

Robert Montgomery Bird papers

Ms. Coll. 108

Finding aid prepared by Rebecca C. Smith.

Last updated on July 25, 2017.

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

1996

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Bird, Robert Montgomery, 1806-1854
Title	Robert Montgomery Bird papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 108
Date [bulk]	1822-1854
Date [inclusive]	1799-1946
Extent	31 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	Comprises personal, business, literary, and family papers. In addition to Bird's own papers, this collection includes papers of his wife Mary E. Bird, his son Frederic Mayer Bird, and his biographer Clement Edgar Foust. The earliest papers (1822) date from Bird's school days at Germantown Academy, and the very latest papers (1946) relate to C. Seymour Thompson's publication of Mary E. Bird's biography of her husband. Correspondents include men and women from Bird's career in medicine; his literary career; his theatrical career (including correspondence with Edwin Forrest, as well as the documentation regarding their legal battle over copyrights and profits); his political career; and his career in publishing and journalism.

Cite as:

Robert Montgomery Bird Papers, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts,
University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Robert Montgomery Bird (1806-1854) was a Philadelphia author of the early nineteenth century. With such works as *The Gladiator* and *Nick of the Woods* he earned literary acclaim in Philadelphia, Boston, and New York, as well as abroad. Truly a man of letters, Bird complemented his literary career with his drawing and painting, photography, musical composition. He was also a professor of medicine, an editor, a farmer, and a politician. Once well known for his role in American dramatic, political, and academic circles, Bird is today seldom recognized for his significant contributions to nineteenth century American literary culture.

Robert Montgomery Bird was born in New Castle Delaware in 1806, the sixth of the seven children of John and Elizabeth (Van Leuvenigh) Bird. Following the family's financial ruin and his father's subsequent death, Robert M. Bird was sent to Philadelphia to live with his uncle and guardian, Nicholas Van Dyke. Having completed his secondary school education at Germantown Academy, Bird studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. It was during this period that he composed poetry and completed the early works *'Twas all for the Best*, and *News of the Night*. Upon his graduation from Penn in 1827, he briefly set up a medical practice before leaving the field of medicine to pursue his career as an author.

In 1837 Robert Montgomery Bird married Mary E. Mayer (1809-1868), daughter of Philip F. Mayer, a Lutheran clergyman of Philadelphia. Their son, Frederic Mayer Bird (1838-1908), was born in the following year. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and Union Theological seminary. He was chaplain and professor at Lehigh University, as well as editor of *Lippincott's Magazine*.

Significant to Bird's literary career was his encounter with the enterprising tragedian, Edwin Forrest (1806-1872). In 1828 Forrest announced his plan to cultivate an American dramatic culture by offering monetary prizes for the plays of promising American playwrights, on the condition that Forrest would stage the winning plays himself. Bird wrote four of the nine plays awarded prizes by Forrest and his judging committee: *Pelopidas* (1830), *The Gladiator* (1831), *Oraloosa* (1832), and *The Broker of Bogota* (1834). *The Gladiator*, first staged by Forrest in 1831, enjoyed resounding success in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The following production of *Oraloosa* disappointed many audiences, and could not duplicate Bird's initial success. After the debut of Bird's 1834 play, *The Broker of Bogota*, Edwin Forrest wrote: "I have just left the theater#your tragedy was performed and crowned with entire success. *The Broker of Bogota* will live when our vile trunks are rotten." With these plays and the growing popularity of their starring actor, Edwin Forrest, Bird's name gained renown as a young and promising American playwright. In 1836 Bird was elected an Honorary Member of the Dramatic Author's Society of London.

Bird's dramatic career was not all fame and fortune, however. Whether as a result of misunderstanding, or financial exploitation, after the initial prize money, Bird never received any of the great profit reaped by

Forrest from *The Gladiator* and other of Bird's works. In 1837 when the financial dispute between the two men reached a climax, Bird broke his ties with Forrest, still believing that the actor owed him more than \$12,000. Due to the lack of copyright regulation in American theater, Bird could not legally prevent Forrest from performing the plays throughout his career. These works were not published until the early twentieth century, when they were edited by University of Pennsylvania professor Arthur H. Quinn. Disillusioned by the world of theater, and needing to earn more for his literary endeavors, Bird turned his efforts to the novel. Among Bird's best known novels are: *Calavar* (1834), and *The Infidel* (1835), both historical novels set in Mexico; *Nick of the Woods* (1837); and *Adventures of Robin Day* (1839). In this genre his works follow the tradition of the historical romances of English novelist Walter Scott. Contemporary author and literary critic Edgar Allan Poe called *Calavar*, "beyond doubt one of the best American novels." Even while he recognized moments of genius in Bird's novels, however, Poe did not refrain from criticizing, stating that the works lacked consistently strong structure and style. Poor health brought Bird's career as a novelist to a close, and in 1840 Bird retired to the country for much needed recuperation. Having purchased a farm in Maryland, which he named Cabin Cove, Bird spent the next year collecting agricultural lore and working on his farm. Throughout this time and up until the end of his life, Bird tried out a variety of careers, always turned away by financial problems and ill health. In 1837, Charles Fenno Hoffman offered Bird a position as the Philadelphia edition of the *American Monthly*. Health problems forced Bird to resign the position after only a few months. From 1841 to 1844 Bird was a professor of medicine at Pennsylvania Medical College. An active member of the Whig party, Bird always had an interest in politics, and in 1842 he ran for Congress, but withdrew late in the race. Throughout his later life he corresponded with prominent politicians on issues of government. Delaware Senator John M. Clayton was a close friend of Bird's and gave him the financial support he needed to undertake various literary and journalistic projects. Bird wrote a memoir of Clayton's life, and consistently supported his political campaigns. Clayton was the U. S. Secretary of State under Taylor. In 1847, with the financial backing of John M. Clayton, Bird purchased a one-third share of *The North American and U. S. Gazette*, and became a joint editor with George Rex Graham and Morton McMichael, a Whig politician who would later be mayor of Philadelphia. The publication suffered financial problems, and Bird once again was plagued with bad health. He died in 1854 of "effusion on the brain", owing John M. Clayton 20,000 dollars.

