AUTOGRAPH LETTERS  
March 2019
The Baron was the oldest and best friend I had in the World.


Greig nos. 212, 242, 392, 396, 399, 451, 519


Greig, the editor, in his introduction to *The Letters of David Hume* has written: “The letters...reveal most sides of David Hume the man – his precocity of intellect, his independent spirit, his kindliness of heart, his love of fun,...his pleasant vanities, the laziness that grew upon him after 1759, his readiness to think too highly of his friends and any books they happened to produce, his admiration for the French, his prejudice against the Churches, all ‘enthusiasts’, the Whigs, and Englishmen, his general but not unbroken equanimity of temper, and his fine common sense.”
This is reflected in the six surviving letters from David Hume to William Mure, that have been passed down through the Mure family, and have never before been for sale. They are here described, together with the only surviving record of a letter Hume wrote to his friend the Rev John Home about the death of William Mure. The location of the original is assumed lost.

William Mure of Caldwell [1718-1776], M.P. for Renfrewshire, 1742-1761, Baron of the Scottish Exchequer 1761-1776, Lord Rector of Glasgow University 1764-1765, was educated at home by Rev William Leechman, and later studied law at Edinburgh and Leiden. He married Catherine Graham (died 1820), the daughter of Lord Easdale. His friends included Sir Thomas Miller, Sir Gilbert Elliot, Earl of Minto, his first cousin Sir James Steuart the political economist, David Hume, James Oswald, Earl of Glasgow, James Duke of Hamilton, and the Prime Minister and statesman the Earl of Bute. He helped Bute with the management of his estates and became a close friend and adviser and one of the most influential men in Scotland. Mure was one of the guardians of the Duke of Hamilton’s children on the death of the Duke in 1758 and this responsibility devolved upon him during the period of the great Douglas cause.

“But the most remarkable of Mr Mure’s intimate associates was David Hume...being the oldest and dearest private friend of that remarkable personage...
“the compiler has also had access to a document which places the relations between the two in a still clearer light, and in its self of some curiosity. It is a letter addressed to John Home, the author of Douglas, shortly after the Baron’s death, and while the writer himself was labouring under the incurable disease which carried him off a few months afterwards...
Caldwell Papers.
On the abuse of power

2. **JAMES MILL.** Autograph letter signed to Josiah Conder. *Ford Abbey, August 9 1816*

Quarto, 25.0 x 19.8 cm, 2 pages in ink, with some deletions and insertions in the text, integral leaf removed leaving a somewhat irregular margin, docketed at head of first page, preserved in a cloth box.

£6,000

An important unpublished letter about the abuse of power by government, that such power is destructive and that when it happens it should be taken away. It was the duty of every man to expose abuses or otherwise they would be deprived of their liberty.

Written to Josiah Conder [1789-1855], bookseller and author, proprietor and editor of the *Eclectic Review* between 1814-1837, during which he supported the dissenting interest. Mill is said to have written in the *British* and *Monthly* reviews and especially the *Eclectic*. Details of the present controversy may be found in the *Eclectic Review* 1816

The letter was written from Ford Abbey. “Jeremy Bentham, having rented Ford Abbey, invited Mill and his family to take up their abode with him. The party must have gone there in July...It is not possible to convey by words an adequate representation of the vast pile in its extensive surroundings...” Bain, pp.129-136
3. **JAMES MILL. Autograph letter signed to Jeremy Bentham. E.India House, Tuesday (May 17th) 1831**
Octavo, 11.0 x 18.0 cm, 3 pages in ink + blank, traces of mounting on blank leaf, endorsed in ink on blank leaf by Jeremy Bentham.
£4,500

Unpublished. Mill writes that he is to meet Ram Mohun Roy [1772-1833], Indian religious, social, and educational reformer who challenged traditional Hindu culture and indicated the lines of progress for Indian society under British rule. He is sometimes called the father of modern India. “In 1829 Roy journeyed to England as the unofficial representative of the titular king of Delhi. The King of Delhi granted him the title raja, though it was unrecognized by the British. Roy was well received in England, especially by Unitarians there and by King William IV. Roy died of a fever while in the care of Unitarian friends at Bristol, Eng., where he was buried. “Roy’s importance in modern Indian history rests partly upon the broad scope of his social vision and the striking modernity of his thought. He was a tireless social reformer, yet he also revived interest in the ethical principles of the Vedanta school as a counterpoise to the Western assault on Indian culture. In his textbooks and treatises he contributed to the popularization of the Bengali language, while at the same time he was the first Indian to apply to the Indian environment the fundamental social and political ideas of the French and American revolutions.”Encyc.Britannica.
4. JOHN STUART MILL. Autograph letter signed to William Cabell Examiner’s Office] Tuesday [no date circa 1832-41]
Octavo, 17.8 x 11.4 cm, 2 pages in ink.
£1,500


