

A Guide to the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Collection

Catharine Maria Sedgwick Collection 1801-1865

1801-1865

A Collection in the Clifton Waller Barrett Library of American Literature 6970-d

Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

1997

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Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

6970-d

Language

English

Extent

20 items

Repository

University of Virginia. Library. Special Collections Dept.

Alderman Library
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
USA

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

Aquisition Information

Deposit [1963 Dec 17] 1966 Dec 15

Funding Note

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Preferred Citation

Catharine Maria Sedgwick Collection, Accession 6970-d, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library

Item Listing

LETTERS

Theodore Sedgwickto Catharine Maria Sedgwick

Unit Date 1801 Feb 10

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Looks forward to returning home and being reunited with his daughter Catharine Sedgwickand his other children; mentions concern about the health of Aunt West who is such a good person]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Harmanus Bleeker

Unit Date 1824 Aug 5

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Writes from Lebanon, New Hampshire, where she has met a Mr. Brasier, a Unitarian Minister, whom she desires to introduce to Mr. Harmanus Bleeker]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto My dear Sir

Unit Date 1831 Feb 9

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Encourages the recipient of her letter, who is apparently leaving for an unknown country, to not despair; and hopes he will be rewarded for working for such a noble cause]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto My dear Sir

Unit Date 1833 Aug 27

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[writes concerning the publication of an article by Sismondi, in Americaand in England, and her translation of the article into English which is now useless, and the whole thing profitless for her correspondent; wants him to forward the Sismondi article to William [J.] Mrimot, Beacon Street; and mentions an article by Madame de Stael in the North American Review]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto "My dear Sir" [William Mergs]

Unit Date 1836 Aug 16

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Letter regards money she expects to get for some drafts, and asks that payment be sent to her in Stockbridgeor to her brother's address in Lennox]

J.H. Mergsto Catharine Maria Sedgwick

Unit Date 1836 Aug 18

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[On the reverse of the previous letter, August 16, 1836, he replies to her letter for his brother Bill, sending her a statement of the drafts collected and the amount of \$64.24]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Mary Russell Mitford

Unit Date 1839 Jun 10

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Notifies Mary Russell Mitfordthat she, Kate, and others of her party would like to spend the evening with her at Readingon the way from Southamptonto Londonif possible, and calls Mary Russell Mitfordher oldest friend in England]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto George Palmer Putnam

Unit Date 1843 Apr 24

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

1843-1844, 1845-1846, 1847-1848, 1849-1850, 1851-1852, 1853-1854, 1855-1856, 1857-1858, 1859-1860, 1861-1862, 1863-1864, 1865-1866, 1867-1868, 1869-1870, 1871-1872, 1873-1874, 1875-1876, 1877-1878, 1879-1880, 1881-1882, 1883-1884, 1885-1886, 1887-1888, 1889-1890, 1891-1892, 1893-1894, 1895-1896, 1897-1898, 1899-1900, 1901-1902, 1903-1904, 1905-1906, 1907-1908, 1909-1910, 1911-1912, 1913-1914, 1915-1916, 1917-1918, 1919-1920, 1921-1922, 1923-1924, 1925-1926, 1927-1928, 1929-1930, 1931-1932, 1933-1934, 1935-1936, 1937-1938, 1939-1940, 1941-1942, 1943-1944, 1945-1946, 1947-1948, 1949-1950, 1951-1952, 1953-1954, 1955-1956, 1957-1958, 1959-1960, 1961-1962, 1963-1964, 1965-1966, 1967-1968, 1969-1970, 1971-1972, 1973-1974, 1975-1976, 1977-1978, 1979-1980, 1981-1982, 1983-1984, 1985-1986, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, 1993-1994, 1995-1996, 1997-1998, 1999-2000, 2001-2002, 2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012, 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2019-2020, 2021-2022, 2023-2024, 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[inserted in Field's copy of the illustrated edition of the Bryant Festival at the Century(PS 1185.c4 1865a 590314 copy 2)]

[Social note to Mr. George Palmer Putnam, in which she hopes that both he and his wife are well]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Maria Watson

Unit Date 1846 Aug 2

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Mentions her travel to various friends' houses in the country, New York, and Long Island; apologizes about the long delay in answering her kind, gratifying, and interesting letter; speaks about her own strong feelings for her family and the people of New England, where seeing her writings appreciated by New Englandgives her the most satisfaction; mentions Mrs. Maria Watson's "trials"; philosophizes about God's wisdom in giving each as much as she can bear; praises the writing and philosophy of Frederika Bremerwho understands domestic life and natural character in all places, especially (her native) Swedenand New England; urges her to read Emilia Windhamby Mrs. [March ?]; and gives her emotional encouragement]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto George Palmer Putnam

Unit Date 1850 Dec 13

Extent

ALS,
2 p.