Scope and Contents

The University of Pennsylvania is the primary repository for the papers of Robert Montgomery Bird (1806-1854), including personal, business, literary, and family papers. In addition to Bird's own papers, this collection also includes papers of his wife, Mary E. Bird, his son Frederic Mayer Bird, and his biographer, Clement Edgar Foust. The earliest papers (1822) date from Bird's school days at Germantown Academy, and the very latest papers (1946) relate to C. Seymour Thompson's publication of Mary E. Bird's biography of her husband. The bulk of the papers, however, date from the 1820s until Bird's death in 1854.

The University of Pennsylvania is an appropriate home for this collection, as both Robert M. Bird and his son Frederic attended this University; University of Pennsylvania professor Clement Foust wrote a biography of Bird, *The Life and Dramatic Works of Robert Montgomery Bird*, and professor Arthur Hobson Quinn edited several of Bird's dramatic works for publication early in this century. Not included

in this collection is the material relating to Bird's photographic experiments and writings on photography, purchased from the family by the Library Company of Philadelphia in 1992.

Correspondence

The letters in this collection shed light on Bird's family life, his literary ambitions, and his political beliefs. The diverse range of topics covered in these letters reflect the breadth of Bird's interests and talents.

From his early studies of medicine and his brief career as a doctor, Bird earned a place in the scientific community of Philadelphia. His correspondents include several prominent Philadelphia physicians, many associated with the University of Pennsylvania: John Redman Coxe, John S. Dorsey, Richard Harlan, George McClellan, and Samuel George Morton.

Bird's literary correspondents include authors Edward Bulwer Lytton, Willis Gaylord Clark, Harriet Martineau, William Gilmore Simms, Rufus W. Griswold, and Caroline Lee Hentz. While Bird was involved in dramatic literature, he made the acquaintance of Edwin Forrest. Included in this collection is the correspondence of these two men, as well as documentation of the ensuing legal battle over copyrights and profits. Though Bird withdrew from the world of theater after his falling out with Forrest, he continued his interest in drama, corresponding with dramatist Robert Taylor Conrad, and writing on the Dramatic Author's Bill, proposed by George Boker. In other branches of the arts, Bird corresponded with painter Oliver Frazer, engraver James Barton Longacre, and sculptor Hiram Powers.

Bird was a staunch supporter of the Delaware Whig Party, and even ran for Congress himself in 1842. Over the years he corresponded with many of the most important figures in the nineteenth-century political scene of Pennsylvania and Delaware. These political correspondents include Delaware congressmen George P. Fisher and John W. Houston and Pennsylvania congressmen Joseph R. Chandler, Edward Joy Morris, and Job R. Tyson. In addition, Bird corresponded with Delaware senators Thomas Clayton, Joseph P. Comegys, and John M. Clayton. Other noteworthy political figures among Bird's correspondents are Reverdy Johnson (U. S. Atty. Gen.); Leslie Comb (State Legislator, Kentucky); S. G. Howe (reformer); J. Y. Mason (U. S. cabinet member); and Robert Dale Owen (Rep., Indiana). Morton McMichael, co-editor of *The North American* with Bird, was a prominent Whig politician and served as mayor of Philadelphia from 1866 to 1869. Also included is a letter of introduction written by U. S. President Martin Van Buren, and a letter by President Zachary Taylor to John M. Clayton. Bird also corresponded with several prominent military men, including Samuel F. Du Pont, Elisha Kent Kane, Alexander Mackenzie, Scott Winfield, and Lorenzo Thomas.

Always an active contributor to journals and newspapers and an editor himself, Bird maintained a correspondence with the world of publishing and journalism. He exchanged letters with editors Cephas Grier Childs, George Rex Graham, Charles Fenno Hoffman, James Lawson, and Ephraim George Squier, as well as the publisher Justus Starr Redfield and journalists William Leggett, George P. Morris, James Watson, and Nathaniel Parker Willis.

Writings and Compositions

This collection provides a rich resource for scholars of Bird's literary works, comprising plays, poems, songs, stories, and novels. The literary material ranges from notes on a plot never realized to bound volumes of the last drafts of a manuscript before publication. Included in this collection are multiple drafts of works that Bird went on to publish, including bound manuscripts of the following dramatic works: *The Broker of Bogota*, *Caridorf*, *The City Looking Glass*, *The Cowled Lover*, *The Fanatick*, *Giannone*, *The Gladiator*, *The Man without Money*, *Oraloosa*, *Pelopidas*, *The Three Dukes*, and *'Twas all for the Best*. Bound manuscripts of the following prose works are also included: *Calavar*, *Hawks of Hawk Hollow*, *Nick of the Woods*, and *Robin Day*. In addition to these are volumes of poetry and fragments of numerous other literary works, some only in the planning stages.

Bird also had a talent for music and drawing. Included in this collection are folders of musical compositions, plans for political songs, patriotic songs, and operas. Watercolor and pen and ink sketches depict theatrical scenes, landscapes, and architectural designs.

Research Notes and Non-fiction

In addition to his career as a fiction writer, Bird also devoted much of his time to nonfiction research and writing, from history to politics, agriculture, and science. Among these research notes is material on Mexico and South America, later used in his historical novels, *The Infidel* and *Calavar*. His research on U. S. History and geography may have provided the backdrop for some of Bird's other novels and was intended for eventual publication as a work on American history. In 1839 Bird purchased a farm in Maryland, which he called "Cabin Cove." During the period Bird lived on this farm, he collected information on farming, primarily compiled in a series of notebooks on agriculture and farming projects.

