

Archival Box #115 - Browne Autograph Collection

Descriptive Summary

Title: Browne Autograph Collection

Dates: 1880-1905

Accession Number: #709

Donor: Estate of Miss Helen S. Browne

Date of Acquisition: 1964

Extent: 5 linear inches

Language: English, French

Location: Archival Box #115, 205 Second Storage Room

Biographical/Historical Note

Autographomania, the enthusiastic collection of autographs, was a fashionable pastime in the late 19th-century. Autograph collectors actively sought signatures from past and present notable figures, who distinguished themselves through a life of politics, literature, music, theology, education, and military leadership. There was a visceral feeling tied to standing in the presence of, or holding, a document signed in the hand of a revered individual, and this was the primary motivation for autograph collectors of this time.¹

Scope and Content

A collection of autographs, with most being collected from contemporary political, literary, and theatre celebrities.

Arrangement

The original order in which these items were accessioned has been maintained.

Subject Terms

Helen Swale Browne

Administrative Information

This collection is open to researchers. Please contact the Darwin R. Barker Historical Museum's Archivist with your request or to schedule a visit. No further accruals are expected.

Container List

Box #	Item #	Description
115	709.1	Master list of signatures compiled by Helen Browne
115	709.2	Autograph of John G. Whittier

¹ Lauer, Josh. "Traces of the Real: Autographomania and the Cult of the Signers in Nineteenth-Century America." *Text and Performance Quarterly* 27, no. 2 (2007): 143–63. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10462930701251207>.

115	709.3a-b	Two letters signed by senator J.P. Dolliver
115	709.4	Autograph of Frances Hodgson Burnett
115	709.5	Autograph of Oliver Wendell Holmes
115	709.6	Autograph of Charles Dudley Warner
115	709.7	Autograph of Thomas Bailey Aldrich
115	709.8	Autograph of Mark Twain
115	709.9	Envelope addressed to Helen Swale Browne
115	709.10	Autograph of A.B. Stowe
115	709.11	Autograph of Louisa May Alcott
115	709.12	Envelope addressed to Helen S. Browne
115	709.13	Autograph of Thomas Nelson Page
115	709.14	Letter signed by Richard Harding Davis
115	709.15	Envelope addressed to Helen S. Browne
115	709.16	Autograph of Elbert Hubbard
115	709.17	Autograph of J.F. Trowbridge
115	709.18	Autograph of Lew Wallace
115	709.19	Autograph of Bill Nye
115	709.20	Envelope addressed Helen Swale Browne
115	709.21	Autograph of Henry Ward Beecher
115	709.22	Autograph of W.D. Howells
115	709.23	Autograph of George W. Cable
115	709.24	Autograph of James Russell Lowell
115	709.25	Autograph of Edward E. Hale
115	709.26	Autograph of Thomas Edison

115	709.27	Envelope addressed to Helen S. Browne
115	709.28	Signature of Grace S. Richmond
115	709.29a-b	Two poems written and signed by Edith M. Thomas
115	709.30	Photograph signed by Lily Pons
115	709.31	Autograph of Louise Drew
115	709.32	Photograph signed by Maxine Elliot
115	709.33	Autograph of Elsie Leslie Lyde
115	709.34	Autograph of Frank R. Stockton
115	709.35	Letter from Mademoiselle Patti's secretary, declining the request for an autograph
115	709.36	Autograph of C.D. Gibson
115	709.37	Blank envelope that Helen Browne used to house nine autographs
115	709.38a-b	Messages signed by Richard J. Burdette
115	709.39	Signature of J.H. Vincent, a gift of Richard J. Burdette's
115	709.40	Signature of James Redpath, a gift of Richard J. Burdette's
115	709.41	Autograph of Mary Maples Dodge
115	709.42	Message signed by Rose Hartwick Thorpe
115	709.43	Envelope addressed to Helen Swale Browne
115	709.44	Autograph of Ignatius Donnelly
115	709.45	Autograph of Grover Cleveland
115	709.46	Autograph of Robert Lincoln
115	709.47	Autograph of Frederick Douglass
115	709.48	Autograph of B.K. Bruce
115	709.49	Partial envelope addressed to Miss Helen

115	709.50	Autograph of Rose Elizabeth Cleveland
115	709.51	Autograph of Jas. J. Hill
115	709.52	Autograph of S.R. Calthrop
115	709.53	Autograph of Roscoe Conkling
115	709.54	Autograph of S.J. Tilden
115	709.55	Autograph of James G. Blaine
115	709.56	Autograph of Susan B. Anthony
115	709.57	Autograph of Lucy Stone
115	709.58	Envelope addressed to Helen Swale Browne
115	709.59	Letter written by General Winfield Scott Hancock
115	709.60	Autograph of General Philip H. Sheridan
115	709.61	Signature of Emma Thursby
115	709.62	Envelope addressed to Helen S. Browne
115	709.63	Autograph of Fanny Davenport
115	709.64	Message signed by Frederick Warde
115	709.65	Autograph of Wilson Barrett
115	709.66	Autograph of Ada ReLou
115	709.67	Autograph of Richard Mansfield
115	709.68	Autograph of Joseph Jefferson
115	709.69	Envelope addressed to Miss Helen S. Browne
115	709.70	Autograph of Julia Marlowe
115	709.71	Autograph of E.H. Sothern
115	709.72	Envelope addressed to Helen Swale Brown
115	709.73	Autograph of Mariam Manville

115	709.74	Message signed by W.J. Florence
115	709.75	Letter signed by Stuart Robson
115	709.76	Part of theater bill signed by Annie Irish, Vincent Serrano, Walter Hale, Josephine __, and Billie Page
115	709.77	Envelope addressed to Helen Swale Brown
115	709.78	Letter signed by K. Okada
115	709.79	Message signed by P.Q. W__
115	709.80	Photograph signed by Geraldine Farrar
115	709.81	Letter signed by May S. Shipman