

Robert Stephen Hawker:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Collection in the Manuscript Collection at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Hawker, Robert Stephen, 1803-1875
Title:	Robert Stephen Hawker Collection
Dates:	1855-1975
Extent:	5 boxes (2.10 linear feet)
Abstract:	This collection of Robert Stephen Hawker (1803-1875), English poet, antiquary, and Vicar of Morwenstow, consists of correspondence, reviews, newspaper clippings, material relating to Hawker's family history, including wills and birth, marriage, and death certificates, photographic images, and other miscellaneous items.
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Purchases, 1963-1976 (Reg. nos. 1610, 7137)
Processed by:	Jennifer Hughes, 2005
Repository:	The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Scope and Contents

This collection of Robert Stephen Hawker (1803-1875), English poet, antiquary, and Vicar of Morwenstow, consists of correspondence, reviews, newspaper clippings, material relating to Hawker's family history, including wills and birth, marriage, and death certificates, photographic images, and other miscellaneous items. The collection is arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, 1855-1875, and II. Hawker Materials Collected by F. S. Goard, 1876-1975.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of letters written by Hawker to Mrs. Harriet Watson, an admirer of Hawker's poetry who donated the money necessary to restore the roof of Morwenstow Church. Hawker's letters to Mrs. Watson chronicle his thoughts on theological and political matters and his experiences during their fifteen-year correspondence, including the illness and death of his first wife Charlotte. Mrs. Watson was also likely the recipient of the undated and incomplete letters contained in the collection. A smaller portion of the correspondence consists of letters from Hawker to Dr. Bewdsley, the doctor who looked after Mrs. Watson before her death in 1875. Letters to Hawker from various correspondents are present as well. Most notable among the letters to Hawker is a copy, in Hawker's hand, of a letter from Alfred Tennyson.

The Hawker materials collected by F. S. Goard provide insight into Hawker's family history as well as his life as a poet and vicar. Present in the collected materials are published reviews of Hawker biographies, including biographies by Sabine Baring-Gould (1876), F. G. Lee (1876), Charles Edward Byles (1905), Margaret Florence Burrows (1926), and Piers Brendon (1975). Material relating to Hawker's family history included in the collection consists of Hawker's will as well as the wills of Pauline Hawker, Hawker's second wife; Mary Stevens, Pauline Hawker's mother; and Mrs. Watson. Birth, marriage, and death certificates for a number of members of Hawker's family are also present. Newspaper clippings collected by Goard provide information about the centenary celebrations for Hawker at Morenstown in August 1975 and the controversy surrounding Hawker's deathbed conversion to Catholicism. Some of Hawker's contributions to *Notes and Queries* are included in the collection as well as published articles critiquing Hawker's works.

Separated Material

A copy of Hawker's *Cornish Ballads and Other Poems* (1869) has been transferred to the library.

Series I. Correspondence, 1855-1875

Subseries A. Outgoing Correspondence

Hawker to Mrs. Harriet Watson

May 5, 1855-June 17, 1856	Box 1 Folder 1
July 2, 1856-May 7, 1857	Folder 2
May 20, 1857-December 31, 1857	Folder 3
January 31, 1858-June 27, 1858	Folder 4
July 1, 1858-December 26, 1858	Folder 5
January 30, 1859-December 25, 1859	Folder 6
January 1, 1860-June 24, 1860	Folder 7
July 2, 1860-December 23, 1860	Box 2 Folder 1
January 13, 1861-June 23, 1861	Folder 2
July 7, 1861-December 29, 1861	Folder 3
January 12, 1862-June 29, 1862	Folder 4
July 6, 1862-December 21, 1862	Folder 5
January 1, 1863-June 14, 1863	Folder 6
July 12, 1863-October 25, 1863	Folder 7
November 1, 1863-April 24, 1864	Box 3 Folder 1
May 8, 1864-October 23, 1864	Folder 2
November 13, 1864-April 2, 1865	Folder 3
April 9, 1865-August 27, 1865	Folder 4
September 24, 1865-December 31, 1865	Folder 5

Hawker, Robert Stephen, 1803-1875

January 28, 1866-December 30, 1866	Folder 6
January 20, 1867-December 29, 1867	Box 4 Folder 1
February 23, 1868-October 11, 1868	Folder 2
January 10, 1869-April 12, 1870	Folder 3
Undated correspondence	Folder 4
Incomplete correspondence	Folder 5-6
Hawker to Dr. Bewdsley	
October 9, 1872-July 15, 1875	Folder 7
Unidentified correspondents and notes	Folder 8
Subseries B. Incoming Correspondence	
B-P	Folder 9
P-W, unidentified	Folder 10
Subseries C. Third Party Correspondence	
A-Z	Folder 11

Series II. Hawker Materials Collected by F. S. Goard, 1876-1975

Bibliographies	Box 5 Folder 1
Centenary	Folder 2
Family information	Folder 3
Photocopies of Hawker correspondence	Folder 4
Photographic images related to Hawker	Folder 5
Publications	Folder
About Hawker	Folder 6
About works	Folder 7
<i>Notes and Queries</i>	Folder 8
Reviews of biographies	Folder
S. Baring Gould (1876) and Rev. F. G. Lee (1876)	Folder 9
C. E. Byles (1905) and M. F. Burrows (1926)	Folder 10
Piers Brendon (1975)	Folder 11