Frederic Mayer Bird Papers

This collection also comprises the papers of Bird's son, Frederic Mayer Bird (1838-1908), and of his wife, Mary E. Bird (1809-1868). Among the latter are drafts of Mary Bird's biography of her husband, never completed. In 1945 University of Pennsylvania librarian C. Seymour Thompson edited these fragments of manuscripts and published them under the title, *Life of Robert Montgomery Bird*. His correspondence relating to the publication and distribution of this volume is also included in this series. At the end of this collection are the research notes compiled by Clement Foust for his biography of Bird, *The Life and Dramatic Works of Robert Montgomery Bird* (New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1919).

Two copies of a lithograph portrait of Bird, based on a daguerreotype by M. A. Root, are in the oversize box at the end of this collection.

Administrative Information

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

1996

Finding aid prepared by Rebecca C. Smith.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

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, before 1947 and through 1965.

Donor: Robert M. Bird (Robert Montgomery Bird manuscripts)

Donor: Theodocia Bird (correspondence with Mary Bird)

Donor: Robert M. Bird, Jr. (remaining Bird correspondence)

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Manuscripts, American--19th century
- Writings (document genre)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Bird, Frederic Mayer, 1838-1908#
- Bird, Mary E.
- Foust, Clement E. (Clement Edgar)

SUBJECT(S)

- Authors
- Authors, American--19th century
- Playwriting--19th century
- Theater--United States--19th century

Other Finding Aids

For a complete listing of correspondents, do the following ns2:title search in Franklin: Robert Montgomery Bird Papers.

Collection Inventory

I. CORRESPONDENCE, 1799-1877.

Series Description

Original outgoing and incoming correspondence with or relating to Robert M. Bird. Letters addressed to the editor(s) of a publication are filed under the name of that publication in the Periodicals series. Drafts of political letters are filed in the Research Notes and Non-fiction series, in the section on politics. Correspondence with Mary E. Bird (excluding that with her husband) has been removed to the series of Mary E. Bird papers, as has correspondence relating to the posthumous publication of her biography of her husband. Correspondence may also be found in the series of Frederic Mayer Bird Papers and Clement Foust Papers.

A. GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1799-1877.

Description & Arrangement

Incoming letters and drafts or copies of outgoing letters. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Incoming and outgoing letters are then interfiled in chronological order. Letters of introduction written for Bird are filed among the general correspondence, under the name of the writer.

	Box	Folder
Barr, Elizabeth Van Leuvenigh, 1825. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	1
Barr, Robert H., 1869. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	2
Barrell, O. K., 1849. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	3
Bird, A. G., 1843. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	4
Bird, Bessie, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	5

Bird, Frederic Mayer (with Mary Bird), 1844-1850. 12 items (12 leaves).	1	6
Bird, Henry B., 1825-1848. 8 items (9 leaves).	1	7
Bird, John D., 1834-1849. 6 items (7 leaves).	1	8
Black, J. Roberts, 1831-1834. 10 items (16 leaves).	1	9
Boker, George H., 1852-1853. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	10
Bowler, R. B. (letter of introduction), 1833. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	11
Brobson, W. P., 1849. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	12
Brooks, N. C., 1838. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	13
Brown, David Paul, 1843. 1 item (4 leaves).	1	14
Carey, Lea & Co., 1834-1848. 25 items (25 leaves).	1	15
Chandler, Joseph R., 1832. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	16
Chew, William White (letter of introduction), 1833. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	17
Childs, Cephas Grier (letter of introduction), 1834. 3 items (3 leaves).	1	18
Cisp, Lewis J., 1837. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	19
Clarke, Thomas Cottrel, 1834-1836. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	20
Clark, Willis Gaylord, 1834-1835. 9 items (12 leaves).	1	21
Clayton, Charles M., 1848. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	22
Clayton, James F., 1846-1851. 4 items (4 leaves).	1	23

Clayton, John M., 1842-1856. 151 items (153 leaves).	1	24-29
Clayton, Thomas, 1844. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	30
Combs, Leslie, 1848. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	31
Comegys, Joseph P., 1847-1848. 11 items (11 leaves).	1	32
Conrad, Robert Taylor, 1847-1853. 3 items (3 leaves).	1	33
Couper, James, M.D., 1853. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	34
Coxe, John Redman, 1849. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	35
Darley, J. M., 1846. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	36
Delara, 1835-1836. 2 items (3 leaves).	1	37
Dickson, James (letter of introduction), 1834. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	38
Dobson, Judah [from Bird to Dobson], 1832. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	39
Dorsey, John L., 1831. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	40
Drake, B. (letter of introduction), 1833. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	41
Ducachet, Henry William, 1847. 3 items (8 leaves).	1	42
Du Pont, Charles I., 1834-1848. 4 items (4 leaves).	1	43
Du Pont, Dorcas M., Mrs., 1837. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	44
Du Pont, Samuel Francis, 1846. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	45
Ellet, Charles, 1849-1853. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	46
Fisher, George P., 1849. 3 items (3 leaves).	1	47

Ford, William P., 1843. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	48
Forrest, Edwin, 1834. 8 items (8 leaves).	1	49
Frazer, Oliver, 1827. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	50
Freas, Philip R., 1853. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	51
Frost, John, 1832-1844. 23 items (24 leaves).	1	52
Gardette, E. B., 1851. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	53
Garrigue, Rudolph Peter, 1852. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	54
Godey, L. A. & Co., 1831. 5 items (5 leaves).	1	55
Graham, George R., 1847-1848. 14 items (14 leaves).	1	56
Greene, Giorgio (letter of introduction), 1832. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	57
Grigg, John, 1847-1849. 2 items (2 leaves).	1	58
Grimes, John, 1829-1837. 16 items (21 leaves).	1	59-60
Griswold, Rufus W., 1845. 1 item (1 leaf).	1	61
Groome, John C., 1837-1844. 5 items (5 leaves).	1	62
Groome, Samuel, 1838-1840. 5 items (5 leaves).	1	63
Harlan, Richard (letter of introduction), 1833. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	64
Harper & Bros., 1834-1841. 5 items (5 leaves).	2	65
Harris, Samuel, 1838. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	66
Hartley, John, 1834. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	67

