

# Florence Wilshire: Muzio Clementi and His Era

Misc. Ms. 174



Compiled by Susan Landskröner

1996-2007

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<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Gilmore Music Library  
120 High Street  
PO Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-0497  
musicpecialcollections@yale.edu  
<https://guides.library.yale.edu/MusicSpecialCollections>

**CALL NUMBER:** Misc. Ms. 174

**CREATOR:** Wilshire, Florence

**TITLE:** Florence Wilshire: Florence Wilshire: Muzio Clementi and his Era

**DATES:** 20th century

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (2 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** Materials chiefly in English.

**SUMMARY:** Florence Wilshire's unpublished biography of Muzio Clementi, with related materials

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0174>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/music.misc.0174>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers by appointment. There are no restricted materials in the collection. Please contact the [Special Collections staff](#) to schedule an appointment.

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### Conditions Governing Use

The collection is the physical property of the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University. Copyrights belong to the composers and authors, or their legal heirs and assigns.

## Preferred Citation

Misc. Ms. 174, Florence Wilshire: Muzio Clementi and his Era in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Muzio Clementi was one of the most talented, influential, and versatile musicians of his era. Born in Rome on June 23, 1752, Clementi began his musical career as a church organist there when he was only thirteen, but he spent most of his adolescence in the service of Peter Beckford, an Englishman who heard him play in Rome. In 1774 Clementi left Beckford's country house and settled in London, where he quickly established himself as a leading harpsichordist, pianist, and composer. He lived in England for most of his life, although he made several notable concert tours of the European continent. (The first of these tours, in 1780, featured a celebrated piano-playing contest between Clementi and Mozart, before an audience that included the Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II as well as the future Tsar Paul of Russia.) Clementi's work as a composer, performer, and teacher brought him a substantial income, and he invested much of it in business; he became a very successful music publisher and piano manufacturer. Clementi died in Evesham, England on March 10, 1832, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

Florence Wilshire, Clementi's great-granddaughter, did extensive research on the life of her famous ancestor, but her biography was never published.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains various drafts and typescripts of Florence Wilshire's unpublished biography of Muzio Clementi, titled *Muzio Clementi and his Era*. The collection also holds research notes, correspondence, copies of original documents, iconography, and miscellaneous memorabilia.

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## Arrangement

In 14 series as follows: I. Wilshire correspondence. II. Wilshire research notes and memoirs. III. Miscellaneous critical essays on Clementi. IV. Programs. V. John Field. VI. Clementi iconography. VII. Clementi correspondence and translations. VIII. Clementi work-lists. IX. Clementi and Gisborne Family Records. X. Clementi chronological outline. XI. Music. XII. Muzio Clementi and his Era. XIII. Clementi miscellaneous documents. XIV. Clippings and program notes.

## Collection Contents

Register and indexes

b. 1, f. 1

### Series I: Wilshire correspondence

b. 1, f. 2            Correspondence: Wilshire/Clementi relatives  
Includes some correspondence of Marjorie Clementi, great-great-great granddaughter of Muzio Clementi.

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b. 1, f. 3            Correspondence: Wilshire/research and publication  
Includes letters from Paul Henry Lang; Walter Howard, the late director of the Clementi-Archiv, Netherlands; G.C. Paribeni, noted Clementi scholar; and Arthur Loesser.

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## Series II: Wilshire research notes and memoirs

b. 1, f. 4      Wilshire: Research notes

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b. 1, f. 5      Wilshire: Memoirs, entitled "The Search"

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## **Series III: Miscellaneous critical essays on Clementi**

b. 1, f. 6

Miscellaneous critical essays on Clementi

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## Series IV: Programs

b. 1, f. 7

Programs

1936-1962

Collected by Mrs. Wilshire during her lifetime. All programs feature compositions of Clementi.

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## Series V: John Field

b. 1, f. 8      John Field  
Information concerning Field's life and work.

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## **Series VI: Clementi iconography: portraits**

b. 1, f. 9

Clementi Iconography: portraits, etc.

Includes images of Clementi, Field, Beckford, and Santarelli, as well as various places and objects.

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## Series VII: Clementi correspondence and translations

b. 1, f. 10      Clementi Iconography: correspondence

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b. 1, f. 11      Clementi Correspondence: translations

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## Series VIII: Clementi work-lists

b. 1, f. 12

Clementi: Lists of published and recorded works

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## Series IX: Clementi and Gisborne Family Records

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b. 1, f. 13	Clementi and Gisborne Family Records Also includes typewritten copies of statements of accounts of the Muzio Clementi & Co. for 24 June 1811.
b. 1, f. 14	Miscellaneous Iconography

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## **Series X: Clementi chronological outline**

b. 1, f. 15

Clementi chronological outline

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## Series XI: Music

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| b. 2a, f. 1 | Trios, piano, flute, and violoncello, op. 32<br><i>7 x 9 1/2 in. glossy prints</i>                                      |
| b. 2a, f. 2 | Toccata, op. 11<br><i>Copy 1, 5 x 6 1/2 in glossy prints, copy 2, 11 x 14 in. glossy prints. Also, negatives 35 mm.</i> |

## Series XII: Muzio Clementi and his Era

b. 2b, f. 3	"Muzio Clementi and His Era" <i>Partial manuscript</i>
b. 2a, f. 4	"Muzio Clementi and His Era" <i>Partial manuscript (green notebook)</i>
b. 2a, f. 5	"Muzio Clenenti and His Era" <i>Final manuscript</i>



## **Series XIII: Clementi miscellaneous documents**

b. 2a, f. 6

Clementi Iconography

Includes Photostat of Clementi's will and marriage certificate to Emma Gisborne.

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## Series XIV: Clippings and program notes

b. 2a, f. 7

Newspaper clippings and program notes

1934-1961 and  
undated

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Names**

Clementi, Muzio, 1752-1832