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# Coleridge Manuscripts in The W. Hugh Peal Collection

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## Coleridge Manuscripts in The W. Hugh Peal Collection

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Richard W. Scott

W. Hugh Peal, Class of 1922, Ballard County native, Rhodes Scholar, and New York attorney, made the early English literary Romantics—Wordsworth, Coleridge, Southey, and Lamb—the center of his notable collection of books and manuscripts.<sup>1</sup> When he presented his Charles Lamb letters to the University of Kentucky in 1981 (along with the greater part of his library), they represented the largest such gathering then in private hands.<sup>2</sup> His holdings of letters by the companion figures are significant, as well; below will be found a calendar of the documents relating to Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet, preacher, theorist, philosopher, correspondent, conversationalist, and the brilliant intellectual force at the center of the Romantics.

The items assembled by Mr. Peal range from lengthy letters to the casual marginalia for which Coleridge gained a small infamy among his book-collecting friends, and even include a lock of his hair, taken from the back of the head and of a "lustrous brown," according to an accompanying note. The Coleridge letters at the University of Kentucky encompass the whole of Coleridge's adult life, from 1794, when he was twenty-one and a student at Cambridge, to 1834, the last year of his life. Thus, from this small collection can be won glimpses into many stages of Coleridge's literary and social life. Of special interest are the fourteen letters to William Sotheby that are indicative of a close friendship and are but representative of an extensive correspondence between the two.

Just as Mr. Peal made his Charles Lamb letters available to the editor of the Lamb correspondence, Prof. Edwin Marrs, he made his Coleridge letters available to Prof. Earl Leslie Griggs, the editor of the *Collected Letters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge* (London: Oxford University Press, 1966). While most of the Coleridge material here is published in the Griggs volumes, this is not the case entirely.

A number of conventional abbreviations have been used in

preparing the entries. "A.l.s." signifies "autograph letter, signed"; "A.l." stands for "autograph letter"; "A.ms." for "autograph manuscript"; "A.n.s." for autograph note, signed"; and "A.n." for "autograph note." Dates that are within brackets do not appear on the letters but have been given by Griggs in the *Collected Letters*. The exception to this is item number 46, the date of which was deduced by use of a perpetual calendar, since the letter contains the day of the week and month. (See also item number 34 for another example of difficulty in dating a letter.) Some items contain poems or fragments of poetry which are followed by parenthetical page numbers. These page numbers refer to a poem's location in *The Complete Poetical Works of Samuel Taylor Coleridge*, edited by Ernest Hartley Coleridge (London: Oxford University Press, 1966). A final number, shown in parentheses at the conclusion of each entry, is the accession number of the item assigned by Mr. Peal in his personal catalogue of the collection.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>I wish to acknowledge the kind assistance of the following persons. Dr. James D. Birchfield, editor of *The Kentucky Review*, suggested to me the possibility of this project, which was carried out under Prof. William J. Marshall, Jr., Assistant Director for Special Collections and Archives at the University of Kentucky Libraries. Miss Claire McCann, Curator of Manuscripts, also was most helpful to me in completing my work on the Coleridge materials in the Peal Collection.

<sup>2</sup>See Edwin W. Marrs, *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Letters of Charles and Mary Anne Lamb in the W. Hugh Peal Collection* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Libraries, 1984), University of Kentucky Libraries Occasional Paper Number 7. Other publications of interest concerning the Peal Collection include Volume IV, Number 1, of *The Kentucky Review*, which was prepared as an exhibition catalogue of the showing of materials from the Peal Collection which accompanied presentation ceremonies 15 October 1982. An index to this catalogue, prepared by its chief author, John Spalding Gatton, appears in Volume XII, Number 1, of the *Review*. "In Search of Charles Lamb," Mr. Peal's own account of his activities as a collector, appears in *The Kentucky Review*, Volume VI, Number 2, and a more informal recollection of his career as a bookman unfolds in David Farrell's interview, "A Kentucky Collector: An Interview With W. Hugh Peal," published in Volume X, Number 2. Other references to the Peal Collection will be found in Bradley O. Grissom's "Author and Subject Indexes to *The Kentucky Review*, Volumes I-X," which comprises the first part of Volume XI, No. 1, an index special issue of the journal.