Harvey, James E., 1848-1853. 9 items (9 leaves).	2	68
Hendee, Charles J., 1832. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	69
Hentz, Caroline Lee, 1833. 3 items (4 leaves).	2	70
Hoffman, Charles Fenno, 1837. 4 items (4 leaves).	2	71
Holcomb, C. P., 1848. 4 items (4 leaves).	2	72
Houston, John W., 1845-1848. 10 items (11 leaves).	2	73
Howard, Guiseppe (letter of introduction), 1834. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	74
Howard, Jane (letter of introduction), 1834. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	75
Howe, S. G. (Samuel Gridley), 1801-1876, undated. 3 items (3 leaves).	2	76
Hunt, John W., 1833. 4 items (4 leaves).	2	77
Johnson, Reverdy, 1844. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	78
Johnson, Walter R., 1849. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	79
Kane, Elisha Kent, 1853. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	80
Latimer, John Richardson, 1851. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	81
Lawson, James, 1832-1835. 17 items (19 leaves).	2	82
Lea & Blanchard, 1839-1840. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	83
Leggett, William, 1834-1836. 3 items (3 leaves).	2	84
Lockwood, John A., 1843. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	85

Longacre, James Barton, 1838. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	86
Lytton, Edward Bulwer Lytton, Baron, 1834. 4 items (4 leaves).	2	87
McCabe, Robert, 1844. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	88
McClellan, George, 1834-1844. 14 items (17 leaves).	2	89
McKenney, Thomas (letter of introduction), 1834. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	90
Mackenzie, Alexander, 1832. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	91
McLean, John W., 1844. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	92
McMichael, Morton, 1844-1859. 32 items (34 leaves).	2	93
Martineau, Harriet, 1836-1837. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	94
Mason, J. Y., 1847. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	95
Matthias & Taylor, 1834. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	96
Mauil, Joseph, 1846. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	97
Mayer, Edward R., 1854. 16 item (16 leaves).	2	98
Mayer, Philip Frederic, 1833-1846. 3 items (4 leaves).	2	99
Meigner, L., undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	100
Morris, Edward Joy, 1842. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	101
Morris, George P., 1832-1858. 5 items (5 leaves).	2	102
Morton, Samuel George, 1799-1851, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	103
Murphy, William B., 1830. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	104

Musson, Germain, 1847-1849. 8 items (9 leaves).	2	105
Naff, H. H. I., 1844. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	106
Owen, Robert Dale, 1801-1877, undated. 1 item.	2	107
Powers, Hiram, 1835. 5 items (5 leaves).	2	108
Randolph, Richard, 1834. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	109
Redfield, Justus Starr, 1852-1854. 6 items (6 leaves).	2	110
Robins, Joseph H.	see Box 31	
Robinson, W., 1833. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	111
Ruschenberger, W. S. W., 1848-1849. 4 items (5 leaves).	2	112
Scott, Winfield, 1852. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	113
Sellman, Mrs., 1830. 2 items (3 leaves).	2	114
Sexton, Richard Jr., 1825. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	115
Simms, William Gilmore, 1806-1870, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	116
Smith, J. J. Jr., undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	117
Snowden, William W., 1827. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	118
Squier, E. G., 1851. 4 items (4 leaves).	2	119
Stevenson, U. K., 1836. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	120
Thomas, Lorenzo, 1844. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	121
Tyson, Job R., 1832. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	122

Van Buren, Martin (letter of introduction), 1833. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	123
Van Stavorer, Jackson, 1842. 3 items (4 leaves).	2	124
Walker, Robert P., 1839. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	125
Webb, J. Watson, 1844. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	126
Wetmore, Prosper Montgomery, 1831-1834. 3 items (3 leaves).	2	127
Whitney, E. D., undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	129
Willis, Nathaniel Parker, 1838?. 1 item (1 leaf).	2	130
Winthrop, J. (letter of introduction), 1833. 2 items (2 leaves).	2	131
unidentified recipients, 1846-1847. 7 items (8 leaves).	2	132

B. CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ROBERT MONTGOMERY BIRD AND MARY E. BIRD (I.E. MARY E. MAYER), 1833-1852.

Description & Arrangement

Correspondence between Bird and his wife Mary, spanning the days of their early acquaintance and courtship, to the later days of their married life. Arranged chronologically. (2 letters from 1833 removed to oversize)

	Box	Folder
Correspondence with Mary E. Bird, 1833-1852, undated. 203 items (218 leaves).	3	133-150

C. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE, 1822-1868.

Description & Arrangement

Letters between individuals other than Bird, related to or concerning Bird. These letters are arranged

alphabetically by correspondent, with a note identifying the addressee. Unidentified letters, invitations, and envelopes fall at the end of this section.

	Box	Folder
Baird, John to L. Mayer, 1867-1868. 3 items (4 leaves).	3	151
Fraley, F. (Frederick) to Constant Guillou, 1858. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	152
Grey, Charles Edward to James Stanislas Bell, 1848. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	153
Grittinger, Adam to Morton McMichael, 1844. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	154
Hamilton, John C. (John Church), to Morton McMichael, 1848. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	155
Mayer, Caroline, to Rev. Philip F. Mayer, 1832. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	156
Norris, W. W. to John M. Clayton, 1847. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	157
Smith, R. Rundle to Morton McMichael, 1849. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	158
Sprogell, Marshall to Judge McLean, 1849. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	159
Taylor, Zachary, to John M. Clayton, 1848. 1 item (1 leaf).	3	160
Envelopes. 16 items (16 leaves).	3	161
Invitations, 1822-1849. 13 items (13 leaves).	3	162
RSVP's, 1833, undated. 3 items (3 leaves).	3	163

II. WRITINGS, 1828-1835.

Arrangement

Arranged by genre and then alphabetically by title. Notes on literature and lists of works are in the series of Research notes.