“In May 1823 my professional occupation and status for the next thirty-five years of my life, were decided by my father’s obtaining for me an appointment from the East India Company, in the office of the Examiner of India Correspondence, immediately under himself. I was appointed in the usual manner, at the bottom of the list of clerks, to rise, at least in the first instance, by seniority; but with the understanding that I should be employed from the beginning in preparing drafts of despatches... My drafts of course required, for some time, much revision from my immediate superiors, but I soon became well acquainted with the business, and by my father’s instructions and the general growth of my own powers, I was in a few years qualified to be, and practically was, the chief conductor of the correspondence with India in one of the leading departments, that of the Native States”. J.S.Mill, Autobiography pp.81-82.

William Cabell [1786-1853] was at this time Senior Clerk in the Secret and Political Department and Assistant Secretary at the Board of Control. Recent discovery of Mill’s letters in the archival series in the India Office Library [including several to William Cabell] has greatly enhanced knowledge of his career there and of the East India Company’s operations.

The complexity of the workings of the bureaucracy at the office of the Examiner of the India Correspondence within the India Office are described in Marion Filipiuk Additional Letters of John Stuart Mill pp.xxix-xl.
5. JOHN STUART MILL. Four unpublished letters to Albany Fonblanque and George Armstrong concerning George Armstrong’s proposed paper for the London & Westminster Review 1836-1838
£8,500
Albany Fonblanque [1793-1872], radical journalist and editor-proprietor of the journal Examiner, and correspondent with John Stuart Mill. In 1833 to save Fonblanque and the Examiner from bankruptcy Mill actively helped in raising £1000 to save him.
George Armstrong [1791-1857] was a Unitarian minister who over a period had a few papers published in the journals. With the help of Albany Fonblanque [1793-1872] his paper *Church and State Fallacies* is forwarded to John Stuart Mill for consideration for publication in the *London & Westminster Review*. It was apparently never published. Fonblanque was to write to Armstrong “I have forwarded your paper to Mr John Mill, and send you his answer. The expression of satisfaction it contains, coming from him, are very strong”

MILL, JOHN STUART. Autograph letter signed to Albany Fonblanque. *Kensington, Tuesday [April 19th 1836]*
Small quarto, 12.7 x 10.1cm, 3 pages + 1 blank, in ink, last page endorsed in ink in a contemporary hand *John Stuart Mill*.

Mill writes that “this little book, is written by a young man new at Cambridge & for a young man there is I think much observation, reflexion, & power of expression. It was given me by a friend of the author, who also sends a copy to you on my instruction that I think you will probably like it. If you do, perhaps you will say something about it, as I think of doing in the L & W.”

JOHN STUART MILL. Autograph letter signed to Rev.George Armstrong. Kensington, April 19th 1836

Octavo, 20 x 12.6 cm, 4 pages ink.

An important letter to Revd George Armstrong [1791-1857] Unitarian minister in which Mill reveals the doctrine behind the journal at that time. He writes “It is truly gratifying to me that you approve of the spirit and conduct of the London Review – and still more so that you are not disinclined to give your aid in reading it more deserving of that approbation. Your paper “Church & State Fallacies” seemed to me excellent both in matter & manner


with

JOHN STUART MILL. Autograph letter signed to Albany Fonblanque. [India] House, Monday [April 1836]

Quarto, 23.0 x 18.5cm, 2 pages in ink, small paper tear to corner.

Mill writes that “Mr Armstrong’s paper is excellent, & I earnestly hope we may be able to use it – not in the number which will appear next Thursday, but in the following...” I have written an article on temporary politics, this time in the form of the usual postscript.”

