Mackay, Eric, 1851-1898.

Eric Mackay letters and manuscripts
1885-1889, undated

Abstract: British poet Eric Mackay (1851-1898) was the son of journalist and poet Charles Mackay (1812-1889) and the half-brother of novelist Mary Mackay (1855-1924), who published under the pseudonym Marie Corelli. The collection consists of nineteen autograph letters from Eric Mackay to American editor of The Independent, John Eliot Bowen, and three undated autograph manuscripts of Mackay's prose and poetry. There is also one letter from Mackay to the unnamed editor of the Century Magazine.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 099, F875
Creator: Mackay, Eric, 1851-1898.
Title: Eric Mackay letters and manuscripts
Inclusive Dates: 1885-1889, undated
Extent: 23 items
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 099, F875, Eric Mackay letters and manuscripts, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: Box 61, F875: Shelved in SPEC MSS 099 manuscript boxes
Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/
Source: Purchase, July 2010.
Processing: Processed and encoded by Julia Pompetti, September 2010.
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Biographical Note

British poet Eric Mackay (1851-1898) was the son of journalist and poet Charles Mackay (1812-1889) and the half-brother of novelist Mary Mackay (1855-1924), who published under the pseudonym Marie Corelli. He published several books of poetry in both England and in America, including *Love Letters of a Violinist* (1886), *A Lover's Litanies* (1888) and *Song of the Sea* (1895), as well as a volume of his father's poetry, *Gossamer and Snowdrift: The Posthumous Poems of Charles Mackay* (1890).

Mackay also produced an unauthorized play based on Corelli's novel *The Sorrows of Satan*, which was a commercial failure. In the final year of his life, Mackay allegedly claimed that he was the true author of Corelli's successful novels. After his death, Corelli circulated a pamphlet refuting his claim of authorship of her work.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of nineteen autograph letters from British poet Eric Mackay to American editor of *The Independent*, John Eliot Bowen, and three undated autograph manuscripts of Mackay's prose and poetry. There is also one letter from Mackay to the unnamed editor of the *Century Magazine*.

The correspondence concerns Mackay's efforts to place poems (often referring to enclosures, most of which are not included in the collection) with Bowen and *The Independent* and more generally, possible opportunities for American publication of and publicity for his books of poetry. One letter mentions Mackay's assessment of his half-sister Mary Mackay's (pseudonym Marie Corelli) novels *Vendetta* (1886) and *A Romance of Two Worlds* (1886). He also mentions the possibility of his poem "Choral Ode to Liberty" being read at the Great Inauguration Ceremony held for the Statue of Liberty held in 1886. Additionally, the collection includes manuscripts with minor revisions of a short prose piece, "Anteros," five poems assembled under the heading "Five Sonnets," and a poem entitled "A Song of Servitude."
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Mackay, Eric, 1851-1898--Correspondence.

Bowen, John Eliot, 1858-1890--Correspondence.

Topical Terms

Poets, English--19th century--Correspondence.

Form/Genre Terms

Correspondence.

Occupation

Poets.

Editors.

Personal Contributors

Bowen, John Eliot, 1858-1890, correspondent.
Arrangement

The letters are arranged in chronological order followed by undated material. The manuscripts are arranged alphabetically by title.
Detailed Description of the Collection

Correspondence, 1885-1889 and undated [Box 61 F875]

20 items

Letters from British poet Eric Mackay to American editor John Eliot Bowen arranged chronologically, followed by undated. One letter from Eric Mackay to unnamed editor of the Century Magazine. 20 pp. 4 envelopes.

Manuscripts, undated 3 items

"Anteros" [Box 61 F875]

A prose piece in which the title is crossed out and other minor revisions have been made. 1 p.

"Five Sonnets" [Box 61 F875]


"A Song of Servitude" [Box 61 F875]

An poem in fourteen sections with minor revisions. 3 p.