

# **Furness family papers**

**Ms. Coll. 481**

**Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Williamson.**

---

Last updated on July 25, 2014.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2003

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	4
Collection Inventory.....	6
Family Records.....	6
Collected Theatrical and Non-Theatrical Materials.....	8
Variorum Papers.....	12

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Furness Family
<b>Title</b>	Furness family papers
<b>Call number</b>	Ms. Coll. 481
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1765-1937
<b>Extent</b>	49 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	Family records, personal records, and materials related to the publication of the New Variorum editions of Shakespearean texts. The collection includes the work of Furness and his son, as writers, editors, and collectors, but it also includes personal materials related to their non-scholarly interests. Family members include: Horace Howard Furness (1833-1912), Horace Howard Furness (1865-1930), Helen Kate Furness, William Henry Furness, and Louise Brooks Winsor Furness.

**Cite as:**

Furness family papers, 1765-1937, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

## Biography/History

---

Howard Furness (1833-1912) was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Harvard in 1854. He was admitted to the bar in 1859 but soon began to focus on studying and collecting Shakespearean texts. In 1871 he produced the first volume of the New Variorum Shakespeare, an edition of Romeo and Juliet. The series was designed to bring together all known information about the plays' textual variants, sources, and critical reception. Furness was a member of several scholarly societies, including the Shakespeare Society of Philadelphia, founded in 1851. He died in Wallingford, Pennsylvania in 1912. Furness's family shared his enthusiasm for Shakespeare. His wife, Helen Kate Furness, was responsible for compiling A Concordance to Shakespeare's Poems (1874), and his son Horace Howard Furness took up the project of editing subsequent Variorum editions after his father's death. Furness, Jr. graduated from Harvard in 1888, but before approaching the Variorum project, he studied music at the University of Pennsylvania and taught physics at Episcopal Academy from 1891 to 1901. Macbeth, the first revised edition in the Variorum series, was produced in 1903. He became a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania in 1929 and donated his family's collection of books, letters, and memorabilia to the University at his death.

---

## Scope and Contents

---

The Furness family papers consists of family records, personal records, and materials related to the publication of the New Variorum editions. It represents the work of Furness and his son, as writers, editors and collectors, but it also includes personal materials related to their non-scholarly interests. The first series of the collection, the Family Records, relates to the private life of the Furness family; the second series--collected materials, theatrical and non-theatrical--represents the family members' interests as book and memorabilia collectors. The third series of the collection, the Variorum papers, consists of four sections: correspondence, manuscripts, Shakespeare editions, and notebooks. The correspondence deals primarily with the publication of the revised Variorum editions in the 1930s. Correspondents include Joseph Quincy Adams, Frederick William Ashley, Matthew Wilson Black, Tucker Brooke, Edward Cheyney, Edwin Conklin, Albert Feuillerat, John Calvin French, Samuel Hemingway, Andrew Keogh, J. B. Lippincott & Co., William Lingelbach, Percy Lon, Josiah Penniman, Arthur Quinn, Philip Rosenbach, Felix Schelling, M. A. Shaaber, and Karl Young. The manuscripts include both original and revised Variorum editions. The Shakespeare editions are those compiled by other editors and have been subsequently marked up with notes for the Variorum. The notebooks contain act/line/scene notes, index entries, and source information for individual Variorum editions. The fourth series contains oversize items from the brothers' scrapbook from Harvard.

---

## Administrative Information

---

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2003

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Williamson.

### **Use Restrictions**

Copyright restrictions may exist. For most library holdings, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania do not hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the requester to seek permission from the holder of the copyright to reproduce material from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### **Source of Acquisition**

Gift of the Furness Family, 1930-1937

## Collection Inventory

---

### I. FAMILY RECORDS, 1861-1930. 9 BOXES.

	Box	Folder
Notes for exhibition on Horace Howard Furness.	1	1
Clippings related to Horace Howard Furness.	1	2
Materials related to Horace Howard Furness Jr.'s will.	1	3
Materials related to Horace Howard Furness Jr.'s will.	1	4
Clippings and records related to Furness Jr., 1929-1930.	1	5
Magazine containing article on Lindenshade (family home), 1912.	1	6
Materials related to Helen Kate Furness.	1	7
Manuscript of retrospective on William Henry Furness, 1921.	1	8
Bound photo album, 1897.	2	
Memoranda book and daily journal, 1872-1880.	3	
<b>Description</b>		
Daily Memoranda Book, 1872-1874, includes list of letters written and birth dates Travel journal, 1880, describing family trip to Europe, includes pasted photographs, interleaved materials and clippings related to theatrical productions.		
Journals, 1874-1879.	4	

---

---

**Description**

“Summer” record book from Lindenshade, 1874-1878, includes records of plantings, household accounts, and clippings. A personal journal begins in 1876. “Winter” daily journal, 1877-1879, includes interleaved materials.