JOHN STUART MILL. Autograph letter signed to Rev. George Armstrong. India House, August 13th 1838
Quarto, 23 x 18.5 cm, 4 pages in ink including integral address leaf, ink postmark, wax seal.

Mill writes about “the excellent publication of which I have recently received a copy through Simpkin & Marshall & which I have read with the warmest sympathy. It will serve me on some occasion or other as a tent from which to shew what men the present Constitution of the English Establishment drives to the necessity of separating themselves from it.”


Mill corresponds with his French publisher

6. JOHN STUART MILL. Autograph letter to Gilbert Urbain Guillaumin. Saint Vèran, Avignon le 22 Janvier 1862
Large octavo, 20.5 x 13.0 cm, 3 pages in French in ink.
£2,000

Gilbert Urbain Guillaumin (1801-1864) was co-founder of the Journal des Économistes in 1842 and was publisher of the French translation from the third edition of Mill’s Principles of Political Economy and Representative Government and Charles Dupont-White (1807-1878) was the French economist who translated Mill’s Representative Government.

In this fine letter Mill asks Guillaumin to send copies, now approaching publication, of his Le gouvernement représentif to his Avignon friend and writer on economic and agricultural subjects Auguste Picard and the positive philosopher Célestin de Blignières (1822-1905). Mill reports that he leaves for Greece on January 29th, and to forward to Poste Restant Athens anticipated articles on his book by Emile Littré (1801-1881) and on books of Dupont-White in the Journal des Débats.

Marion Filipiuk, Additional Letters of John Stuart Mill, no.529
Industrial philanthropy in Europe – the *cites ouvrières* of Mulhouse

7. **JOHN STUART MILL.** Autograph letter signed to Pastor Louis Rey of Avignon. *Blackheath Park, August 13th 1865*

Octavo, 17 x 10.8cm, 3 pages in French in ink, discreet repairs to fold.

£3,000

Newly discovered letter from John Stuart Mill to Pastor Louis Rey in Avignon, asking for an introduction to MM Dollfus [presumably Jean Dollfus 1800-1887, cotton manufacturer] in Mulhouse to see the work that the philanthropic factory owners had done for the benefit of their workers. In Mulhouse, industrial paternalism took the form of efforts to build housing for workers, known as *cites ouvrières*, to offer educational opportunities, to organise health services, to administer a variety of pension plans, insurance programmes and savings accounts, and to organise leisure-time activities. In 1866 at a meeting in Mulhouse, Frederick Engel-Dollfus explained the rational behind Mulhousian industrialists’ adoption of paternalist projects in 1866; “The manufacturer owes something more to his workers than a salary; it is equally his obligation to concern himself with their moral and physical condition, and this obligation, which no type of salary can replace, must take precedence over considerations of private interest”.

Mill visited Germany in September 1865 but it is not known whether he went to Mulhouse to see the industrial paternalism in action, though it was unquestionably of great interest to him.

Pastor Louis Rey [circa 1837-1936] was pastor of the local Protestant church at Saint Vèran, Avignon where John Stuart Mill had bought a house near to where his wife Harriet was buried.

“There was the young Protestant Pastor, Louis Rey, on whose keen and liberal Gallic mind the contradictory features of Mill’s character continued to exert a consuming fascination, to the end of his long life of ninety-nine years. After Mill’s death he helped Helen [Taylor, JSM’s step-daughter] with her legal affairs, and when she left Avignon, he undertook a Power of Attorney for the sale of her house and property. Later, he made two splendid addresses, just before and just after the first world war, in favour of Mill’s statue being erected in the *Place Crillon* facing the *Hôtel de l’Europe*” Packe.

Louis Rey was present at Mill’s death at Saint Vèran in May 1873, and made a short address at his burial. He was the author of two works on Mill; *Le Roman de John Stuart Mill*. Paris 1913 and *John Stuart Mill en Avignon*. Vaison 1921

Mineka records only one short letter to Pastor Rey in 1862 in which Mill sends a contribution to the church funds. Our letter here is unpublished.


