Thomas Moore Collection
1813-1833 (bulk 1813-1817)
MS.1986.156
http://hdl.handle.net/2345/2794

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Summary Information

Creator: Moore, Thomas
Title: Thomas Moore collection
Collection Identifier: MS.1986.156
Date [inclusive]: 1813-1833
Date [bulk]: 1813-1817
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Collection of materials relating to Irish poet Thomas Moore from 1813-1833 including correspondence, published works, manuscripts, and engravings.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Thomas Moore collection, MS.1986.156, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Administrative Information

Publication Information

Processed by Edward Copenhagen (2001), updated in 2003. This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace.

Provenance

Gifts and purchase in 1959 with subsequent additions; however, 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 access

Collection is open for research.

Restrictions on use

These materials are made available for use in research, teaching and private study, pursuant to U.S. Copyright Law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source. The original authors may retain copyright to the materials.
Biographical Note

Thomas Moore was born in Dublin, Ireland on May 28, 1779. In 1795, he was admitted to Trinity College which had recently began admitting Catholic students. At Trinity, Moore began a lengthy project of translating poetry attributed to Anacreon. Odes to Anacreon was published in 1800. In 1801, the first collection of his own poetry appeared under the title of The Poetical Works of Thomas Little, Esq. It was common knowledge that Thomas Little was in fact Thomas Moore. His collection of light verse was well received and his popular standing secured.

Moore did not have an independent income to support a career in letters and had to seek outside employment. He was appointed as the registrar of the Admiralty Prize Court in Bermuda in 1803. In 1804, he spent several months in Bermuda, the United States and Canada before returning home to England. Many poems in Epistles, Odes, and Other Poems (1806) reflect Moore's experiences in North America, particularly his revulsion at the young American society and his enjoyment of the natural landscape.

Moore soon embarked on a very ambitious project, Irish Melodies (10 vols., 1808-1834). He supplied lyrics to the melodies recorded in Edward Bunting's General Collection of Ancient Irish Music (1796). Beneath the pathos of his poetry, Moore often wrote in a satirical manner and expressed the need of justice for Irish Catholics. Some poems invoked the memory of the heroes of 1798 Rebellion, Robert Emmet and Lord Edward Fitzgerald. Moore sang these songs in fashionable London sitting rooms and at public recitals. These volumes were a great success and were followed by another series entitled National Airs (6 vols., 1818-1828) based on non-Irish folk melodies. Another collection, Sacred Songs (1816-1824), employed lyrics set to the music of Beethoven, Mozart and contemporary Irish and English composers.

Moore participated in the Kilkenny theater festival and met his wife Elizabeth Dyke. They were married in 1811. Though making occasional trips to Ireland, Moore's permanent home was England. The Moore family included five children: Barbara (1812-1817), Anastasia (1813-1829), Olivia (1814-1815), Thomas (1818-1846) and Russell (1823-1842). His wife was born a Protestant and the Moores raised their children as Protestants.

In 1817, Moore published Lalla Rookh. It was a series of verse narratives sung by an Indian prince. Moore appealed to England's growing fascination with the Far East, though his imagery bears very little resemblance to the actual India. Beneath the exoticism of the work, he expressed a strong satirical voice and revealed his love of Ireland and Irish culture.

Moore continued in a satirical vein in his later poetical works, including Intercepted Letters, or the Two-Penny Post Bag (1813) and The Fudge Family in Paris (1818). In the former, he appealed to liberal reformers by mocking the Tory Party's vanity and anti-Catholic prejudice. The lightness of his music often seemed to mask the harshness of his satire. Moore held strong convictions and was not afraid to express them in his writing. In Travels of an Irish Gentleman in Search of Religion (1834), he defended Catholicism in a society hostile to the religion. In his biographical work on Edward Fitzgerald, Life of Lord Edward (1831), Moore suggested that oppressed people should fight back and presented a strong Catholic nationalist position.
Toward the end of his life, Moore spent a great amount of time and effort on The History of Ireland (4 vols., 1835-1846). He was not suited to the art of historical writing and did not have firm command of ancient and early Irish history. In 1841, Moore published The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore in ten volumes.

In 1846, soon after the deaths of his son Thomas and his sister Ellen, Moore's own health began to fail. He lapsed into senile dementia in 1849 and died on February 25, 1852.


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Scope and Contents

The collection contains letters by Thomas Moore, portrait engravings of Moore, a manuscript extract from Moore's poem Lalla Rookh, and a published poem with Moore's annotations. The letters concern a variety of subjects including his publications and an account of a discussion Sir Francis Rawdon (Earl of Moira and Lord Hastings) about India, three have been transcribed by a library staff member. A single poem, "Dog-Day Reflections," was published in a newspaper and has handwritten corrections made by Moore.

Arrangement Note

Organized into four series: Letters; Published work; Engravings; and Manuscript.
# Collection Inventory

## Series I: Letters, 1813-1824, undated

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## Series III: Engravings, 1824-1833, undated

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## Series IV: Manuscript, undated

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