## A CATALOGUE OF THE COLERIDGE MANUSCRIPTS IN THE PEAL COLLECTION

1. Clipped signature. Possibly from a letter. (Peal 11,518)
2. Lock of Coleridge's hair. With a contemporary note of identification. (Peal 11,717)
3. A.ms., a passage of poetry. Mounted. Lines 9-14 from the poem "Alice Du Close" (p. 469). Possibly intended for a lady's album. (Peal 8,330)
4. A.ms., written on a leaf from a copy of Horace formerly in Coleridge's possession. On both sides of the sheet, and inlaid within a larger sheet. Discusses Epicurus. Mounted on the same sheet is a certificate by Augustus M. Swift concerning the authorship and provenance of the fragment. (Peal 11,076b)
5. A.ms. 2 pages of a single sheet. 6 poetical excerpts. "The Suicide's Plea" and "Nature's Answer" (p. 419), "On Donne's Poetry" (p. 433), "Elisa" (p. 1,009), "Another on the Same Subject by S.T.C. Himself" (p. 997), and "Names [from Lessing]" (p. 318). Part of the last has been cut away. (Peal 10,728)
6. A.ms.s. "De non-Lexicon inveniendis: or Antecedents to the Anglo-German Dictionary." One sheet of paper. The paper has a watermark of "15" in the very upper left corner, most likely the year "1815" with the first two digits cropped. A short description of four differences between the German and English languages. (Peal 7,806)
7. A.ms. "The study of History Preferable to the study of Natural Philosophy." [1794] 3 pages. An essay written by Coleridge while a student at Cambridge. Griggs calls the essay fragmentary. See Griggs, note to Letter 52. (Peal 7,331-1)
8. A.l.s., postmarked Caernarvon, 22 July 1794, to Henry Martin. 6 pages. A lengthy letter describing a trip taken to Wales with several anecdotes recounted in detail and various scenes superbly described. Last page contains two poems of fourteen lines each: "Lines Written at Ross, at the King's Arms—once the House of Mr. Kyrle" (p. 57) and "The Faded Flower" (p. 70). Griggs, Letter 52. (Peal 7,331-2 and Peal 7,331-3)

9. A.l.s., Jesus College, Cambridge, 26 September 1794, to Francis Wrangham. 3 pages. Sends to a friend some verse he has imitated from some of Wrangham's Latin verses. "To Miss Brunton (now Mrs. Merry) on her departure from Cambridge—Oct. 1790" (p. 66). Contains minor alterations by Wrangham. Griggs, Letter 62. (Peal 7,796-1)
10. A.l.s., [Bristol], 10 March 1795, to George Dyer. Discusses a variety of subjects including his health, his dislike of large cities, and the possibility of employment in London. He also mentions his incomplete political lectures and his sonnets for the *Morning Post*. Coleridge quotes from James Thompson's "Castle of Indolence." This letter appears to have been forwarded to Wordsworth in Sommers Town. Griggs, Letter 82. (Peal 12,174)
11. A.l.s., n.p., [25] January 1802, to George Bellas Greenough. 1 page of a single sheet. Encloses two letters, one from a friend in Ratzeburg and another from William Godwin. Also sends some pens for Greenough to mend. Griggs, Letter 433. (Peal 12,172)
12. A.l.s., Greta Hall, Keswick, 15 April 1802, to unknown correspondent. 2 pages of a single sheet. Inquires about an insurance policy, possibly meant to provide for Mrs. Coleridge, from whom he was later to separate. Not in Griggs. (Peal 10,796a)
13. A.l.s., Greta Hall, Keswick, 13 July 1802, to William Sotheby. 4 pages of a double sheet. Discusses Wordsworth's character and disagreements between him and Coleridge in poetical matters. Griggs, Letter 444. (Peal 10,506)
14. A.l.s., Greta Hall, Keswick, 26 August 1802, to William Sotheby. 4 pages of a double sheet. Coleridge discusses his trip in Wales, his poetry, Sotheby's books, and Wordsworth. Griggs, Letter 457. (Peal 10,507)
15. A.l.s., Greta Hall, Keswick, 10 September 1802, to William Sotheby. 4 pages of a double sheet. Coleridge writes primarily about his poetry, including a poem said to contain unacknowledged borrowing from Friederike Brun and William Lisle Bowles. Griggs, Letter 459. (Peal 10,508)
16. A.l.s., Greta Hall, Keswick, 19 September 1802, to William Sotheby. 3 1/2 pages of a double sheet. Finally received a package of books from Sotheby. Discusses a house in the neighborhood that is for sale that Sotheby is interested in.