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Full transcript of letters available on request

[hamish@riley-smith.com](mailto:hamish@riley-smith.com)
Mill’s instructions to his publisher to send 24 presentation copies of his *Auguste Comte and Positivism*

8. **JOHN STUART MILL.** Autograph letter signed to John Nicolaus Trübner *Berlin, September 13th 1865*
   Octavo, 10.7 x 17.0 cm, 4 pages in ink, checks and penciled x's next to some names and docketed on top of fourth page *J.S. Mill Sept.13/65.*

   £4,000

Newly discovered letter by John Stuart Mill from Berlin to his publisher John Nicolaus Trübner, publisher of *Auguste Comte and Positivism* 1865, giving instructions to send presentation copies on publication to 23 people and 1 institute providing names and addresses: “please send copies from the author ...as soon as published” including


Unpublished and unrecorded. Mineka records other letters to Trübner later in the year.
Mill “at open war” with the *Daily Telegraph*

9. **JOHN STUART MILL. Autograph letter signed to Edwin Arnold.** *Blackheath Park, Jan 31, 1866*  
Octavo, 18.0 x 11.3 cm, 3 pages in ink, pasted on paper removed from an album.  
£1,800

Edwin Arnold (1832-1904), then leader writer, and later editor of the *Daily Telegraph*. Mill writes “But it is totally impossible for me to have any personal connexion with a paper which takes the part the Telegraph does on the Jamaica question. Not only every principle I have, but the honour and character of England for generations to come, are at stake as the condign punishment of the atrocities of which, by their own not confession, but boast, the Jamaica authorities have been guilty; and I cannot, while that question is pending, select as my special organ on another subject, a paper with which, on a matter of such transcendant importance, I am at open war.”

Marion Filipiuk, *Additional Letters John Stuart Mill*, no.914A
10. JOHN STUART MILL. Autograph letter signed to Edmond Beales. *Avignon, Oct 9, 1868*  
Octavo, 13.5 x 21.0 cm, 4 pages in ink, embossed JSM initials on writing paper, lightly dust-soiled, slight creasing and chipping at fore-edge.  
£3,500

A very fine political letter to Edmond Beales, relating to one of the most notable episodes in Mill’s later political career. In it, Mill outlines his reasons for favouring the reformer Edwin Chadwick over the trade unionist Alexander McDonald as the Liberal candidate for Kilmarnock. Chadwick was a founder member of Mill’s London Debating Society and had been acquainted with Mill since 1824. Edward Pleydell-Bouverie, who had been the Liberal member for Kilmarnock for twenty-five years, protested at Mill’s action in recommending Chadwick and publication of Mill’s reply to Bouverie was considered by many to have cost Mill his seat at Westminster.

Edmond Beales was closely connected with radical groups active in the campaign for American and European democracy. He stood unsuccessfully as Liberal candidate for Tower Hamlets in 1868, and Mill here discusses his prospects.

Mill writes that “At Mr Chadwick’s meeting at Kilmarnock, it was estimated that he had more than a thousand workmen for him: but his supporters, nt to offend the miners and to let them do the best they could, did not move an amendment at Mr McDonald’s meeting. It would be a great triumph of advanced opinion if Mr Chadwick were elected, and it will be a great pity if Mr McDonald’s candidature should prevent this. Mr Chadwick was put forward before Mr McDonald was known to be in the field, and he would be more listened to in the House, even on the subject of the miners, than Mr McDonald, having paid special attention to their condition, as was shewn in his Report on the Sanitary Condition of the labouring population in 1842, as well as on subsequent occasions. I write this to you, because if you are able to bring any influence to bear on Mr McDonald, either directly or through Prof.Beesly, that might induce him to retire, you may perhaps think it desireable to do so. No one man that I know is likely to do so much in the House for the interests of the working people as Mr Chadwick, and now when he seems to have a good chance, it would be sad indeed that such a hindrance as this should defeat it.”

Mineka, *The later letters of John Stuart Mill* no.1301.[the manuscript draft at John Hopkins].
A lost letter from David Ricardo to his frequent correspondent Hutches Trower

11. DAVID RICARDO. Autograph letter in ink, signed to Hutches Trower. London 24 April 1823 Quarto, 20 x 25cm, 3 pages in ink + integral address leaf. £9,500


Unpublished. A lost letter from David Ricardo to his frequent correspondent Hutches Trower. The Ricardo/Trower Letters are in University College Library, London passed to them in the 19th century. This ‘lost’ letter is known as Trower responded to it on May 25th 1823 and from the opening of Trower’s letter to Ricardo of July 20th 1823 “...But alas! A whole season has passed since I had the pleasure of hearing from You; for your last letter is dated 24 April!!!”
The letter is addressed to Trower’s home in Godalming and re-addressed in another hand to his mother’s home Clapton.