Scope and Content

[Since she has not heard from the firm's clerk about her request to send a pictorial Bible, she asks George Palmer Putnamto send the Bibleas well as several other books to Lennox; sends greetings of the season and inquires after his family]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Edmund Welles

Unit Date 1851 Sep 11

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Translates a line by Goethefor him (counseling a young student): "Reason and good sense are expressed with little art. When you are seriously intent on saying something it is necessary to limit for words!"]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Mrs. Coolidge

Unit Date 1852 Apr 13

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Thanks her for invitation which she would gratefully accept even if Mrs. Coolidge's brother were not present.]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Mrs. Farrar

Unit Date [1861 Jan 10]

Extent

ALS

3 p.

Scope and Content

[Will comply with Mrs. Farrar's request for autographs to be sold at a fair; not only will she send her own but will include "treasures" from her papers in Lennox-other people's valuable autographs; and hopes that the dry, cold air will relieve Mrs. F. from the miseries of asthma.]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Mr. James Parton

Unit Date 1865 Feb 24 & 25

Extent

AL,

8 p.

Scope and Content

[Expresses admiration for James Parton's writings and his genius, especially fascinated by the central figures of his biographies Butler and Burr; calls the book on Burr the most exciting one she ever read; credits her special interest in Burr to personal acquaintance since her father had met him and Burr's sister, Mrs. Reeve, was a schoolmate and later an intimate friend of her mother; apologizes for possible blunders in her letter due to being an invalid, her eyesight reduced and her memory not too keen; talks about Burr's looks and his intellect, yet, in her opinion, with no conscience, no moral principle; speaks at length about the Life of Andrew Jacksonand the Federal Party; wonders if James Partonhas heard of her and mentions her nephew Theodore Sedgwickwho would have written "The History of the Federal Party" had he not died young]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto James Parton

Unit Date 1865 Mar 10

Extent

ALS,

5 p.

Scope and Content

[Pleased to have got such a quick reply from him, she compliments him again on his writing; mentions the complaints of her cousin regarding the reading matter sent to the wounded soldiers, such as Harvey's Meditations, and "similar rubbish of philanthrop's libraries," not suitable reading among the bombs and suggests that his own books would be far better reading material, especially if he had unbound printed sheets, which could be stitched together in numbers to make them lighter and thus easier to carry and to handle; knows the difficulty in handling regular books ... from her own invalid's point of view; believes it would not be necessary for him to donate the books, there being enough philanthropists willing to buy them for that purpose; presently reading The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklinand is most impressed by it; tempted herself to do biography, she has come away from his books convinced that she did not have the gift; speaks about a sermon she has heard at her church in Stockbridge, parts of which impressed her; relates an anecdote of her brother Charles Sedgwickregarding his religious affiliation; mentions Stephen Girard; apologizes for writing at much length (against her doctor's orders), and for taking so much of his time]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Mrs. [Mary Fairlie] Cooper

Unit Date Monday 15

Extent

ALS,

1 p.

Scope and Content

[Asks that the little volume accompanying the letter to be given to Miss Fairlie's "faultless niece" and refers to the time spent talking with Mrs. Mary Fairlie Cooper's brilliant sister]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto [William Davis] Ticknor

Unit Date Thursday Feb 3

Extent

ALS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Expresses regrets for not being able to accept an invitation for the following evening because friends of hers are coming to town.]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Fletcher Harper

Unit Date 18[?]9 Jun 10

Extent

ALS,
4 p.

Scope and Content

[Informs Mr. Fletcher Harperthat she plans to publish Clarenceand Redwoodwith Putnamsince they are not included in her contract with his publishing house; complains that according to friends of hers, copies of her books cannot be found in Boston, Hartford, and Philadelphiaat times, although she knows that he has the books on hand; and asks him to check with agents]

Catharine Maria Sedgwickto Marianne C.D. Silsbee

Unit Date Jul 7

Extent

ANS,
1 p.

Scope and Content

[Informs her that she will be at home this morning, happy to see her any time after 11 o'clock]

PHOTOGRAPH AND PRINTS

Catharine Maria Sedgwickstanding, autographed, after a painting by Charles Cromwell Ingham

Unit Date n.d.

Extent

Engraving