A. PLAYS, 1827-1833.

Description & Arrangement

Bound volumes of drafts of plays; notes and fragments of published and unpublished works. Volumes and folders of loose papers are interfiled and arranged alphabetically by title, with unidentified plays and fragments at the end.

	Box	Folder
<i>Bachelor's Hall</i> : fragments, undated. 14 leaves.	4	164
<i>The Broker of Bogota</i> : 4 bound volumes, notes and fragments, undated. 4 items (234 leaves).	4	165-168
<i>Caridorf or The Avenger</i> : 4 bound volumes, notes and fragments, 1827. 1 item (45 leaves).	4	169
<i>The City Looking Glass</i> : 2 bound volumes, misc. loose papers, undated. 2 items (175 leaves).	4	170-172
<i>The Cowled Lover</i> : 2 bound volumes, 1827. 2 items (85 leaves).	5	173-174
<i>The Fanatick</i> : 1 bound volume, misc. loose papers, undated. 1 item (24 leaves).	5	175-176
<i>Giannone</i> : 1 bound volume, misc. loose papers, undated. 1 item (35 leaves).	5	177
<i>The Gladiator</i> : 4 bound volumes, misc. loose papers, 1831 and undated. 4 items (285 leaves).	5-6	178-182

<i>King Philip, or The Sagamore</i> : fragments, undated. 1 item (15 leaves).	6	183
<i>The Man Without Money</i> : 1 bound volume, undated. 1 item (41 leaves).	6	184
<i>Masque of the Devils</i> : fragments, undated. 1 item (19 leaves).	6	185
<i>Metamora</i> : fragments, undated. 1 item (26 leaves).	6	186
<i>Oraloosa</i> : 3 bound volumes, misc. loose papers, 1832. 3 items (173 leaves).	6	187-190
<i>Pelopidas</i> : 4 bound volumes, misc. loose papers, 1830. 4 items (278 leaves).	7	191-195
<i>The Three Dukes</i> : 1 bound volume, undated. 1 item (59 leaves).	7	196
<i>'Twas all for the Best, 'Tis all a notion</i> : 1 bound volume, 1833. 1 item (38 leaves).	7	197
Miscellaneous plays: fragments, undated. 1 item (30 leaves).	7	198
Reviews, <i>The Gladiator</i> , 1831. 1 item (13 leaves).	7	199
Reviews, <i>Oraloosa</i> , 1832. 9 items (9 leaves).	7	200

B. POETRY, 1827-1836.

Description & Arrangement

Volumes of poetry; multiple drafts; fragments; a folder containing a discrete volume of poetry will be followed by a folder of loose drafts of the poems included in the volume. Volumes of poetry are arranged alphabetically; Miscellaneous loose poems are reorganized into the following categories: titled poems, arranged alphabetically by title; untitled poetry; and songs, both arranged alphabetically by the first significant word.

	Box	Folder
"The Cave" , undated. 8 items (75 leaves).	8	201-202
"Early Poems No. 2" : bound volume, 1827. 2 items (27 leaves).	8	203
"El Dorado" : notes and drafts, undated. 1 item (12 leaves).	8	204
"Juvenile Poems" : bound volume, undated. 1 item (13 leaves).	8	205
"The Mammoth Cave" : notes and drafts, 1833. 1 item (4 leaves).	8	206
"Miscellaneous Poems" : bound volume, undated. 1 item (45 leaves).	8	207
"Miscellaneous Poems" : drafts (arranged alphabetically), undated. 22 items (38 leaves).	8	208
"Poems of America" : bound volume, undated. 1 item (22 leaves).	8	209
"Poems of America" : drafts, undated. 15 items (28 leaves).	8	210
"Songs and Sonnets" : bound volume, undated. 1 item (37 leaves).	8	211
"Songs and Sonnets" : drafts, undated. 21 items (51 leaves).	8	212
"Sonnets" : folders, undated. 1 item (16 leaves).	8	213
"Sonnets" : drafts, undated. 14 items (25 leaves).	8	214
"Sonnets: notes and fragments" , undated. 1 item (56 leaves).	8	215
"Tabor" : notes and drafts, undated. 1 item (14 leaves).	8	216
"Tales of the Nuns" : drafts and fragments, undated. 1 item (7 leaves).	8	217
"The Vestal: a Roman Story" , undated. 1 item (11 leaves).	8	218
Clippings of published poems, 1827-1836. 13 items (40 leaves).	9	219

Collected poetry of other authors, undated. 1 item (3 leaves).	9	220
Foreign language poetry, undated. 7 items (7 leaves).	9	221
Lists and indexes of poetry, undated. 28 leaves.	9	222
Miscellaneous poetry: scraps. 60 leaves.	9	223
Miscellaneous songs, undated. 27 items (40 leaves).	9	224
Miscellaneous titled poems, undated. 41 items (51 leaves).	9	225
Miscellaneous untitled poems, undated. 67 items (67 leaves).	9	226
Miscellaneous verse: fragments of longer poems, undated. 36 leaves.	9	227

C. PROSE FICTION, 1828-1838.

Description & Arrangement

Drafts, fragments, and notes of published and unpublished works. The section begins with two boxes of folders containing loose papers and is followed by individually boxed volumes, arranged alphabetically by title.

