Letters to Frederick James Furnivall

1876-1908
MS.1986.019
http://hdl.handle.net/2345/1196
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Summary Information

Creator: Furnivall, Frederick James, 1825-1910
Title: Letters to Frederick James Furnivall
ID: MS.1986.019
Date [inclusive]: 1876-1908
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet (1 container)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: This collection consists of letters to nineteenth-century philologist Frederick James Furnivall, primarily from American Shakespearean scholar Horace Howard Furness. Single letters from English scholar Joseph Hirst Lupton and George H. Radford are also included. Letters discuss literary matters, specifically Shakespearean prose, but also contain some personal asides.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Letters to Frederick James Furnivall, MS.1986.019, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Administrative Information

Publication Information

Processed by Cheryl Kohen, 2007; updated by AnneMarie Anderson, 2010; Ray Hartley in 2018. This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace.

Restrictions on access

Collection is open for research.

Provenance

Because the current accessioning system was not used until January 1986, it is not possible to know exactly the dates of acquisition of materials received before that time.

Restrictions on use

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Biographical Note: Frederick James Furnivall

Frederick James Furnivall, born in Egham, Surrey, England in 1825, made his career as an English literary scholar, editor, and social activist. He was educated at Cambridge University, where he received his B.A. in 1846 and M.A. in 1849. Furnivall was also awarded several honorary degrees, including a doctorate from Berlin University in 1884, a doctorate from Oxford University in 1901, and a fellow from Berlin University in 1902. He was chosen an original fellow of the British Academy in 1902.

Furnivall founded and participated in many societies, most notably the New Shakspere Society, 1873-1892; Chaucer Society, 1868-1912; and London Philological Society, as secretary from 1862-1910. He was interested in medieval English works and edit texts by William Shakespeare, John Wycliffe, and Geoffrey Chaucer. He prepared the "Six-Text" edition (1866-1882) of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Furnivall is said to have originated the idea for and assisted in the development of *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles*, known today as the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Furnivall died in London in 1910, after editing and publishing over 120 books, articles, and texts.

Sources:


Biographical Note: Horace Howard Furness

Horace Howard Furness was an American Shakespearean scholar born in Philadelphia in 1833. He is credited with the editing and planning of the New Variorum Editions of Shakespeare, a text first published in 1871, which helped bring U.S. criticism and scholarship to international attention.

Sources:


Scope and Contents

This collection consists of letters to Frederick James Furnivall. Six letters are from Horace Howard Furness, an American scholar; one letter is from Joseph Hirst Lupton (1836-1905), an English scholar; and one is from George H. Radford. The letters primarily concern literary matters. Furness's letters address Shakespearian literature and also share some personal anecdotes.

Collection Inventory

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Box</th>
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<td>Lupton, J. H. (Joseph Hirst), 1887 May 11</td>
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<td>Radford, George H., 1893 February 9</td>
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