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Benjamin Disraeli Papers, 1805-1896 MS# 0348

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Creator

Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, 1804-1881

Title and dates

Benjamin Disraeli papers, 1805-1896

Size

1.5 linear feet (2 document boxes and 1 object box).

Call number

MS# 0384

Location

Columbia University
Butler Library, 6th Floor
Rare Book and Manuscript Library
535 West 114th Street
New York, NY 10027

Language(s) of material

Benjamin Disraeli Papers

English

Biography



Disraeli was Britain's first, and only, prime minister of Jewish descent (he was Baptized into the Church of England, July 31, 1817). He served twice as prime minister, from 27 February to 1 December 1868 and from 20 February 1874 to 21 April 1880. Disraeli is credited with establishing the modern Conservative Party by his creation of the Conservative Central Office. It was during his leadership that England gained control of both India and the Suez Canal. In 1878 Disraeli was elevated to the House of Lords as the Earl of Beaconsfield.

In addition to his political career, Disraeli had a successful career as an author. Among his publications are: *The Voyage of Captain Popanilla* (1828); *The Young Duke* (1831); *Contarini Fleming* (1832); *The Wondrous Tale of Alroy and the Rise of the Iskander* (1833); *A Year at Hartlebury* (1834) and the political pamphlet *A Vindication of the English Constitution in a Letter to a Noble and Learned Lord by Disraeli the Younger* (1835); *Coningsby* (1844); *Sybil* (1845); *Tancred* (1847); *Lord George Bentinck: A Political Biography* (1851) *Lothair* (1870); *Endymion* (1880).

Something of a dandy and wit, it is reported that William Gladstone said to Disraeli, "I predict, Sir, that you will die either by hanging or of some vile disease". Disraeli replied, "That all depends, sir, upon whether I embrace your principles or your mistress."

Description

Correspondence, photographs, and printed material by and relating to Benjamin Disraeli. There are nine letters from Disraeli to various persons including Sir Charles Adderly, First Baron Norton; the Duke of Northumberland; and Sir Henry Edwards. The letters span the dates 1849 to 1879. Also included are two letters from Disraeli's father, Isaac D'Israeli, 1766-1848, to Stephen Weston, 1805, and Edward Moxon, 1833, and a post card from William Ewart Gladstone. A letter from William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne to Sir William Owen (1837) has been removed from an extra-illustrated edition of *The Letters of Runnymede* (London, 1836) and cataloged for the collection.

The collection includes eight contemporary photographs of Disraeli; engravings of Disraeli and members of his family; advertisements featuring Disraeli; articles, Victorian figures; and memorabilia, and souvenirs. Also, a collection of first editions by Disraeli and works by and about him; two letters from Isaac D'Israeli to Edward Moxon; and a tinsel portrait of Queen Victoria. Two letters from Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas to Richard Bentley about Disraeli's *The Young Duke* have been added.

Arrangement

- I. Cataloged Correspondence
- II. Printed Material
- III. Photographs and Badge
- IV. Art and Memorabilia

ACCESS AND USE

Access

This collection is located on-site.

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

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ACQUISITION AND APPRAISAL

Provenance and Acquisition

Gift of William B. Liebmann, 1979 and 1984

Accrual of Records

PROCESSING AND OTHER INFORMATION

Processing Information

Processed by RBML staff.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*

Encoding

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Benjamin Disraeli Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

Subject Headings

Bentley, Richard, 1794-1871.
Disraeli, Isaac, 1766-1848.
Disraeli family.
Edwards, Henry, Sir.
Gladstone, W. E. (William Ewart), 1809-1898.
Melbourne, William Lamb, Viscount, 1779-1848.
Moxon, Edward.
Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, Sir, 1799-1848.
Northumberland, Algernon Percy, 4th Duke of, 1792-1865.
Norton, C. B. Adderley (Charles Bowyer Adderley), Baron, 1814-1905.
Owen, William, Sir.
Victoria, Queen of Great Britain, 1819-1901.
Weston, Stephen, 1747-1830.

Family-England.
English literature--19th century.
Great Britain--Politics and government.
Photoprints.
Cartoons.
Engravings.
Portraits.
Advertisements.
Articles.
Caricatures.
Authors, English.
Prime ministers.
Statesmen.
Diplomats.

CONTENTS LIST

Series I: Letters, Photographs and Printed Ephemera

Box 1 Original inventory list.
 Cataloged correspondence.

Series II: Printed Materials

Box 1 Printed material:
 Advertisements
 Articles, clippings, newspapers
 Cartoons
 Portraits
 Souvenirs
 Miscellaneous Disraeliana
 Miscellaneous Printed

Series III: Photographs and Badge

Box 2 Framed photographs and memorial "badge."

Series IV: Art and Memorabilia

Object Box 1 Framed tinsel portrait of Queen Victoria. 7 1/4" x 9 1/2". Gold, silver and red tinsel
 decoration on her dress and hat and on the horse's saddle and harness.
 Note: Fragile.

 Commemorative pitcher with Disraeli's face and death date, April 19, 1881.
 Note: Fragile.