- Expresses his misgivings about the dwelling and suggests that Sotheby move into Greta Hall. Griggs, Letter 460. (Peal 10,509)
17. A.l.s., Keswick, 1 October 1802, to William Sotheby. 4 pages of a double sheet. 3 pages are devoted to Coleridge's notes on "Orestes," the final page contains a letter. Mentions Wordsworth's upcoming October wedding. Griggs, Letter 463. (Peal 10,510)
  18. A.l.s., 16 Abingdon St., Westminster, [31 January 1804], to George Bellas Greenough. 2 pages of a double sheet. Coleridge mentions breakfast with Sharp and conversation with Sir Humphrey Davy. Is going to Malta and Sicily per Greenough's suggestion. Griggs, Letter 458. (Peal 12,172a)
  19. A.l.s., n.p., 13 March 1804, to George Bellas Greenough. 2 pages of a double sheet. Gives details of his travel plans for his trip to Malta. Gives the name of the ship he will take passage on and the cost of passage. Griggs, Letter 571. (Peal 12,173b)
  20. A.l.s., with signature cut away, Courier Office, 27 March 1804, to George Bellas Greenough. 1 page of a double sheet. A farewell letter before leaving for Malta. Regrets not being able to see Greenough because of his own ill-health. Makes arrangements for the delivery of some brandy and a couple of drawings. Griggs, Letter 585. (Peal 12,173c)
  21. A.l.s., Malta, 5 July 1804, to William Sotheby. 3 1/4 pages of a double sheet. Writes of his passage from Gibraltar to Malta, of his health, and of conditions in Malta. Griggs, Letter 601. (Peal 10,511)
  22. A.l.s., Courier Office, Strand, [5 May 1807], to William Sotheby. Could not call on Sotheby as he was assisting Miss Hutchinson in her concerns. She has gone to visit the Clarksons, the Wordsworths are traveling to Coleorton, and Coleridge and his son leave soon for Bristol. Asks Sotheby for loan of 50 pounds. Griggs, Letter 647. (Peal 10,512)
  23. A.l. (third person), Hammersmith, 12 November 1811, to Joseph Hardcastle. Written on the third page of a double sheet. On the first page is a prospectus for Coleridge's lectures on Shakespeare and Milton. Discusses the purpose of the lectures and asks Mr. Hardcastle to recommend the lectures to his friends. Griggs, Letter 837a. (Peal 12,175)
  24. A.l.s., Hammersmith, 6 February 1812, to Mrs. William

- Sotheby. 2 pages of a double sheet. Must refuse an invitation as he is leaving for Keswick. On his return, he plans to give a series of lectures. Griggs, Letter 850. (Peal 10,333)
25. A.l.s., n.p., 11 May 1812, to William Sotheby. 2 pages of a double sheet. Speaks of the death of Spencer Perceval and the need to defer his lecture for a couple of weeks. (Perceval was assassinated by John Bellingham in the lobby of the House of Commons, 11 May 1812.) Griggs, Letter 870. (Peal 10,334)
  26. A.l. (third person), n.p., [7 December 1812], to Miss Smith. 1 page. Asks for permission to call to see her. Miss Smith acted in Coleridge's *Remorse*. Griggs, Letter 881a (Peal 11,001a)
  27. A.l.s. (initials), n.p., 26 April 1814, to Joseph Cottle. 3 pages of a double sheet. With a note by Cottle. Speaks of a great depression of mind and body. Part of a series of letters wherein Cottle attempts to get Coleridge to renounce his opium habit. Griggs, Letter 920. (Peal 10,332)
  28. A.l.s., postmarked Calne, 7 March 1815, to Joseph Cottle. 4 pages of a double sheet. A long letter about Cottle's "Messiah," Coleridge's perception of the creating of poetry, his health, and his plans. Griggs, Letter 956. (Peal 11,251)
  29. A.l. (third person), n.p., [December 1815], to Mr. Kirkland. 1 page of single sheet. A request for opium and laudanum. Also, promises to settle his account with Mr. Kirkland when the weather improves. Griggs, Letter 989. (Peal 8,329)
  30. A.l.s., Calne, [31 January 1816], to William Sotheby. 3 pages of a double sheet. Discusses *Zapolya* and the *Biographia Literaria*, both then in preparation. Asks for Sotheby's judgment and advice on both works. Griggs, Letter 992. (Peal 10,513)
  31. A.l.s., Calne, [12 March 1816], to William Sotheby. 1 page of a single sheet. About a letter from Sotheby which was misplaced by a maid but subsequently found. Mentions the proofs of the *Biographia Literaria*. Griggs, Letter 997. (Peal 10,514)
  32. A.l.s., n.p., [19 January 1819], to William Mumford. 2 pages of a double sheet. Discusses his lectures (possibly the fifth philosophical lecture of 18 January 1819) and Catholic emancipation. Partially published in Griggs, Letter 1,173. (Peal, 13,496)

