

# **Guide to the Richard Brinsley Sheridan Collection**

**GEN MSS 284**



by Beinecke Staff

July 1997

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 284

**CREATOR:** Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, 1751-1816

**TITLE:** Richard Brinsley Sheridan collection

**DATES:** 1769-1814

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains letters by, to and concerning Sheridan, including letters by Sheridan to Robert Barclay, the Duke of Bedford, and Samuel Whitehead; and writings by Sheridan, including four manuscript copies of the *School for Scandal*, one with annotations and corrections in Sheridan's hand; a holograph draft of a comic opera, *The Foresters*; and notes for *Affectation*, a projected comedy.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.sheridan>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Ongoing collection of documents acquired by gift and purchase from various sources. Type of accession (gift or purchase) and date of acquisition is noted in the box-and-folder list. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Richard Brinsley Sheridan Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Richard Brinsley Sheridan Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from previously existing cards in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, it has been noted in the box-and-folder list. This finding aid will be updated periodically to account for new materials that may be added to the collection. The date of the most recent update is noted on the title page. For information on material that may have been added since the last update, please consult the Public Service Desk.

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## Processing Information

Former call number: MS Vault Shelves Sheridan

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## Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to Richard Brinsley Sheridan, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection. Materials incorporated into the collection prior to July 1997 have been organized into three series: Correspondence, Writings, and Other Papers.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence

BANNISTER, JOHN		
b. 1, f. 1	ALS to Samuel Cartwright Gift, 1954.	1830 Feb 18
GRAHAM, J.		
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to an unidentified recipient, London 1 p. with endorsement. 22 cm. With a note by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. Gift, 1954.	n.d.
NICHOLLS, SARAH		
b. 1, f. 3	ALS to Richard Brinsley Sheridan, London 1 p. with address, 20 cm. Sheridan's maidservant writes to ask for money on which to live while he is away from London. Gift, 1954.	1810 May 2
PALMER, ROBERT		
b. 1, f. 4	ALS to the management of Drury Lane [Richard Brinsley Sheridan], London 1 p. 21 cm. Requesting continuance of his employment at the theatre.	1815 Jul 3
SHERIDAN, ELIZABETH (LINLEY)		
b. 1, f. 5	3 ALS and 1 AL (in the third person) to Richard Peake 4 p. with addresses. 18-19 cm. Concerning personal financial matters. Gift, 1954.	n.d.
SHERIDAN, RICHARD BRINSLEY BUTLER		
b. 1, f. 6	ALS to Robert Barclay, London 1 p. with address, 24 cm. Paper watermarked 1805. Gift, 1954.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 7	Franked piece of paper addressed to "Miss Beddyke, 10 Grosvenor Place", London	1810 Jun 21
b. 1, f. 8	ALS to Francis Russell, Duke of Bedford (the Marquis of Tavistock) 1 p. with envelope. Gift, 1948.	1808 Aug 19

## SHERIDAN, RICHARD BRINSLEY BUTLER (continued)

b. 1, f. 9	2 ALS to Mr. Burgess, Farnham Both letters with address. Paper of first letter watermarked 1813. Engraving of a portrait of R.B. Sheridan laid in folder. Gift, 1937.	[1814? Nov]
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to "Dear Burgess" Purchase, 1964.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to Thomas Holloway, [London] 1 p. with address, 23 cm. Draft of Holloway's reply on p. [3] Concerning the debts of Mr. Shaw, orchestra conductor at Drury Lane Theatre. Gift, 1954.	[1807] Nov 13
b. 1, f. 12	ALS to [Richard Peake?] 1 p. 24 cm. Gift.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	ALS to Mr. Peake (?), Winchester Purchase, 1964.	1797 Jun 18
b. 1, f. 13a	ALS to Mr. Shaw, Chancery Lane Purchase, 1964.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13b	2 ALS to Hester (Ogle) Sheridan, London Letters to his wife dated 1800 September 5 and "seven 1804." Accompanied by letter from Clare Sheridan, 1937 December 18 to George Nettleton, Yale College Office of the Dean, and reply from Nettleton (copy) dated 1938 January 3. Gift, 1937.	1800, 1804
b. 1, f. 14	ALS to Charles Ward Purchase, 1962.	1814 Sep 21
b. 1, f. 15	ADft. of letter to Samuel Whitehead Purchase, 1959.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 16	ALS to an unidentified recipient 1 p. Gift, 1944.	n.d.

