box 3
Miscellaneous	box 3

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## Series II: Catalogs

Title/Description	Instances
Duplicate File: Set No. 1	box 4
Duplicate File: Set No. 2	box 5

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## Series III: Business & Personal Papers

Title/Description	Instances
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American Antiquarian Society , Worcester, MA, 1927-1941	box 6
American Historical Association, 1926/1927	box 6
<i>The Book Lover</i> , 1888-1903	box 6
Bookplates	box 6
Eastern High School , Washington, DC, 1930	box 7
Engravings and illustrations	box 7
Government lists	box 7
Gutenberg Bible, 1891-1929	box 7
Library of Congress, 1926-1929	box 7
Library of Congress, 1930-1935	box 8
Lyman Allyn Museum , New London, CT, 1935-1937	box 8
Murillo's <i>Imaculate Conception</i> , 1926/1927	box 9
Murillo's <i>Imaculate Conception</i> - Pallavicini Catalogue, 1927	box 9
The New York Community Trust, 1926-1931	box 9
The New York Historical Society, 1937-1939	box 9
Photographs	box 9
Publishing business:advertising; bills, receipts, etc.; James Mcdonald, Bookbinder; print catalogue; printed materials; stock lists	box 9
Rogers, H.H. - condolences re. his death, 1909	box 10
S.S. "H.H. Rogers" - launching, 1916	box 10
Speyer property dispute, 1911-1913	box 10
Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, 1927-1930	box 10
Thatcher, John B. <i>The Continent of America</i>	box 10
Union College, 1890-1935	box 10
Union College, 1936-1940	box 11
University of Virginia, 1928-1930	box 11
George Washington, 1889-1930	box 11
Washington family, 1927-1930	box 11
Miscellaneous: memoranda; notebook; clippings; pamphlet; title pages	box 11

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**Series IV: Library of American Literature**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>
Accounts, 1884-1903	box 12
Accounts, 1903-1910	box 12
Accounts - royalties	box 12
Advantages of the L.A.L.	box 12
Advertisements ; full page ; 1/2 & 1/4 page ; retailo, printed copy ; written copy	box 12
Advertising	box 12
Advertising, sets exchanged for	box 12
Agents <u>Physical Description</u> : 6 folders	box 13
Agents - printed materials	box 13
Benjamin, Charles R. General Agent	box 13
Binding	box 13
Boston orders	box 13
Braunworth & Co. Bookbinders <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 13
Circulars	box 13
Colonial literature	box 13
Commendations <u>Physical Description</u> : 10 folders	box 14
Correspondence - miscellaneous	box 14
Courses of Reading <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 14
Hovendon, John Relating to E.C. Stedman	box 14
Illustrations	box 14
Improvements in manufacturing	box 15
Jenkins & McCowan Printing	box 15
Legan matters	box 15
Macdonald, James Bookbinder	box 15
Portraits	box 15
Printed materials	box 15

Prospectus, etc. <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 15
Specimin pages	box 15
Stedman, Edmond Charles <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 15
Webster & Co. <u>Physical Description</u> : 2 folders	box 15
Miscellaneous	box 15

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### Series V: Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances
Scrapbook of clippings, 1884-1891 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 volume	box 17
Scrapbook	box 28

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### Series VI: Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Large photographs	box 28

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### Series VII: Printed Materials

#### Scope and Contents

For related materials on Library of American Literature see E.C. Stedman Papers

Title/Description	Instances
Books from W.E. Benjamin's library	box 16
<i>The Collector</i>	box 18
<i>The Collector</i>	box 19
<i>The Collector</i>	box 20
Catalogs 1-10	box 21
Catalogs 11-29	

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	box 21
Catalogs 30-42	box 22
Catalogs 43-53	box 22
Catalogs 77-95	box 23
Catalogs 13-66	box 23
Catalogs 54-67	box 24
Catalogs 68-76	box 24
<i>The Book Lover</i>	box 25
<i>The Book Lover</i>	box 26
<i>The Book Lover</i>	box 27
<i>The Book Lover</i>	box 28
<i>The Book Lover</i>	box 29

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