33. A.l.s. (signature removed), n.p., [May 1820], to Samuel Mence. 1 page of a single sheet. Pasted to a sheet bearing explanatory notes in another hand. Coleridge accepts an unspecified invitation. Griggs, Letter 1,232. (Peal 13,136)
34. A.l.s., Highgate, 30 September 1820, to Thomas Cromwell. 2 pages of a single sheet. Discusses Cromwell's play, *Oliver Cromwell*, Coleridge's health, the current theatre, and his proposed trip to Ramsgate. Griggs dates the letter to 1821. Griggs, Letter 1,278. (Peal 10,325)
35. A.l.s., Lincoln's Inn, 18 June 1822, to an unnamed member of Parliament. 1 page of a single sheet. Seeks support for the second reading of the Highgate Bill. Griggs, Letter 1,305. (Peal 13,027)
36. A.l.s., Highgate, 19 June 1822, to C. A. Fulk, M.P. 1 page of a double sheet. Attempts to enlist the support of Fulk for the Highgate Bill. Sends his "best remembrances" to Mrs. Fulk. Griggs, Letter 1,308. (Peal 9265a)
37. A.l.s., n.p., [13 March 1823], to Sara Hutchinson. 2 pages of a single sheet. As his standing ticket has been lent, Coleridge attempts to arrange for two tickets for Miss Hutchinson and Mr. Monkhouse to attend a program (possibly an oratorio; see note in Griggs). Griggs, Letter 1,328. (Peal 11,715)
38. A.l.s., Grove, Highgate, 30 December 1823, to Mrs. Charles Aders. 3 pages. A long letter about the Gillmans. Relates how Mrs. Gillman fell down some stairs and broke her arm. Speaks in glowing terms of Mr. Gillman's medical abilities. Griggs, Letter 1,364. (Peal 7,796-5)
39. A.l.s., n.p., [16 March 1824], to unknown correspondent. 1 page of a single sheet. Thanks a lady for a debate that she has sent to him. He is more interested, however, in another debate in which the Lord Chancellor narrowly escaped being brought to the Bar of the House for "Breach of Privilege" and for calling Mr. Abercrombie a liar. Griggs, Letter 1,380. (Peal 8,328)
40. A.l.s., Grove, Highgate, 1 June [1824], to Mrs. Charles Aders. 1 page of a double sheet. Sympathies are extended concerning an illness in the family. Coleridge expresses a desire to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Green of Lincoln's Inn Fields to Mrs. Aders. Griggs, Letter 1,401. (Peal 9,265b)
41. A.l.s. (signature removed), Wellington Crescent, 11 November 1824, to James Gillman. 3 pages of a double sheet



- (a third of the second leaf is cropped away). Speaks of the rest of the Gillman family, with whom he is on vacation. Writes that Mrs. Gillman's health is improving. Griggs, Letter 1,419. (Peal 12,176)
42. A.l.s., Grove, Highgate, [early February 1825], to Sir Humphrey Davy. 2 pages of a single sheet. Introduces Thomas Allsop to Davy. Allsop wishes to mine in Derbyshire, and Coleridge declares the project to be sound. Allsop was to be the carrier of the letter. Griggs, Letter 1,429. (Peal 10,797)
43. A.l.s., postmarked Highgate, 12 May 1825, to J. A. Hessey. 1 page of a double sheet. About a packet entrusted to Edward Coleridge (his nephew) which was lost. Mentions some books of his that are being published. Griggs, Letter 1,455. (Peal 9,220)
44. A.l.s., postmarked Highgate, 3 January 1826, to Mrs. Charles Aders. 2 pages of a double sheet. Coleridge writes of his affection for Mr. and Mrs. Aders. Includes 3 pages of a "metaphysical disquisition." Hopes that Mrs. Aders and Miss James (Mary Lamb's nurse) can visit him and the Gillmans on 5 January. Griggs, Letter 1,505. (Peal 11,075)
45. A.l.s., postmarked Highgate, 20 January 1826, to Mrs. Charles Aders. 2 pages of a double sheet. Wishes for Mr. Aders to procure a copy of Schleiermacher's sermons so he can study them "for a few hours only." Speaks of forming a Teutonic Club and German Library in London. Discusses his hypochondria and bad moods. Griggs, Letter 1,512. (Peal 12,177)
46. A.n. (third person), n.p., 14 April [1826], to John Murray. 1 page of a single sheet. Accepts a dinner invitation. Not in Griggs. (Peal 11,001b)
47. A.l.s., Grove, Highgate, [June 1827], to William Sotheby. 3 pages of a double sheet. In a very effusive manner, Coleridge thanks Sotheby for sending him a copy of the latter's *Polyglot Georgics* (or *Georgica Publici Hexaglotta*). Mentions his intention to give it to his daughter Sara as a wedding gift. Griggs, Letter 1,592. (Peal 10,515)
48. A.l.s., n.p., [24 June 1827], to John Watson. 1 1/2 pages of a single sheet. Coleridge is concerned about Watson's health. Griggs, Letter 1,593. (Peal 11,548)
49. A.l.s., Grove, Highgate, 16 February 1828, to unknown