## Series II: Writings

### SHERIDAN, RICHARD BRINSLEY BUTLER

- |             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| b. 1, f. 17 | <p>AFFECTATION: autograph manuscript notes for a projected comedy, written n.d. on 28 pages and the endpapers of a small, leather-bound memorandum book. 11.5 x 18 cm. In a red cloth slip case.</p>   |  |
|             | <p>THE CARAVAN: manuscript play in an unidentified hand with alterations in the hand of Sheridan. n.d. 40 p. 15 x 23.5 cm. Bound in three-quarter green leather. Autograph of J.W. Connolly, Oct. 12, 1858. Gift, 1947.</p> <p><a href="#">See: Volume 1</a></p>   |  |
|             | <p>THE CRITIC, OR A TRAGEDY REHEARS'D: manuscript prompt copy in an unidentified hand, with a few manuscript corrections by Sheridan. [1781?] 124 p. 23 cm. Presentation inscription from Sheridan to Mrs. Crewe; bookplate of Sophie Hall-Walker. Bound in 3/4 green morocco. Purchase, 1954.</p> <p><a href="#">See: Volume 2</a></p>  |  |
| b. 1, f. 18 | <p>THE FORESTERS: autograph manuscript draft of a comic opera [1781-1795] 9 leaves, inlaid. 18-24 cm. The play was never produced. Gift, 1954.</p>   |  |
|             | <p>PISCATORY PARTY. IN COMMEMORATION OF ISAAC WALTON. Autograph n.d. manuscript, signed, of the rules and regulations drawn up by Sheridan and presented to the Walton &amp; Cotton Club. Probably compiled sometime before 1803. 10 p. Accompanied by an autograph note stating the authenticity of the manuscript and signed by W[illiam] Dunn, 22 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, May 9, 1814. Bound by Sangorski and Sutcliffe in full green morocco with special title-page, transcript, and extract of a description of the manuscript which appeared in The Field, Sept. 28, 1907. Gift, 1947.</p> <p><a href="#">See: Volume 3</a></p> |  |

## SHERIDAN, RICHARD BRINSLEY BUTLER (continued)

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: manuscript made by four copyists with numerous corrections in Sheridan's hand and a note signed by him, submitting the play for licensing to William Chetwynd early in 1777. n.d.

140 p. 19 x 24 cm.

With David Garrick's Prologue, and George Colman's Epilogue.

AN signed George Chetwynd, on fly-leaf. Grandon Hall, [England] Sept. 10, 1834.

This manuscript was damaged by fire in the bookbinding establishment of Fairburn, on February 26, 1834; the leaves of the ms were subsequently inlaid and bound in blind tooled russet with the arms of Sir George Chetwynd stamped on front and back covers.

Three engraved portraits (2 of Sheridan and 1 of Mrs. Frances Abington) and several contemporary newspaper clippings bound in as preliminary leaves.

Autographs of Wm. Chetwynd and Frances Brookes; bookplates of Sir George Chetwynd, Robert J. Collier, and Augustin Daly.  
Gift, 1947.

[See: Volume 4](#)

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"THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: A Comedy. As perform'd at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane...1777" Manuscript copy in an unidentified handwriting, probably used as a promptbook. The notes of authorship at the head of the "Prologue" and of the "Epilogue" are in Sheridan's autograph. Formerly the property of Albinia Bertie Hobart, Countess of Buckinghamshire, with her signature, "Albinia Buckinghamshire". n.d.

Bound in three-quarter red morocco.  
p. i-iv; 1-215; [i-ii].  
Purchase, 1936.

[See: Volume 5](#)

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THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: manuscript copy in a contemporary unidentified hand. n.d.

199 ff. 22.5 cm.

With David Garrick's Prologue and George Colman's Epilogue.

The name of the former owner, Charles Laurence, is lettered in a Gothic hand on flyleaf.

Bound in polished calf.  
Gift, 1951.

[See: Volume 6](#)

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SHERIDAN, RICHARD BRINSLEY BUTLER (continued)

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: Manuscript copy, written in a contemporary hand. n.d.

141 folio l. written on one side of the paper.

The paper is watermarked 1795.  
Gift, 1932.

[See: Volume 7](#)

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## Series III: Other Papers

### SHERIDAN, RICHARD BRINSLEY BUTLER

ALGEBRA 1769: autograph manuscript notebook kept by Sheridan while a student at Harrow. n.d.

146 p. 16 x 19.5 cm. Bound in contemporary vellum. Lettered on spine: Alg. Vol I. R. B. S.

"Charles Brinsley, the son of Sheridan by his second marriage, has recorded that his father left behind him 'six copybooks each filled with notes and references to mathematics, carefully written by Mr. S. at an early age'..."  
Gift, 1947.

[See: Volume 8](#)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIVATE BOXES AT DRURY LANE THEATRE: autograph manuscript. n.d.

1 p.  
Note on verso of second leaf, in an unidentified hand: "Mr. Sheridans memorandum...made at Hommenley in Janry 1797"  
Accompanied by two floor plans, entitled "Design for an additional private box and setting back the boxes" and "Plan of the orchestra boxes."  
Gift, 1951.