Oversized personal documents.

5

**Contents**

- \* Admission of Louise Brooks Winsor Furness to the Society of the Colonial Dames of America
- \* Certificates of Horace Howard Furness, Jr., and Louise Brooks Winsor Furness’s contribution to the Pennsylvania Hospital
- \* Certificates of Horace Howard Furness, Jr., and Louise Brooks Winsor Furness’s contribution to the Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania
- \* Certificate Horace Howard Furness’s Doctor of Laws degree
- \* Admission of Furness, Jr., and spouse to the Academy of Natural Sciences
- \* Admission of Louise Brooks Winsor Furness to the Philadelphia Zoological Society
- \* Admission of Horace Howard Furness, Jr. To the American Philosophical Society
- \* Confirmation Certificate for Horace Howard Furness, Jr.
- \* State Department travel papers for Horace Howard Furness and spouse

Scrapbook, 1884-1888.

6

**Description**

kept by Horace Howard Furness, Jr., and William Henry Furness during their time at Harvard

Scrapbook (continued), 1884-1888.

7

Medals, 1877-1916.

8

**Contents**

---

- \* National Dog Show Award, 1877
- \* Town of Verdun, 1916, includes certificate
- \* Distinguished Achievement Award Medal for Horace Howard Furness from the Pennsylvania Society, 1909
- \* Distinguished Service Award Medal, given to Horace Howard Furness by the Founders of the New Theater, 1909

Etymological dictionary, 1861. 9

**Description**

in several hands with materials interleaved

**II. COLLECTED THEATRICAL AND NON-THEATRICAL MATERIALS, 1843-1932.**

**A. THEATRICAL.**

	Box	Folder
<b>"Shakespeare Tercentenary, 1916" , 1916.</b>	10	9
<b>Description</b>		
bound volume containing four typed speeches		
Handwritten speeches, articles and notes, apparently by Horace Howard Furness, Jr., except for one by A. Brigham, M.D., 1844-1921.	10	10
Typed speeches and articles.	10	11
Handwritten notes and chronologies related to Renaissance performance.	10	12
Handwritten notes and chronologies related to Renaissance	10	13



performance.		
Handwritten notes & chronologies re Renaissance performance.	10	14
Handwritten bibliographic notes.	10	15
Exam questions about Shakespearean plays.	10	16
Correspondence directed to Horace Howard Furness, Jr. From the American Shakespeare Foundation, relating to the business of the Executive Committee, 1926-1928.	11	17
Brochures and programs of the American Shakespeare Foundation and the Shakespeare Association of America, 1926-1932.	11	18
Minutes and reports from the Executive Committee.	11	19
Donation letters and receipts for the Shakespeare Memorial Fund, 1926.	11	20
Donation letters and receipts for the Shakespeare Memorial Fund, 1927.	11	21
Playbills, music programs, clippings and memorabilia related to the Shakespeare Tercentenary Celebration, 1916.	11	22
Bibliographies, bulletins, and eulogies related to the Shakespeare Tercentenary Celebration, 1916.	11	23
Exhibition guides related to the Shakespeare Tercentenary Celebration, 1915-1916.	11	24
Typed script of "Prelude: Ariel and Puck" (2 copies).	12	25
Typed translation of "Shakespeare and Elizabeth" , a dramatic dialogue by Hermann Lingg, original text published Berlin, 1881.	12	26