In this three page ‘tour de force’ letter to his friend Hutches Trower, David Ricardo mentions the death in childbirth of his younger sister Esther (1789-1823), a query by Trower on the “Imperial Gas Company” and Parliamentary debates.

Professor Christophe Depoortère of the Université de la Réunion comments: “In particular, Ricardo evokes the difference of opinions amongst the ministries on Irish affairs, and the fact that he thought ‘impossible that Peel & Wynn can go on together’. He also explicitly admitted that he adopted “radical doctrines” on Parliamentary reform. However, the main part of the letter deals with the fiery exchange that went on in the House of Commons between George Canning and Henry Brougham on 17 April 1823 (Hansard New Series, vol.8, pp. 1089-1106). Canning’s calling Brougham a liar provoked a stand-off on the floor of the Commons and MPs feared the quarrel would result in a duel. The matter was eventually settled amicably. According to Ricardo, this showed that Canning was “deficient in one of the most essential requisites of first minister in the House of Commons, temper”. Ricardo also mentions “a paper respecting the Bank” that John Trower (Hutches Trower’s brother) returned to him « a few days ago » along with a “note”. This was undoubtedly a manuscript connected with Ricardo’s Plan for a National Bank (published posthumously in 1824). Sraffa indicated (IV : 272) that Ricardo wrote this Plan in Gatcomb, “where he had gone in the middle of July 1823”, and added (ibid : 273) that “there are among Ricardo’s Papers three MSS in his own hand-writing connected with the Plan”. Among these, are “a fragment of a draft, covering three quarto pages” and “a sketch of the regulations for the establishment of a National Bank, covering two quarto pages”. It is likely that the manuscript sent to John Trower by Ricardo was one –or both- of these items. As for John Trower’s note on Ricardo’s manuscript, it has not been found. It is likely John Trower’s “irritable disposition” led Ricardo to throw it away. Indeed Trower’s Tory feelings carried him so far as not to name Brougham “without prefixing the word scoundrel to his name”.”

+ vat payable for UK customers

Full transcript of letters available on request

hamish@riley-smith.com
Adam Smith’s correspondence with the first Earl of Shelburne 1759-1760
“the secret of his genius is to be found in that part of his life before he became celebrated”

In 1758 Gilbert Elliot, later Lord Minto, recommended Glasgow University rather than Oxford for the education of Thomas Petty-Fitzmaurice, younger son of the 1st Earl of Shelburne, 1706-1761, (the maternal grandson of the economist William Petty) and wrote to Adam Smith on November 14th 1758 that Lord Shelburne proposes that he should be in your house and entirely under your direction, and to give for his board and the inspection of his education a hundred pound a year, or more if it should be thought proper…you will have the total charge and direction without any control…I think myself that a young man of this rank coming to your University may be of advantage to it’. For two years from 1759, Thomas Petty-Fitzmaurice lived with Adam Smith. Adam Smith was the most conscientious of tutors and wrote on August 31st 1759 to the the Earl of Shelburne of his duties as tutor “as the most agreeable and useful business in which I can be engaged”.

Lord Shelburne, replying to a letter from Adam Smith of 4th April 1759, wrote on the plans for his son’s education
“…the account you give me of my Son…convinces me of your power of looking into him, so does the Scheme you chalk out for the prosecution of his studies, convince me of your judgement…I can point out nothing, I can only approve of what you mean to do…Oeconomy seems…to have a just place in your attention; No fortune is able to do without it, nor can any man be Charitable, Generous or Just who neglects it, it will make a man happy under Slender Circumstances, and make him Shine if his Income be Affluent…Your Pupil comes into the
World a sort of an Adventurer, intitl’d to nothing…I wish him train’d to Need little, not for the purpose of Accumulating, but in order to enable him to Give more…I wish him therefore to be convinc’d, that it is His Happiness and not my own, that I have in view. I wish him to become an honest and Benevolent man; I wish him Punctual and Sober; a lover of Method, and so skill’d in Figures and the businesses of Life, as by Assisting me in my latter days, he make me rejoice at my Labours in his early ones…” 26th April 1759

Thomas Petty-Fitzmaurice (1742-1793) had earlier been educated at Eton. After Glasgow he went to St Mary’s Hall, Oxford in 1761, was called to the English Bar in 1768 and became a Member of Parliament in 1762. In 1779 he set up as a linen merchant and established a bleaching factory at Llewenny in Wales, as his Irish estates were unproductive. He was reported to have lived on “the most intimate terms with Johnson, Hawkesworth and Garrick”.

