

Guide to the Browning-Monclair Collection

GEN MSS 84



by Diane J. Ducharme

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
ANDRE-VICTOR-AMEDEE, MARQUIS DE RIPERT-MONCLAR (1807-1871)	4
Scope and Contents	4
Collection Contents	7
Series I: Browning-Monclar Papers	7
BROWNING, WILLIAM	7
BROWNING, REUBEN	7
BROWNING, ROBERT	7
PRINTED WORKS:	9
Series II: Related Papers	10
HENRY, FERNAND	10
PURDY, RICHARD L.	10
Oversize	11
BROWNING, ROBERT	11
RIPERT-MONCLAR, ANDRE VICTOR AMEDEE	11
Selected Search Terms	12

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 84

CREATOR: Ripert-Monclar, A., comte de, 1807-1871

TITLE: Browning-Monclar collection

DATES: 1825-1965

BULK DATES: 1825-1850

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.25 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: The collection contains correspondence, dossiers, printed works, and other papers documenting the friendship between Robert Browning and Ripert-Monclar and the life and business career of Ripert-Monclar. Also included are twentieth century materials concerning efforts to publish the Browning-Monclar correspondence.

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

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.monclar>.

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.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Browning-Monclar Collection was donated to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library by Richard L. Purdy in 1984.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Browning-Monclar Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

ANDRE-VICTOR-AMEDEE, MARQUIS DE RIPERT-MONCLAR (1807-1871)

André-Victor-Amédée, marquis de Ripert-Monclar, was born in Apt, in the Vaucluse, on December 25, 1807. He studied law in Paris, was called to the bar in 1824, and became an *auditeur* in the Chancellery two years later. In 1829, he was appointed deputy public prosecutor in Marseilles. As a Legitimist, he was dismissed from office during the July Revolution. Monclar supported the Vendéen insurrection in 1832, and was arrested as he attempted to raise the countryside for the Duchesse de Berry. He remained a Carlist, and his 1831 voyage to England was in the service of that cause. While in London, he met and became friends with Robert Browning. During the next few years Monclar traveled and continued his study of economics. He was one of the proposers of *L'Omnium*, a credit system which has been called the inspiration of the *Crédit Mobilier*. In 1838 he married Marie-Clémentine de Jernyngham, a niece of Lord Stafford, and succeeded to the marquisate the following year.

He returned to public life in 1840 with the publication of *Des banques en France*, and became *sous-chef* of the statistical bureau of the Ministry of Finance by 1847. In 1848 he published his best known work, the *Catéchisme financier*. Monclar was an unsuccessful candidate for the National Assembly in 1848 and 1849. He pursued his economic and statistical studies; the *Statistique du Piémont* appeared in 1851, and *Finances d'Espagne* in 1859. He also planned and drafted a comprehensive history of credit, but did not live to complete it. Throughout his career, Monclar was an active member of several learned societies, including the Institut historique and the Société française de statistique universelle.

The Marquise de Ripert-Monclar died in 1864. The couple had two children, Joseph-Anne-Amédée-François, a member of the Foreign Service, and Marie-Thérèse-Gabrielle-Victoire. Amédée de Ripert-Monclar died in Paris on February 3, 1871.

Scope and Contents

The Browning-Monclar Collection contains correspondence and other papers of Robert Browning and Amédée de Ripert-Monclar, as well as related material. The papers span the dates 1825-1865, but the bulk of the material dates from between 1825 and 1850.

The collection is divided into two series. [Series I, *Browning-Monclar Papers*](#), is housed in three boxes. It consists of letters and memorabilia of Robert Browning and correspondence, writings, and personal papers of Ripert-Monclar. Series II, *Related Papers*, housed in one box, contains correspondence, notes, and writings about the Browning-Monclar letters. There are two boxes of *Oversize* material.