Photostats of pages from "Shakespeare's Dream: An Historic Pageant" , performed at the Academy of Music, N.Y., August 2, 1858.	12	27
Typed script of "Swan Song" by Jenő Miklos.	12	28
Three untitled typed play scripts.	12	29
Manuscripts of "Montezuma" and "Drama Talks" in H.H.F.'s hand.	12	30
Two untitled play manuscripts in H.H.F.'s hand.	12	31
Watercolor scene design sketches.	12	32
Typed and handwritten lists of transactions, 1856-1906.	12	33
Catalogue of the Villon Society.	12	34
Article and clipping on libraries.	12	35
Announcements of the transcript of <i>The Registers of the Company of Stationers of London</i> , 1875-1877.	12	36
Cataloguing guides for the Furness Library.	12	37
Scholarly articles on Renaissance drama, many from the collection of Edward Hamilton Bell.	13	38
Play excerpts, original and photostat.	13	39
Advertisements for shops and products.	13	40
Three issues of the publication of <i>The Good Companion Chess Club</i> , containing articles on Shakespeare's crab tree and Shakespeare as a puzzle solver, 1916-1920.	13	41
Poems, programs and speeches commemorating Shakespeare's birthday, 1873-1914.	13	42

Clippings, programs, and bulletins relating to the Shakespeare Memorial and Library, 1888-1911.	13	43
Proposal for a Shakespeare memorial in Elsinore, 1902.	13	44
Assorted pieces of Shakespearean memorabilia, including clippings, programs and Christmas cards.	13	45
Correspondence and biographical notes relating to two pairs of Shakespeare's Gloves, 1884-1916.	13	46
Edwin Booth memorabilia, tickets and a framed signature, 1869-1890.	13	47
The Junius Brutus Booth diary and clippings related to its discovery (plus photocopies of all materials), 1928.	13	48
Fanny Kemble memorabilia, correspondence, engraved images, tickets and gifts.	13	49
Unbound pages of a scrapbook with theatrical materials, one page heading reads: "O.Smith" .	13	50
Bound scrapbook containing correspondence and other materials related to James Henry Hackett.	13	51
Signatures of actors and actresses, some taken from pages of a scrapbook (donated by R. M. Frye?), 1881-1907.	13	52
Memorabilia related to Shakespearean actors.	14	
<b>Contents</b>		
* Ticket to J.P. Kemble's farewell dinner		
* Receipt of payment made to Covent Garden actress, 1813		
* Playlist from Drury Lane Theatre, 1765		
* Fanny Kemble's copy of Hamlet		
Oversized memorabilia, including playbills, clippings, diagrams and	15	

---

maps related to Renaissance drama, 1843-1932.

**B. NON-THEATRICAL.**

Box

Miscellaneous non-dramatic manuscripts.

16

**Contents**

- \* "Gasology: A Satire" by John Donkey
- \* "The Poetry of a Business Life"
- \* Photocopy of untitled manuscript and letter from J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps

Miscellaneous non-dramatic manuscripts and memorabilia.

17

**Contents**

- \* "An Anonymous Letter"
- \* "A Literary Pet" (given to Horace Howard Furness, Jr., by George Stoddart)
- \* "Norwegian Hospitality" (given to Horace Howard Furness, Jr., by George Stoddart)
- \* Sermon on Luke 10:28
- \* Memorabilia including images of Walt Whitman, Washington Irving, assorted poems, and notes for a dictionary

---

**III. VARIORUM PAPERS, 1862-1937.**

**A. CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE NEW VARIORUM, 1930-1937.**

**Arrangement**

arranged chronologically

---

	Box	Folder
Correspondence about the structure and funding of the New Variorum, April 1930-June 1934.	18	53-62
Correspondence about the structure and funding of the New Variorum, August 1934-July 1937.	19	63-69
Notes on variorum proposals.	19	70
Variorum proposals and related materials.	19	71
Materials other than correspondence (clippings, receipts).	19	72

**B. VARIORUM MANUSCRIPTS, UNBOUND, 1862-1908.**

	Box	Folder
<i>Coriolanus</i> and 1928 plate proofs and 1682 quarto, <i>Julius Caesar</i> plate proofs.	20	
<i>Hamlet</i> , variorum manuscript, 1862.	21	
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Preface, manuscript, 1908.	22	73
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Preface, typed, 1908.	22	74
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Dramatis Personae, 1908.	22	75
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Act 1, scenes 1-3, 1908.	22	76-78
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Act 1, scene 4 - Act 3, scene 4, 1908.	23	77