[See: Volume 9](#)

b. 1, f. 19	Notes for a speech on the Volunteers, made before the House of Commons: autograph manuscript, [London] 3 p. 9-12 cm. Speech published in Speeches of Sheridan, London, Patrick Martin, 1816; V, 240. Purchase, 1955.	[1803 Aug 10]
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### OTHER

b. 1, f. 20	George Henry Nettleton correspondence	1937-1938
b. 1, f. 21	Papers relating to Nettleton and the Richard Brinsley Sheridan collection	undated

**Volumes, n.d.**

b. Volume 1	<p>THE CARAVAN: manuscript play in an unidentified hand with alterations in the hand of Sheridan.</p> <p>40 p. 15 x 23.5 cm. Bound in three-quarter green leather.</p> <p>Autograph of J.W. Connolly, Oct. 12, 1858.</p> <p>Gift, 1947.</p>	n.d.
b. Volume 2	<p>THE CRITIC, OR A TRAGEDY REHEARS'D: manuscript prompt copy in an unidentified hand, with a few manuscript corrections by Sheridan.</p> <p>124 p. 23 cm.</p> <p>Presentation inscription from Sheridan to Mrs. Crewe; bookplate of Sophie Hall-Walker.</p> <p>Bound in 3/4 green morocco.</p> <p>Purchase, 1954.</p>	[1781?]
b. Volume 3	<p>PISCATORY PARTY. IN COMMEMORATION OF ISAAC WALTON. Autograph manuscript, signed, of the rules and regulations drawn up by Sheridan and presented to the Walton &amp; Cotton Club. Probably compiled sometime before 1803.</p> <p>10 p.</p> <p>Accompanied by an autograph note stating the authenticity of the manuscript and signed by W[illiam] Dunn, 22 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, May 9, 1814.</p> <p>Bound by Sangorski and Sutcliffe in full green morocco with special title-page, transcript, and extract of a description of the manuscript which appeared in The Field, Sept. 28, 1907.</p> <p>Gift, 1947.</p>	n.d.

b. Volume 4	<p>THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: manuscript made by four copyists with numerous corrections in Sheridan's hand and a note signed by him, submitting the play for licensing to William Chetwynd early in 1777.</p> <p>140 p. 19 x 24 cm.</p> <p>With David Garrick's Prologue, and George Colman's Epilogue.</p> <p>AN signed George Chetwynd, on fly-leaf. Grandon Hall, [England] Sept. 10, 1834.</p> <p>This manuscript was damaged by fire in the bookbinding establishment of Fairburn, on February 26, 1834; the leaves of the ms were subsequently inlaid and bound in blind tooled russia with the arms of Sir George Chetwynd stamped on front and back covers.</p> <p>Three engraved portraits (2 of Sheridan and 1 of Mrs. Frances Abington) and several contemporary newspaper clippings bound in as preliminary leaves.</p> <p>Autographs of Wm. Chetwynd and Frances Brookes; bookplates of Sir George Chetwynd, Robert J. Collier, and Augustin Daly.</p> <p>Gift, 1947.</p>	n.d.
b. Volume 5	<p>"THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: A Comedy. As perform'd at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane...1777" Manuscript copy in an unidentified handwriting, probably used as a promptbook. The notes of authorship at the head of the "Prologue" and of the "Epilogue" are in Sheridan's autograph. Formerly the property of Albinia Bertie Hobart, Countess of Buckinghamshire, with her signature, "Albinia Buckinghamshire".</p> <p>Bound in three-quarter red morocco.</p> <p>p. i-iv; 1-215; [i-ii].</p> <p>Purchase, 1936.</p>	n.d.
b. Volume 6	<p>THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: manuscript copy in a contemporary unidentified hand.</p> <p>199 ff. 22.5 cm.</p> <p>With David Garrick's Prologue and George Colman's Epilogue.</p> <p>The name of the former owner, Charles Laurence, is lettered in a Gothic hand on flyleaf.</p> <p>Bound in polished calf.</p> <p>Gift, 1951.</p>	n.d.
b. Volume 7	<p>THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL: Manuscript copy, written in a contemporary hand.</p> <p>141 folio l. written on one side of the paper.</p> <p>The paper is watermarked 1795.</p> <p>Gift, 1932.</p>	n.d.

b. Volume 8	<p>ALGEBRA 1769: autograph manuscript notebook kept by Sheridan while a student at Harrow.</p> <p>146 p. 16 x 19.5 cm. Bound in contemporary vellum. Lettered on spine: Alg. Vol I. R. B. S.</p> <p>"Charles Brinsley, the son of Sheridan by his second marriage, has recorded that his father left behind him 'six copybooks each filled with notes and references to mathematics, carefully written by Mr. S. at an early age'..."</p> <p>Gift, 1947.</p>	n.d.
b. Volume 9	<p>MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIVATE BOXES AT DRURY LANE THEATRE: autograph manuscript.</p> <p>1 p.</p> <p>Note on verso of second leaf, in an unidentified hand: "Mr. Sheridans memorandum...made at Hommenley in Janry 1797"</p> <p>Accompanied by two floor plans, entitled "Design for an additional private box and setting back the boxes" and "Plan of the orchestra boxes."</p> <p>Gift, 1951.</p>	n.d.

## **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**

Dramatists, English -- 18th century  
English drama -- 18th century

### **Names**

Barclay, Robert, 1833-1876  
Bedford, Francis Russell, Duke of, 1765-1802  
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, 1751-1816  
Whitehead, Samuel