	Box	Folder
"Adventures in the Wrong House" .	see Box 31	
"Awoosagame, or the Seal of the Evil One" : fragments, undated. 3 items (17 leaves).	10	228
<i>Calavar; or, The Knight of the Conquest</i> : [see also boxes 12-13], 1834. 13 items (40 leaves).	10	229-230
"Death in the Cups" : incomplete, undated. 1 item (12 leaves).	10	231
"Fascinating Power of Reptiles" : from <i>Peter Pilgram</i> , undated. 12	10	232

items (12 leaves).		
"Happy Island" : incomplete, undated. 5 items (6 leaves).	10	233
<i>Hawks of Hawks Hollow</i> [see also boxes 14-15], undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	10	234
<i>The Infidel; or, The Fall of Mexico</i> : incomplete, undated. 14 items (70 leaves).	10	235
<i>Ipiscipo Poe</i> : Chapters 1-14 and fragments, undated. 53 items (274 leaves).	10	236-240
"John Dory the Fisherman" : fragments, undated. 1 item (46 leaves).	10	241
"Keber Carl" : fragments, undated. 1 item (6 leaves).	10	242
"The Lover's Quarrel" .	see Box 31	
"Mammoth Cave" , undated. 18 items (71 leaves).	10	243
<i>Men of the Hills, A Romance</i> , 1828. 12 items (118 leaves).	10-11	244-249
undated. 1 item (11 leaves).	11	250
"Mrs. Munchovy" : fragments, undated. 10 items (48 leaves).	11	251
<i>Nick of the Woods</i> : incomplete, see also boxes 16-17, undated. 1 item (163 leaves).	11	252-253
"Peter Jones the Aeronaut" : fragments, undated. 1 item (15 leaves).	11	254
<i>Peter Pilgrim</i> : fragments of stories from the collection, undated. 1 item (33 leaves).	11	255
<i>The Pilgrim</i> : miscellaneous notes, undated. 25 items (32 leaves).	11	256

"Pilgrim at Home" : fragments, undated. 1 item (35 leaves).	11	257
<i>Robin Day</i> . 1 item (bound volume).	see Box 18	
<i>Sheppard Lee</i> : fragments and notes, undated. 1 item (61 leaves).	11	259
"Summum Bonum" : fragments, undated. 1 item (11 leaves).	11	260
"Tony" : fragments, undated. 1 item (32 leaves).	11	261
<i>The Volunteers</i> : fragments, undated. 1 item (25 leaves).	11	262
"Zelahulla or The Lady of the Star" : fragments, undated. 1 item (7 leaves).	11	263
Titled fiction: miscellaneous, undated. 33 items (37 leaves).	11	264
Untitled fiction: miscellaneous, undated. 1 item (41 leaves).	11	265
Reviews, <i>Calavar</i> , 1834. 14 items (16 leaves).	11	266
Reviews, <i>The Infidel</i> , 1835. 5 items (7 leaves).	11	267
<i>Calavar</i> : volumes 1 and 2, undated. 2 items (544 leaves).	12-13	
<i>Hawks of Hawks Hollow</i> : volumes 1 and 2, undated. 2 items (579 leaves).	14-15	
<i>Nick of the Woods</i> : volumes 1 and 2, undated. 2 items (527 leaves).	16-17	
<i>Robin Day</i> : bound volume, undated. 1 item (312 leaves).	18	

III. COMPOSITIONS, 1835, UNDATED.

Series Description

Sketchbook; published music; books of musical compositions; notes on drawing; miscellaneous theatrical and architectural drawings and watercolors.

A. MUSIC.

	Box	Folder
Copied Music, undated. 1 item (34 leaves).	19	
Original Music, undated. 1 item (34 leaves).	19	
"Nina: with variations, for the flute" , 1835. 1 item (5 leaves).	19	
Variations on "Home, Sweet Home" , undated. 1 item (4 leaves).	19	
Musical compositions, undated. 1 item (15 leaves).	19	
Printed Music, undated. 6 items (8 leaves).	19	
Music: fragments, undated. 14 leaves.	20	268
Music: bound volume, undated. 1 item (14 leaves).	20	270
Music: songs set to music, undated. 15 items (22 leaves).	20	271

B. SKETCHES: SEE ALSO BOX 31.

	Box	Folder
Sketchbook, undated. 1 item (53 leaves).	20	272
Sketches removed from sketchbook, undated. 1 item (34 leaves).	20	273
Sketches and notes on architecture, undated. 26 leaves.	20	274

Sketches and notes on drawing, undated. 29 leaves.	20	275
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Sketches, music, and misc. notes: notebook, undated. 1 item (26 leaves).	20	276
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IV. RESEARCH NOTES AND FRAGMENTS OF NON-FICTION, 1833-1840.

Series Description

Notes on the history of Mexico, South America, and the United States; notes on nitrates and chemistry; notes on agriculture; notes on politics; fragments of articles and speeches.

A. AGRICULTURE.

	Box	Folder
"Agriculture" : notebook, undated. 1 item (68 leaves).	21	
"Agriculture, No. 2" : notebook, 1837. 1 item (43 leaves).	21	
"Agriculture, No. 3" : notebook, 1838. 1 item (40 leaves).	21	
"Agriculture" : notebook, 1840. 1 item (36 leaves).	21	
Clippings removed from notebooks. 36 leaves.	21	
Loose papers removed from notebooks. 53 leaves.	21	
Notebook, 1835-1836. 1 item (41 leaves).	21	
"Projects" : notebook, 1839. 1 item (20 leaves).	21	
Loose papers, undated. 13 leaves.	22	277