12. ADAM SMITH autograph letter to the 1st Earl of Shelburne. Glasgow College 4th April 1759
Quarto, 2 leaves, 5 pages, 123 lines, endorsed in ink by Lord Shelburne
£40,000

Adam Smith in this fine and important five page letter provides Lord Shelburne with a detailed plan for his pupil’s education including philosophy, languages, law and history, especially Civil Law, feudal law attendance in his moral philosophy class, as well as mathematics, greek, latin, dancing and fencing. His pupil Thomas will read with him Greek, French, and Latin authors on moral philosophy every day. Euclid will be taught by the Professor of Mathematics Robert Simson.

Adam Smith discusses his pupil’s accounts and expenses and hopes to see Shelburne in Scotland. Finally, in paying tribute to Shelburne’s stewardship as a reforming landlord in Ireland, refers to the measures needed to improve the economy of Scotland and refers to William Petty.

Mossner, Correspondence of Adam Smith, no.30.
13. **ADAM SMITH** autograph letter to the 1st Earl of Shelburne. *Glasgow College 31st August 1759*. Quarto, 3 pages, 58 lines, endorsed in ink by Lord Shelburne. £38,000

Adam Smith describes the alternatives at Glasgow College for the education of the sons of Sir John Colthurst; either to come with a tutor, or a tutor is appointed at Glasgow or to board with a Professor. Adam Smith refers to his recently published book *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* which he had sent to Lord Shelburne, his duty of service to his pupil’s and ends by requesting a remittance of money to cover his pupil’s costs for tuition, clothes, books and other necessaries.

Mossner, Correspondence of Adam Smith, no.37
14. ADAM SMITH. Autograph letter to the 1st Earl of Shelburne. Glasgow 15th July 1760
Quarto, 2 leaves, 6 pages, 129 lines, endorsed in ink by Lord Shelburne, preserved in a cloth box.
£35,000

Adam Smith writes in this long six page letter of his own illness since March and its recurrence from sleeping in a damp bed. Dr Cullen had advised him to ride five hundred miles before September as a means of recovery. He also encloses receipts for expenditure and asks Lord Shelburne for payment of the money he is owed for books and clothes for his pupil Thomas. Adam Smith describes Thomas’s academic progress and character. His pupil reads the best English authors, as well as Montesquieu’s *Esprit de Loix*. In the evening he goes dancing and soldier’s exercises. His pupil’s inclination is towards mathematical and mechanical learning, and that he has less time for polite literature. Thomas has a certain hardness of character, that from Eton he learned a sort of flippant smartness which has now left him entirely and that his character is very grave and serious.
Mossner, Correspondence of Adam Smith, no.51.
15. WILLIAM WILBERFORCE. Autograph letter signed to R. H. Marten. *Highwood Hill, Middy 4th June 1828*

Octavo, 7.6 x 11.2 cm, 4 pages in ink, leaf edges gilt, fold marks, excellent condition.

£950

Location of many of William Wilberforce letters and papers: Bodleian Library, Oxford; Duke University; St John’s College, Cambridge

Fine unpublished autograph letter from the philanthropist and politician William Wilberforce to Robert Humphrey Marten, [1763-1839] whose city career was matched as a religious leader and reformer, Baptist Minister in London and in 1803 he was on a committee for managing a Patriotic Fund, presumably in the Napoleonic Wars and also he made an ‘Address to Royal Humane Society’ in 1812. He was a Freeman of the City of London. Friend of Wilberforce who was a frequent visitor to Marten’s home Broadway House at Plaistow. He was a member of the committee to repeal the Test Acts.

In 1825 Wilberforce retired from the House of Commons and in June 1826 moved to a new home Highwood Hill, (from which this letter was written) just north of London with 140 acres of land and cottages. He was plagued by eyesight problems which he mentions in this letter.