Series I documents the life of Amédée de Ripert-Monclar, including his friendship with Robert Browning, which began during Monclar's 1834 trip to England. Material related to Browning has been placed at

the beginning of Series I. The collection contains nine letters from Browning to Monclar, three of them in French, and one draft of a letter by Monclar to Browning. Topics include current French and English literature, English politics, Bentham's economic theories, Monclar's reviews and articles, and family news. Several of the letters provide detailed commentary on Browning's poetry. In a letter of August 9, 1837, Browning describes "the circumstances under which my poems were produced." Part of this account is very similar to his later explanation of the origins of *Pauline*. Three letters contain discussion of *Paracelsus*, which Browning published in 1836 and dedicated to Monclar. The letter of March 2, 1835 contains an account of the poet's theories which closely resembles the published Preface to *Paracelsus*. Also present is an album given by Monclar to Browning. While some of the album's contents date from after Browning's death, it also contains a portrait of Monclar and other memorabilia.

Monclar's analysis of the poem, the "Paracelse: Pensée," is located in Box 1, folder 21. The manuscript is interleaved with Browning's own corrections and amplifications of Monclar's comments, including a lengthy passage in which Browning explains the major themes of the poem. The collection also contains letters from Browning to W. J. Fox and H. F. Chorley concerning the publication of *Paracelsus* and letters of introduction by William and Reuben Browning. Further mentions of Browning can be found in Monclar's two English travel journals (Box 1, folders 27-28).

Nearly all of Monclar's personal papers were contained in numbered and/or labeled dossiers. These were organized by M. Barruol, who purchased the Monclar papers in 1937. As this order may reflect Monclar's original organization, it has been retained.

There are eighteen numbered dossiers and two supplements. Dossiers 1, 2 and 4 contain autobiographical notes by Monclar, including lists of important dates and events. Dossier 3 holds notes, drafts of notes, and essays, mostly dating from Monclar's student years. Dossier 5 consists of journals kept by Monclar in 1830 and 1831, while he was living in Avignon. Subjects include the July Revolution and its effects on Monclar, economics, Monclar's visits to the salon of Madame Recamier, and his impressions of a performance by Paganini.

Monclar's journeys to England are documented in Dossiers 6-9. Dossier 6 is titled "Voyage à Londres en 1834" and consists of a "Plan for Visiting London in Eight Days," a daily expense record, and a daily journal with brief entries. Several comments refer to visits with Robert Browning and the Browning family. Also mentioned are Monclar's calls on the Duke of Wellington. "Voyage à Londres en 1837," Dossier 7, holds similar records. Dossier 8, "Angleterre-Observations, anecdotes," contains drafts of essays on various English subjects, including one which opens "Le peuple anglais est le plus matérialiste de ceux qui habitent l'Europe." Dossier 9 contains the calling cards collected by Monclar while in England.

The next four dossiers are concerned with Monclar's writings, both published and unpublished. Dossier 10 consists of drafts, notes, and clippings about Machiavelli, perhaps for a projected article. Manuscript chapters of Monclar's unfinished "Histoire des institutions de crédit" are located in Dossier 11. Dossier 12 contains the drafts and corrected proofs of the *Catéchisme financier*. Finally, printed copies of three of Monclar's works can be found in Dossier 13. (For copies of other works by Monclar, see Box 3, folders 63-66).

The remaining dossiers are miscellaneous in nature. Numbers 16 and 18 hold letters addressed to Monclar. Dossier 16 is composed of brief business letters from various persons, among them Chateaubriand and Guizot. Ten short business letters by the Marquis de Fortia and ten by the Baron de Vitrolles are located in Dossier 18. A variety of personal papers is found in Dossier 17. These include two public appeals to the Duchess de Berry; an obituary notice for the Comtesse de Ripert-Monclar; notes kept by Monclar during his 1848 campaign for an Assembly seat; and a few letters. The dossiers labelled "Supplément" and "Feuilles diverses" are equally heterogeneous, containing such items as drafts of business letters, an essay on the Salon of 1834, and an incomplete essay on the idea of Genius.

Printed works can be found in Box 3, folders 63-67. These include copies of the *Catéchisme financier* and the *Essai sur...le marquis de Fortia d'Urban*, as well as Fortia d'Urban's *Essai sur l'immortalité de l'âme*.

[Series II, Related Papers](#), is located in Box 5. It is divided into two sections. The first concerns Fernand Henry, who studied the Browning-Monclar papers and attempted to have Browning's letters to Monclar published. This section contains his correspondence with Monclar's son. Topics include biographical

information and copyright negotiations. Also located in this section are Henry's correspondence with potential publishers, his transcripts of the Browning material now in Series I, notes, and a draft of his unpublished article, "Un chapitre d'histoire littéraire." The second section of Series II contains correspondence, notes, and a typescript of an article by Richard L. Purdy.

