

# Guide to the John Avery Papers

MS 43



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

July 1980

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 43

**CREATOR:** Avery, John, 1837-1887

**TITLE:** John Avery papers

**DATES:** 1867-1885

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Lectures and research notes on Indian civilization, religion and philology. Included also are lecture notes taken while he was studying in Berlin (1867-1868). Several of the lectures were prepared for presentation at meetings of the American Oriental Society.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0043>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0043>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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 materials are open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

John Avery Papers (MS 43). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

B.A., Amherst, 1861; studied at Yale, 1863-1867; professor of Latin and Greek, Iowa College, Grinnell, 1870-1877; professor of Greek, Bowdoin, 1877-1887; steady contributor to the American Oriental Society.

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## Scope and Contents

The John Avery Papers consist of one box of lectures and research notes. John Avery was a philologist interested in the antiquities, ethnology, and philology of the ancient tribes of northern India. He was a graduate of Amherst in the class of 1861. From 1863-1867 he studied in Yale's graduate philology program under Professor Whitney. Upon graduation from Yale, Avery studied in Berlin and Tubingen; some of his lecture notes from this study in Germany are in the papers.

Avery was professor of Latin and later of Greek at Iowa College, Grinnell, 1870-77. In 1870, John Avery joined the American Oriental Society and was a steady contributor of papers until his death. Several of the lectures were prepared for presentation at the society's meetings. He served as professor of Greek, 1877-1887, at Bowdoin College and died shortly after his retirement.

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## Collection Contents

Lectures on:

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Growth of civilization in India                             |
|            | I. Physical conditions                                      |
|            | II. [missing]   |
|            | III. The Vedas and Vedic religion                           |
|            | IV. Civil and social life in the Vedic Age                  |
|            | V. The Sacerdotal Age and the Rise of Philosophy            |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Physical geography of India                                 |
|            | The Hill Tribes of India                                    |
|            | I. Tribes of the northeastern border                        |
|            | II. Tribes of the northeastern border, cont'd               |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Philology of India  |
|            | Ethnic Groups of India                                      |
|            | Notes on language of the Lepchas of Sikkim                  |
|            | The Khasi language  |
|            | The language of the Hill tribes of India                    |
|            | Incomplete lecture on general linguistics                   |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Religion in India   |
|            | Primitive religion in India                                 |
|            | Buddhism in India   |
|            | Hindu philosophy  |
|            | Protestant missions in India                                |
|            | Fragment on Aryan religion                                  |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Wordsworth  |
|            | Education   |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Lectures and research notes on relative clauses in Sanskrit |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Lectures and research notes on Sanskrit grammar             |
| b. 1, f. 8 | <i>Talavakara (Jaimmiya) Brahmana</i> (Part II) [Romanized] |
| b. 1, f. 9 | <i>Talavakara Brahmana</i> (pp. 371-455) [Romanized]        |

b. 1, f. 10      Berlin lecture notes

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Bibliographic fragment

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Receipt

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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.

### **Subjects**

Americans -- Germany  
Linguistics

### **Geographic Names**

Asia  
India -- Civilization  
India -- Languages  
India -- Religion

### **Genres / Formats**

Lectures

### **Occupations**

Philologists

### **Names**

Avery, John, 1837-1887