B. "APPARITIONS" : LECTURE AND NOTES, UNDATED. 14 LEAVES.	Box 22	Folder 278
C. "CABIN COVE" : LOOSE PAPERS, 1837-1838. 1 ITEM (52 LEAVES).	Box 22	Folder 279
D. "CAVES OF AMERICA" : NOTES AND DRAFTS, UNDATED. 6 ITEMS (19 LEAVES).	Box 22	Folder 280
E. COPYRIGHT LAWS: NOTES AND DRAFTS, UNDATED. 21 LEAVES.	Box 22	Folder 281
F. "FALLACY OF OPINION" : LECTURE AND NOTES, UNDATED. 25 LEAVES.	Box 22	Folder 282
G. FOREIGN LANGUAGES: NOTES, UNDATED. 13 LEAVES.	Box 22	Folder 283
H. LECTURES AND SPEECHES, UNDATED. 8 LEAVES.	Box 22	Folder 284
I. "LETTERS FROM THE GAP" : PUBLISHED ARTICLES, 1833. 7 ITEMS (7 LEAVES).	Box 22	Folder 285
J. LITERATURE.		
Notebook, undated. 1 item (21 leaves).	Box 22	Folder 286
Notes and fragments, undated. 107 leaves.	22	287-288
K. MEXICO.		
"Bernal Diaz de Cartillo: Concerning the Siege of Mexico" ,	Box 22	Folder 289

undated. 1 item (26 leaves).		
"De Solis: History of the Conquest of Mexico" , undated. 1 item (26 leaves).	22	290
Musson, Germain, undated. 8 leaves.	22	291
Research notes: miscellaneous, undated. 41 leaves.	22	292
L. POLITICS.		
	Box	Folder
Correspondence: drafts, undated. 8 items (25 leaves).	22	293
Notes and fragments, undated. 48 leaves.	22	294
Speeches, undated. 13 items (21 leaves).	22	295
Writings, undated. 22 items (28 leaves).	22	296
Writings to "F.C." , undated. 8 items (33 leaves).	22	297
M. SCIENCE.		
	Box	Folder
Notebook on chemistry, undated. 1 item (8 leaves).	23	298
N. SOUTH AMERICA.		
	Box	Folder
"Schmidtmeyer" , undated. 1 item (4 leaves).	23	301

"20 years in South America" , undated. 1 item (23 leaves).	23	302
"Ulloa" , undated. 1 item (14 leaves).	23	303
Notebook on chemistry: (on reverse: "Literary Accounts"), 1836. 1 item (23 leaves).	23	299
Notes, undated. 38 items (63 leaves).	23	300
O. SUPERSTITION AND MAGIC: NOTES, UNDATED. 251 LEAVES.	Box 23	Folder 304
P. U.S. HISTORY.		
	Box	Folder
Notes and fragments, undated. 29 leaves.	23	305
Writings, undated. 34 items (55 leaves).	23	306
Q. MISCELLANEOUS RESEARCH NOTES, UNDATED. 6 LEAVES.	Box 23	Folder 307
R. FRAGMENTS OF NON-FICTION, UNDATED. 51 LEAVES.	Box 23	Folder 308

V. PERIODICALS, 1845-1851.

Series Description

Papers related to the *North American and U. S. Gazette*; letters to the editor; subscription receipts; ideas for new journals.

	Box	Folder
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A. ADELPHI MAGAZINE, UNDATED. 16 LEAVES.	24	309
	Box	Folder
B. AMERICAN MONTHLY MAGAZINE, UNDATED. 6 LEAVES.	24	310
 C. NORTH AMERICAN AND U. S. GAZETTE.		
	Box	Folder
Correspondence with editors (R. M. Bird and M. McMichael), 1845-1851. 12 items (13 leaves).	24	311
Legal papers, 1847-1848. 15 items (20 leaves).	24	312
Financial papers and receipts, undated. 75 leaves.	24	313
Miscellaneous notes and papers, undated. 41 leaves.	24	314
	Box	Folder
D. PHILADELPHIA WEEKLY MAGAZETTE, UNDATED. 16 LEAVES.	24	315
	Box	Folder
E. U. S. REVIEW, UNDATED. 3 LEAVES.	24	316
	Box	Folder
F. WHIG NEW MONTHLY, UNDATED. 7 ITEMS (7 LEAVES).	24	317
	Box	Folder
G. PERIODICALS: MISCELLANEOUS, UNDATED. 18 LEAVES.	24	318

VI. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL PAPERS, 1826-1857.

Series Description

Bills, receipts, and checks; legal contracts.

	Box	Folder
Account book, 1827-1837. 1 item (22 leaves).	24	319
Account book and loose papers, 1836-1839. 1 item (36 leaves).	24	320
Carey, Lea & Co.: financial papers, 1834-1838. 12 items (12 leaves).	24	321
Clayton, John M.: financial agreements, 1847-1857. 4 items (4 leaves).	24	322
Copyright certificates, 1830. 6 leaves.	24	323
Financial papers: miscellaneous, 1826-1849. 41 items (41 leaves).	24	324
Legal papers: miscellaneous, 1832-1855. 12 items (12 leaves).	24	325
Receipts and checks, 1839-1849. 46 items (46 leaves).	24	326

VII. MEMORABILIA, 1822-1916.

Series Description

Juvenilia; quotebooks; abstracts; passes to medical lectures; maps; genealogical papers.

	Box	Folder
"The Athenian Institute" : newspaper clipping, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	24	327
"Compendium of Rhetoric" , 1822. 1 item (14 leaves).	24	328
Geneological papers, undated. 1 item (4 leaves).	24	329
Journal, 1833. 1 item (41 leaves).	24	330
Map, "Pennsylvania System" , 1916. 1 item.	24	331

Obituaries for Robert M. Bird, 1854. 2 items (2 leaves).	24	332
"Quotebook" , 1826. 1 item (48 leaves).	24	333
School papers, compositions, and certificate, 1824. 3 items (5 leaves).	24	334
"Notes and Abstracts" : (on reverse, notes by Frederic Bird), 1828. 1 item (99 leaves).	25	
"Quotations" , 1827. 1 item (73 leaves).	25	
Passes to medical lectures, 1824-1843. 22 items (22 leaves).	26	

VIII. FREDERIC MAYER BIRD PAPERS, 1844-1892.

Series Description

Correspondence; published articles; drafts of sermons; University of Pennsylvania memorabilia.