Collection Contents

Series I: Browning-Monclar Papers

BROWNING, WILLIAM		
b. 1, f. 1	ALS to Reuben Browning	1834 Jul 15
b. 1, f. 2	ALS to Ripert-Monclar	1842 Mar 25
BROWNING, REUBEN		
b. 1, f. 3	ALS to Ripert-Monclar	1834 Jul 28
BROWNING, ROBERT		
b. 1, f. 4	ALS to Ripert-Monclar, accompanied by note of Fortia d'Urban See also: Box 4, folder 69	1834 Dec 5
b. 1, f. 5	ALS to Ripert-Monclar	1835 Mar 2
b. 1, f. 6	Envelope addressed to Ripert-Monclar	1835 Jun 22
b. 1, f. 7	ALS to Ripert-Monclar	1835 Jul 30
b. 1, f. 8	ALS, in French, to Ripert-Monclar	1835 Oct 15
b. 1, f. 9	ALS photostat, in French, to Ripert-Monclar	1836 Jan 11
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to Ripert-Monclar	1837 Aug 9
b. 1, f. 11	ALS, in French, to Ripert-Monclar	1840 Mar 10
b. 1, f. 12	ALS, in French, to Ripert-Monclar	1841 Apr 29
b. 1, f. 13	ALS to Ripert-Monclar	[1854 May]
b. 1, f. 14	ALS to Henry Fothergill Chorley	1844 Jan 3
b. 1, f. 15	ALS to William Johnson Fox	1835 Mar 27
b. 1, f. 16	Papers and memorabilia: sketches and calling card	1834, n.d.
Album See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 70		
Ripert-Monclar, André-Victor-Amédeé, marquis de		
b. 1, f. 17	AL draft to Robert Browning	[1835]
b. 1, f. 18	ALS to Mme. de Ripert-Monclar	1840 Jul 20
Brockden, William		
b. 1, f. 19	2 ALS to Ripert-Monclar	1834, 1835
b. 1, f. 20	ALS to Charles Ripert-Monclar	1842 Feb 23

BROWNING, ROBERT > Ripert-Monclar, André-Victor-Amédeé, marquis de (continued)

b. 1, f. 21	<i>Paracelse: Pensée</i> . Interleaved with Browning's comments.	[1835]
Dossiers		
b. 1, f. 22	No. 1 - Autobiographical notes	1855
b. 1, f. 23	No. 2 - Autobiographical notes	[ca. 1850]
b. 1, f. 24	No. 3 - "Old papers" - notes, letterdrafts, essays	1825-28, n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	No. 4 - "Mémoires de mon temps"	[ca. 1832]
b. 1, f. 26	No. 5 - "Souvenirs 1830" and "Souvenirs-Avignon-1831"	1830-31
b. 1, f. 27	No. 6 - "Voyage à Londres 1834"	1834 Jul-Sep
b. 1, f. 28	No. 7 - "Voyage à Londres 1837"	1837 Jun-Aug
b. 1, f. 29	No. 8 - "Angleterre-Observations, anecdotes"	1837
b. 1, f. 30	No. 9 - Calling cards	1834, 1837
b. 1, f. 31-33	No. 10 - "Machiavel" - manuscript, notes, and printed See also: Oversize, Box 4, folder 71	
b. 1, f. 34-35	No. 11 - "Histoire des institutions de crédit" - ms. chapters 1-3	n.d.
b. 2, f. 36-42	No. 11 - "Histoires des institutions de crédit" - ms. chapters 4-12 and notes See also: Oversize, Box 4, folders 72-73	
b. 2, f. 43-49	No. 12 - "Catéchisme financier" - draft, notes, and corrected proofs	[1848]
	No. 13 - Printed works by Ripert-Monclar	1840-1859
b. 2, f. 50	<i>Statistique du Piémont</i> . Paris	1851
b. 2, f. 50	<i>Finances de l'Espagne</i> . Paris	1859
b. 3, f. 51	No. 14 - Proposals for an edition of the works of François de Ripert-Monclar	n.d.
b. 3, f. 52	No. 15 - "Peinture" - notes and drafts	1827-31, n.d.
b. 3, f. 53-56	No. 16 - Letters to Ripert-Monclar	1829-66, n.d.
b. 3, f. 57-59	No. 17 - Miscellaneous papers	1832-64, n.d.
b. 3, f. 60	No. 18 - Letters to Ripert-Monclar: 10 ALS of Baron de Vitrolles	1836-39
	10 ALS of the Marquis de Fortia d'Urban	1829-38
b. 3, f. 61	"Supplément - pièces diverses" - letters and ms. notes	n.d.
b. 3, f. 62	"Feuilles diverses, à classer." - notes and drafts	n.d.

