
William Empson letters
1851 or 1852

**Descriptive Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identification:</th>
<th>MSS 099, F771</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>William Empson letters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive Dates:</td>
<td>1851 or 1852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>5 items (20 p. and envelope)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language:</td>
<td>Materials entirely in English.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citation:</th>
<th>MSS 099, F771, William Empson letters, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelving Summary:</td>
<td>F771: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: <a href="http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/">http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing:</td>
<td>Processed and encoded by Lora J. Davis, January 2009.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Restrictions:</td>
<td>The collection is open for research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terms Governing Use</td>
<td>Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library, <a href="http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi">http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Reproduction:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Biographical Note

British barrister, literary reviewer, and editor William Empson was born in 1791.

After graduating from Trinity College, Cambridge, Empson was called to the bar in 1819. Empson practiced law until 1824, when he became a law professor at the East India Company College in Hertfordshire, England. In 1823 Empson began to write for the influential *Edinburgh Review*, prolifically covering such topics as history, biography, literature, law, and politics. In 1847 Empson was named editor and moved the base of operations of the *Edinburgh Review* to London. Empson worked as both editor of the review and professor of law at the East India College until his sudden death from influenza on December 10, 1852.

Sources:

This small collection comprises five letters written by William Empson, editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, largely regarding Leigh Hunt's review of James Dennistoun's *Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino* (1851), including at least one letter apparently written to Leigh Hunt. Though dates on the letters do not include the year in which they were written, the interval between publication of Dennistoun's book and Empson's death would date these letters in 1851 or 1852. The letter of April 29 is presumably written to English poet and essayist Leigh Hunt, because it refers to a review in progress of Dennistoun's book, and some of the later letters (apparently addressed to a mutual acquaintance) refer to Hunt's progress on the review. All five autograph letters are written by Empson on black-bordered stationery from "E.I.C." (East India College).

The five letters are accompanied by a brown envelope labeled "Mr. Dobell / 8 Bruton Street W." The envelope also bears penciled notes indicating that this small collection was for sale at one time by the London firm of P. J. & A. E. Dobell, booksellers and publishers.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Hunt, Leigh, 1784-1859.

Topical Terms

Editors--England--19th century--Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Letters (correspondence)

Occupations

Editors.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 099 Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.
Detailed Description of the Collection

William Empson letter, E.I. College, to Leigh Hunt, April 29, no year [Box 51 F771]

1 item (4 p. on 1 leaf) ; folded to 18 x 11.2 cm.

Autograph letter signed, written from East India College in 1851 or 1852, apparently to Leigh Hunt, regarding his work on a review of James Dennistoun's book.

William Empson letter, E.I.C., February 25, no year [Box 51 F771]

1 item (4 p. on 1 leaf) ; folded to 13.6 x 9 cm.

Autograph letter signed, written from East India College in 1851 or 1852.

William Empson letter, E.I.C., May 8, no year [Box 51 F771]

1 item (4 p. on 1 leaf) ; folded to 13.6 x 9 cm.

Autograph letter signed, written from East India College in 1851 or 1852.

William Empson letter, E.I.C., June 14, no year [Box 51 F771]

1 item (4 p. on 1 leaf) ; folded to 13.6 x 9 cm.

Autograph letter signed, written from East India College in 1851 or 1852.

William Empson letter, E.I.C., December 19, no year [Box 51 F771]

1 item (4 p. 1 leaf) ; folded to 13.6 x 9 cm.

Autograph letter signed, written from East India College in 1851 or 1852.

Envelope [Box 51 F771]

Brown envelope labeled "Mr. Dobell / 8 Bruton Street W." The envelope also bears penciled notes indicating that this small collection was for sale at one time by the London firm of P. J. & A. E. Dobell, booksellers and publishers.