- correspondent. 1 page of a single sheet. (Griggs gives R. Sutton as the correspondent, although a pencil note on the letter gives the addressee as J. S. Taylor.) Mentions a certificate Coleridge has sent to Cambridge. Expresses gratitude for the perseverance. Griggs, Letter 1,615. (Peal 7,796-2)
50. A.l.s., n.p., 7 March 1828, to Joseph Hardman. 2 pages of a double sheet. Coleridge regrets that he cannot visit Hardman because of a chilling rain; discusses a proposed quarterly, and Coleridge offers to draw up a "Scheme of the contents." Griggs, Letter 1,618. (Peal 10,795)
51. A.l.s., n.p., 27 March 1828, to an unknown correspondent. 1 page of a single sheet. Coleridge accepts an invitation. His reply is tardy because he had exhausted himself after talking too long at Lady Beaumont's. Griggs, Letter 1,619. (Peal 12,571)
52. A.l.s., n.p., 8 August 1828, to Frederick M. Reynolds. 2 pages of a single sheet. Talks briefly about a European trip taken with the Wordsworths. Griggs, Letter 1,630. (Peal 7,796-3)
53. A.l.s., Waterloo Plains, Ramsgate, 29 November 1828, to William Sotheby. 3 1/2 pages of a double sheet. Talks about the inception of a new periodical to be edited by Blanco White (the *London Review*), which was discontinued in 1829 after but two issues). Also mentions other periodicals, for which he was to write articles. Griggs, Letter 1,645. (Peal 10,516)
54. A.l.s., postmarked Highgate, 13 July 1829, to William Sotheby. 2 pages of a double sheet. Thanks Sotheby for a gift; discusses sons Derwent and Hartley at some length; mentions portions of his works, including the *Critique*. In the Griggs edition of the correspondence, this letter appears with a poem which once accompanied it; only the letter is in the Peal Collection. Griggs, Letter 1,666. (Peal 10,517)
55. A.l.s., postmarked Highgate, 3 June 1831, to William Sotheby. 6 pages of two double sheets and an additional fragment of a sheet. Thanks Sotheby for his intervention with the Lord Chancellor and Lord Grey in the matter of Coleridge's pension. Explains why he cannot accept a private gift from Lord Grey. Griggs, Letter 1,711. (Peal 10,518)
56. A.l.s., n.p., 9 September 1833, to J. P. Kennard. 2 pages of a

double sheet. Letter is on the first page. Verifies an appointment with Kinnard and thanks him for some pens. Second page contains random thoughts, not published in the correspondence. Griggs, Letter 1,790. (Peal 7796-4)

57. A.l. (third person), postmarked Highgate, 6 November 1833, to F. E. Finden. 2 pages of a double sheet. Finden, an engraver, wished to engrave a portrait of Coleridge. Coleridge prefers a drawing made by C. R. Leslie in 1818. Says Finden may call on him at any time after 10:00 o'clock. Griggs, Letter 1,800. (Peal 11,067a)
58. A.n.s., [Highgate], 1 January 1834, to Dinah Noe. 1 page of a single sheet. Sends a new year's gift to Mrs. Noe, a maid of the Gillmans. (Griggs indicates that the gift was three guineas.) Griggs, Letter 1,803. (Peal 11,716)