<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Act 3, scene 5 - Act 4, scene 4, 1908.	24	88-95
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Act 5, scenes 1-4, 1908.	25	96-100
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Appendix, "Text" , 1908.	25	101
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Appendix, "Source of Plot" , 1908.	25	102
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Appendix, "The True Tragedy of Richard III" , includes typed script, 1908.	26	103
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Appendix, "Character of Richard III" , 1908.	26	104
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Appendix, "Criticisms" , 1908.	26	105
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Appendix, "Stage History" , 1908.	26	106
<i>Richard III</i> , manuscript of new variorum edition, Appendix, "Richard in Poetry" .	26	107

**C. BOUND SHAKESPEARE EDITIONS, WITH AND WITHOUT NOTES FOR VARIORUM EDITIONS.**

**1. WITH NOTES AND INTERLEAVED PAGES.**

	Box
<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	27

---

<i>As You Like It</i> with interleaved notes and tabs.	27
<i>Coriolanus</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	27
<i>Cymbeline</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	27
<i>Henry V</i> with interleaved notes.	29
<i>Julius Caesar</i> with interleaved notes and tabs.	29
<i>King John</i> with interleaved notes and tabs.	30
<i>King Lear</i> with handwritten marginalia, 1854.	30
<i>King Lear</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	31
<i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	31
<i>Macbeth</i> with handwritten marginalia.	32
<i>Macbeth</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	32
<i>Measure for Measure</i> with interleaved notes, 1860.	32
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (facsimile) with interleaved notes and lineation, 1862.	33
<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	33
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (facsimile) with interleaved notes and lineation, 1862.	33
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> with interleaved notes and tabs.	33
<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	34
<i>Othello</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	34

---

---

<i>Othello</i> with interleaved notes, 1854.	35
<i>Othello</i> (facsimile) with some handwritten marginalia, 1864.	35
<i>Othello</i> with some handwritten marginalia, 1875.	35
<i>Othello</i> with some handwritten marginalia, 1875.	35
<i>Richard III</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	35
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> with handwritten marginalia.	36
Sonnets with interleaved notes.	36
<i>The Tempest</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	37
<i>Timon of Athens</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	37
<i>Twelfth Night</i> with interleaved notes and tabs.	38
<i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> with interleaved notes and tabs, 1821.	38
<i>The Winter's Tale</i> with interleaved notes and tabs.	38

## 2. WITHOUT NOTES.

	<b>Box</b>
<i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> , 1875?.	39
As You Like It, (1875?).	39
<i>The Comedy of Errors</i> with blank interleaved pages.	39
<i>Coriolanus</i> (facsimile) with lineation.	39

---



<i>Cymbeline.</i>	39
<i>1 Henry IV</i> with blank interleaved pages.	40
<i>2 Henry IV</i> with blank interleaved pages.	40
<i>Henry V</i> (facsimile) with lineation and blank interleaved pages.	41
<i>Julius Caesar</i> (facsimile) with lineation, blank interleaved pages and tabs.	41
<i>Julius Caesar</i> (facsimile) with lineation.	41
<i>King John</i> (facsimile) with lineation and tabs.	41
<i>Merchant of Venice</i> , 1875.	41
<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> with blank interleaved pages, 1821.	41
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , 1875.	41
<i>The Tempest</i> , 1875.	42
<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> with blank interleaved pages.	42
<i>The Winter's Tale</i> , 1875.	42
<i>King Lear</i> , <i>Othello</i> , <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> (facsimiles).	42
<i>The Tempest</i> , <i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> , and <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> (facsimile pages).	43
The poems, including the sonnets with blank interleaved pages, 1821.	43

#### **D. NOTEBOOKS.**

---

**1. NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL PLAYS FOR VARIORUM EDITIONS.**

	Box
<i>Hamlet</i> , notebook for Variorum edition (based on Boswell's Malone), 1821.	44
<i>Hamlet</i> , notebook for Variorum edition (based on the Cambridge 1).	44
<i>As You Like It</i> , notebook for Variorum edition.	45
<i>Coriolanus</i> , notebook for Variorum edition appendix.	45
<i>Henry V</i> , notebook for Variorum edition.	45
<i>King John</i> , three notebooks for Variorum edition with typed pages of the script pasted in.	45
<i>Macbeth</i> , notebook labeled with marked pages of the script inserted, linear notes on facing page.	46
<i>Macbeth</i> , notes and manuscript pages for the second Variorum edition.	46
<i>Macbeth</i> , handwritten index of words with act/scene/line citations <i>Richard III</i> , Colley Cibber's version.	46
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , handwritten index of words with act/scene/line citations.	46

---