PRINTED WORKS:

b. 3, f. 63	<i>Des banques en France.</i> Paris	1840
b. 3, f. 64	<i>Catéchisme financier.</i> Paris See also: Oversize, Box 4, folder 74	
b. 3, f. 65	"Aux électeurs du département des Basses-Alpes" in <i>Le Socialiste des Basses-Alpes</i>	1848 Dec 31
b. 3, f. 66	<i>Essai sur...le marquis de Fortia d'Urban.</i> Paris. (photocopy)	1840
b. 3, f. 67	Fortia d'Urban, marquis de. <i>Essai sur l'immortalité de l'âme et sur la résurrection.</i> Paris.	1835
b. 3, f. 68	Papers and memorabilia: calling cards, photographs	n.d.
	Portrait of Ripert-Monclar and Monclar family history: See: Oversize, Box 4, folder 75	

Series II: Related Papers

HENRY, FERNAND

b. 5, f. 76	Ripert-Monclar, Joseph, comte de. AL draft to Sotheby.	[1913]
b. 5, f. 77-78	Correspondence with François de Ripert-Monclar	1914 Jan-Jul
b. 5, f. 79	Correspondence with Henry Festing Jones and Reginald Smith	1914 Jun-Jul
b. 5, f. 80	"Dossier": transcripts of Browning-Monclar letters and of <i>Paracelse: Pensée</i>	[1914?]
b. 5, f. 81	Notes on Robert Browning and Amédée de Ripert-Monclar	[1914?]
b. 5, f. 82	"Un chapitre d'histoire littéraire: Robert Browning et le comte A. de Ripert-Monclar," article draft	[1914]
PURDY, RICHARD L.		
b. 5, f. 83-85	Correspondence	1937-48, n.d.
b. 5, f. 86	Notes, clippings, and printed items	1937-65, n.d.
b. 5, f. 87	"Robert Browning and Amédée de Ripert-Monclar: An Early Friendship"	[1945]

Oversize

BROWNING, ROBERT

b. 4, f. 69	ALS to Ripert-Monclar	1834 Dec 5
b. 4, f. 70	Album given to Browning by Ripert-Monclar	1838-95, n.d.

RIPERT-MONCLAR, ANDRE VICTOR AMEDEE

b. 4, f. 71	Dossier 10: articles on Machiavelli in the <i>Journal des Débats</i>	1844 Sep
b. 4, f. 72	Dossier 11: "Histoire des banques," in unidentified newspaper	n.d.
b. 4, f. 73	Dossier 11: "Vie de Guillaume III" in the <i>Journal des Débats</i>	1839 Aug 11
b. 4, f. 74	<i>Catéchisme financier</i> , in <i>Journal des Basses-Alpes</i>	1849 Jan-Mar
b. 4, f. 75	Portrait of Ripert-Monclar and Monclar family history	1830, 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

Banks and banking -- France
Economists
Poets, English -- 19th century

Geographic Names

France -- Economic conditions
France -- History -- Louis Philippe, 1830-1848
London (England) -- Description and travel

Names

Browning, Robert, 1812-1889
Fortia d'Urban, Agricol Joseph François,
marquis de, 1756-
Henry, Fernand
Jones, Henry Festing, 1851-1928
Purdy, Richard Little, 1904-1990 , collector
Ripert-Monclar, A., comte de, 1807-1871
Vitrolles, Eugène François Auguste d'Arnaud,
baron de, 1774-1854