Abstract: The H. Buxton Forman papers relating to John Keats contains materials relating to nineteenth century English poet John Keats. These materials were collected during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by American H. Buxton Forman and other members of his family.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 215
Creator: Forman, H. Buxton (Harry Buxton), 1842-1917, collector.
Title: H. Buxton Forman papers relating to John Keats
Inclusive Dates: 1885-1949
Extent: .3 linear feet (1 box)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 215, H. Buxton Forman papers relating to John Keats, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.
Shelving Summary: Box 1: Shelved in SPEC MSS manuscript boxes (1 inch)
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/
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**Biographical Note**

H. (Harry) Buxton Forman (1842-1917) was part of the Post Office staff in London, England during the late 19th century. Forman collected rare editions of literary works as well as publishing his own literary material.

The Post Office department attracted many men with literary backgrounds and they formed the Post Office Literary Society. H. Buxton Forman joined the society, became an active collector of rare editions, and was publishing his own work by 1868. H. Buxton Forman longed to write poetry but found his talents were better suited to producing descriptive bibliographies of British poets. He published texts on Percy Bysshe Shelley and John Keats which helped establish his reputation as an expert in the field of nineteenth-century British literature. His greatest talent was his ability to maintain intimate friendships with contemporary authors and poets. This talent along with his vast knowledge of the printing and book buying trades allowed him to guide others through the publishing process. H. Buxton Forman continued to combine his work for the Post Office and his literary pursuits until 1907, when he retired as a Second Secretary of the Post Office.

Maurice Buxton Forman, Harry's youngest and favorite son, followed in his father's footsteps. After finishing college, he tried several jobs before ending up at the Post Office. Maurice was well acquainted with his father's literary work and friends. He and Thomas James Wise sorted the Buxton Forman Collection after his father's death in 1917, prior to its sale as part of the estate.

H. Buxton Forman and Thomas James Wise were implicated in a commercial forgery scheme spanning the years 1886 to 1916. During this period, they produced over fifty forgeries, specializing in British poetry and literary works of the nineteenth century. Many of their fabrications were cleverly manufactured owing to Forman's vast knowledge of the printing trade. The forgeries were analytically scrutinized by Carter and Pollard in *An Enquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets* and by Barker and Collins in *A Sequel to An Enquiry*.

**Sources:**


Scope and Content Note

The H. Buxton Forman papers consist of letters, manuscripts, newspaper clippings, and photographs relating to nineteenth century English poet John Keats; this material was collected by American collector Harry Buxton Forman and his son, Maurice Buxton Forman.

Correspondents include Fanny and Rosa Keats de Llanos, Alice Keats, John Keats, Philip Speed Tuley, and Sir William Hale-White. There are also two letter fragments from Francis Lindon, whose background is unknown. This collection features the original manuscript and proof of the article "Keats's Letters to Friends in America" by H. Buxton Forman. This article was published in 1885 in The Nineteenth Century. The collection contains one untitled poem by John Keats which may be a photostatic copy. Later it was published in The Complete Poetical Works of John Keats and entitled "Bright Star."

The collection also contains transcriptions by Maurice Buxton Forman of thirteen letters related to Keats. Six were from Fanny Keats de Llanos (John Keats' sister), three from Rosa de Llanos (Fanny's daughter and John Keats' niece), one by Maria Dilke (an acquaintance of Keats), and three by John Keats. There are also three letters from Sir W. Hale-White to Maurice Buxton Forman. Sir William Hale-White, a physician at Guy's Hospital, reproduced the Anatomical and Physiological Note Book compiled by Keats and published by Buxton Forman in 1934. Hale-White later wrote Keats as Doctor and Patient (1938).

Photographs in the collection include Georgiana Keats, the district near Teynmouth (Keats' House), and two relating to Keats's student days at Guy's Hospital.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names
Keats, John, 1795-1821.

Topical Terms
Poets, English--19th century.

Form/Genre Terms
Correspondence.
Manuscripts (document genre)
Clippings (information artifacts)
Photographs.

Occupation
Poets.
Collectors.

Personal Contributors
Keats, John, 1795-1821.
Forman, Maurice Buxton.

Related Materials in this Repository
MSS 601 Frank W. Tober collection on literary forgery
Detailed Description of the Collection

"Keats's Letters to Friends in America", undated [Box 1 F1]

Original signed manuscript by H. Buxton Forman.

"Keats's Letters to Friends in America", 1885 [Box 1 F2]

2 copies

Article proof for The Nineteenth Century with autograph corrections by H. Buxton Forman.

Untitled Poem, undated [Box 1 F3]

Possible photostatic copy of John Keats poem later published as "Bright Star..."

Letter Fragments, 1848 [Box 1 F4]

Photostatic copies and transcription of fragments signed "Francis Lindon."

"Some New Keats Letters", undated [Box 1 F5]

Transcript copies of three letters, John Keats to Fanny Keats, with revisions and commentary by Maurice Buxton Forman.

Letters, 1888-1892 [Box 1 F6]

Transcriptions of nine letters from Fanny and Rosa Keats de Llanos to Philip Speed Tuley, all transcribed by Maurice Buxton Forman.

Letter, 1939 [Box 1 F7]

Autograph letter, Philip Speed Tuley to Maurice Buxton Forman.

Letters, 1939, undated [Box 1 F8]

Two autograph letters and one typescript memoir, Alice Keats to Maurice Buxton Forman.

Letters, 1942-1943 [Box 1 F9]

Sir W. Hale-White to Maurice Buxton Forman including transcription of Hale-White's article "Keats as medical student. Records of his Anatomy Lecture Notes." Also includes Hale-White's obituary from The Times (London) of August 26, 1949.

Photographs relating to John Keats, undated
Georgiana Keats, undated [Box 1 F10]
Keats' House, undated [Box 1 F10]
Bonnet Shop, undated [Box 1 F10]
View of Harbor, undated [Box 1 F10]
Thomas Callaway, M.D., undated [Box 1 F10]
Charles Aston Key, M.D., undated [Box 1 F10]