A. CORRESPONDENCE, 1844-1889.

	Box	Folder
Allen, George, 1854. 1 item (2 leaves).	27	335
Barr, Elizabeth Van Leuvenigh, undated. 1 item (2 leaves).	27	336
Bird, I.D., 1855. 1 item (1 leaf).	27	337
Bird, Robert Montgomery, 1844-1850. 9 items (9 leaves).	27	338
Downing, R.L., 1889. 1 item (1 leaf).	27	339

Frazer, John, 1854. 1 item (1 leaf).	327	340
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<i>Lippincott's Magazine</i> , 1875. 1 item (1 leaf).	27	341
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Mayer, Edward R., 1874. 1 item (2 leaves).	27	342
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B. WRITINGS, 1858-1892.

	Box	Folder
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"A Centennial Poem" , undated. 1 item (6 leaves).	27	343
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"An Imperial Saint" , undated. 1 item (10 leaves).	27	344
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"Love Songs of the Last Generation" , undated. 1 item (5 leaves).	27	345
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Sermons, 1865-1871. 9 items (25 leaves).	27	346
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Newspaper clippings (of FMB articles?), 1858-1892. 50 items (64 leaves).	27	347-349
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C. MISCELLANEOUS, 1854-1857.

	Box	Folder
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Miscellaneous papers. 5 leaves.	27	350
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Notebook, undated. 1 item (11 leaves).	27	351
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University of Pennsylvania, 1854-1857. 14 items (14 leaves).	27	352
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IX. MARY E. BIRD PAPERS, 1831-1946.

Series Description

Correspondence; book of writings; notes and drafts of *The Life of Bird*; correspondence of C. Seymour Thompson concerning *The Life of Bird*; memorabilia.

A. CORRESPONDENCE, 1831-1908.

	Box	Folder
Backas, F. R.	see Box 31	
Barr, Elizabeth, 1849. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	353
Bird, Elizabeth Van Leuvenigh, undated. 1 item (2 leaves).	28	354
Bird, Frederic Mayer (with Betsie and Emily), 1838-1908, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	355
Chew, Anne L., undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	356
Clayton, John M., 1854. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	357
Comegys, Joseph P., 1856. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	358
Douglass, James C., 1856-1859. 33 items (34 leaves).	28	359
Fraley, F., 1859. 2 items (2 leaves).	28	360
Frost, John, 1854. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	361
Guillou, Constant, 1859. 8 items (10 leaves).	28	362
Johnson, E., undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	363
McC., H. H., undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	364

McMichael, Morton, 1854-1859. 7 items (7 leaves).	28	365
Mayer, Anne, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	366
Mayer, Augustina, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	367
Mayer, Caroline, 1831-1834, undated. 21 items (21 leaves).	28	368
Mayer, Edward, 1854-1858. 2 items (4 leaves).	28	369
Mayer, Emily, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	370
Mayer, Philip F., undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	371
Nelly, undated. 1 item (1 leaf).	28	372
Warder, E. A., undated. 3 items (3 leaves).	28	373

B. MATERIALS REGARDING *LIFE OF BIRD*, 1944-1946.

	Box	Folder
<i>Life of Bird</i> , undated. 3 items (72 leaves).	28	374-376
Research notes and fragments, undated. 3 items (24 leaves).	28	377
Transcripts of Bird Correspondence, undated. 12 leaves.	28	378
Correspondence regarding <i>Life of Bird</i> , 1944-1945. 263 items (263 leaves).	28	379-384
Bills and receipts, 1945-1946. 26 items (26 leaves).	28	385
Copyright papers, 1944-1945. 14 items (14 leaves).	28	386

C. MISCELLANEOUS, 1854-1858.

	Box	Folder
Notebook of writings, undated. 1 item (9 leaves).	28	387
Legal and financial papers, 1854. 2 items (6 leaves).	28	388
Miscellaneous scraps, undated. 10 items (10 leaves).	28	389
Wedding bouquet. 1 item.	28	390
Clippings regarding Philip F. Mayer, 1858. 4 items (4 leaves).	28	391

X. CLEMENT EDGAR FOUST, 1915-1916.**Series Description**

Research materials for Bird biography including transcripts of Bird letters, related correspondence, and note cards.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence with Robert M. Bird, Jr., 1915. 3 items (5 leaves).	29	392
Miscellaneous correspondence regarding Robert Montgomery Bird, 1915-1916. 5 items (13 leaves).	29	393
Transcribed letters of Robert Montgomery Bird. 27 leaves.	29	394-395
Miscellaneous collected letters, 19th century. 2 items (2 leaves).	29	396
Genealogical notes, undated. 5 items (5 leaves).	29	397
Research notes, undated. 12 items (12 leaves).	29	398

Note cards.

30

XI. OVERSIZE.

Series Description

Lithograph portraits of Bird; miscellaneous oversize material.

Box

"Adventures in the Wrong House" : newspaper clipping, 1842, 1853. 2 items (4 leaves).

31

Letter from F. R. Backas to Mary E. Bird, 1830. 1 item (1 leaf).

31

Joseph H. Robins to Robert Montgomery Bird, 1825 or 6. 1 item (1 leaf).

31

Letters from Robert Montgomery Bird to Mary E. Bird, 1833. 2 items (3 leaves).

31

Lithograph portraits of Robert Montgomery Bird, undated. 2 items.

31

Sketches, undated. 2 items (2 leaves).

31
