

U DP8 **Copies of letters, mainly from John Ruskin** **1882-1887**
to [Lazarus] Fletcher

Biographical Background:

See U DP/7

Custodial history:

Purchased from T Thorp, 149 High St., Guildford, 12 October 1936

Description:

The letters are mainly from John Ruskin to Lazarus Fletcher at the British Museum. They appear to detail their collaboration on an exhibition of minerals at the British Museum (Natural History). They include information about the specimens and discussions about the labelling of items and catalogue entries.

Extent: 46 items

Related material:

Part of an original bundle covering U DP7-DP15
John Ruskin letter [U DX/2]

Other repositories:

Ruskin Galleries, Bembridge, Isle of Wight
John Rylands Library, Manchester
Cumbria Record Office
British Library
Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge
Ruskin Gallery Collection of the Guild of St George, Sheffield
Bodleian Library
Trinity College, Cambridge
Ruskin Library, University of Lancaster

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DP8/1 Copy of letter to unknown recipient from G Collingwood, [1882]
Herne Hill, SE [London]
Details the geological models that he has sent to the
unknown recipient, possibly Mr Fletcher, on Mr Ruskin's
instructions. They include one depicting the Coniston fells.
1 item

Hull History Centre: Copies of letters, mainly from John Ruskin to [Lazarus] Fletcher

U DP8/2	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from G Collingwood, Avallon, Yonne [France] Apologises for the condition that some models arrived in, despite being packed by 'boss carpenter of the whole neighbourhood'. Offers to remake on his return from Vezelay. 1 item	[1882]
U DP8/3	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin Talks of two letters from Collingwood that he has found, that the model will arrive on Thursday and the catalogue as soon as he has 'thought it over'. 1 item	[1882]
U DP8/4	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Sandgate Details Ruskin's efforts to offer Fletcher's favourite ruby to the Ladies College (Somerville, Oxford). Also Ruskin's offer of his own 'rare flat diamond' to Prestwich. He goes on to discuss the layout of Ruskin and Fletcher's exhibition of minerals and precious stones. 1 item	1882
U DP8/5	Copy of letter to John Ruskin from G Collingwood, Brantwood Collingwood is pleased that the trip to Sheffield was a success and that he was able to find 'nice people there.' Details the exhibits at the School of Mines Museum and a short story by Collingwood about comparing geological formation to a romance. He remarks that he doesn't know what set him off on 'this fooling'. 1 item	23 Jul 1882
U DP8/6	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Laon [France] Details the exhibits that Ruskin is putting together and describes the local geology. Ruskin remarks that Collingwood makes 'lovely models and drawings'. 1 item	14 Aug 1882
U DP8/7	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Rheims [France] Details the cataloguing of specimens that Ruskin has done for the exhibition, explaining how it has been done and how they should be numbered and displayed. 1 item	15 Aug 1882
U DP8/8	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Avallon [France] Ruskin expresses the view that a granite glen near Vezelay is 'one of the loveliest things in France or in the world'. He states that he has enclosed a cheque for the models and mentions work that he and Collingwood will be undertaking. 1 item	20 Aug 1882

Hull History Centre: Copies of letters, mainly from John Ruskin to [Lazarus] Fletcher

U DP8/9	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin Thanks Fletcher for the many kindnesses he has shown him and Ruskin states that his own servant can bring back the models and catalogue if they are placed in an ordinary box. He finishes with Christmas wishes. 1 item	23 Dec 1882
U DP8/10	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire Thanks Fletcher for making him laugh and asks that the ruby and flat diamond are sent to him and the big diamond given to Joan. Ruskin states that he hasn't taken any moral exercise since 1862 when he used to throw pine logs about in order to attempt to cure his gout. 1 item	[1883]
U DP8/11	Copy of letter to an unknown recipient from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire Partial letter detailing geological features in area near Lake Chalcedony 1 item	1884
U DP8/12	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Herne Hill, SE [London] Accompanied catalogue that Ruskin wanted Fletcher's notes on and mentions that Ruskin was suffering with an influenza cold. 1 item	[1884]
U DP8/13	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire Expresses pleasure at the work that Fletcher has accomplished and asks him to identify 'that yellow stuff'. Also refers to something that Ruskin believes will be called the 'Rouschkin Pousckin case'. 1 item	[1884]
U DP8/14	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire Discusses the changes to the catalogue that Fletcher has suggested, questioning their different use of certain terms, but accepting most of the alterations. Also mentions the possibility of working together again in Sheffield, that Ruskin has sent a sketcher to draw the battlefield at Kunersdorf and thanking Fletcher for the work he has done. 1 item	[1884]

Hull History Centre: Copies of letters, mainly from John Ruskin to [Lazarus] Fletcher

U DP8/15	<p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire</p> <p>Refers to a Master Davies having played tricks on them and Ruskin's unease about some stones as they are very different to other specimens. Ruskin asks Fletcher to look at the preface of the catalogue that he will post the next day and then pass to the printer in Aylesbury.</p> <p>1 item</p>	[1884]
U DP8/16	<p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire</p> <p>Apologises to Fletcher for not looking at the preface due to working for the Mineralogical Society at Edinburgh.</p> <p>1 item</p>	[1884]
U DP8/17	<p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin</p> <p>Ruskin states that he is 'greatly delighted with the finish', but hopes that Fletcher is not glad to be done with him. Ruskin mentions that he will make the changes to the catalogue except Davies's. He also encloses a cheque for minerals that Baxter will be able to collect.</p> <p>1 item</p>	1884
U DP8/18	<p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Consiton, Lancashire</p> <p>States that the catalogue and preface will be sent separately, but the preface needs revision following Fletcher's opinion on it. A list of the numbers that need looking at is included. Ruskin adds that he is planning to travel to London at the end of the week and they can 'finish all off at once!'</p> <p>1 item</p>	[1884]
U DP8/19	<p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Consiton, Lancashire</p> <p>Thanks Fletcher for his changes and help and that 'the whole' has been sent to the printer. Ruskin adds that visitors are coming.</p> <p>1 item</p>	[1884]
U DP8/20	<p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Consiton, Lancashire</p> <p>States that he is sending a revised page of the catalogue with some new specimens by the next post.</p> <p>1 item</p>	14 Apr 1884
U DP8/21	<p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, c/o Arthure Severn, Herne Hill, SE [London]</p> <p>Ruskin asks if he can visit Fletcher later that week to show him 'two curious diamonds' that Fletcher may want to exhibit. Ruskin plans to offer them to Mr Prestwick first.</p> <p>1 item</p>	5 Feb 1884

Hull History Centre: Copies of letters, mainly from John Ruskin to [Lazarus] Fletcher

- U DP8/22 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin [Mar 1884]
States that he is sending a cheque and the bearer can collect the carving so there is no need for packing, especially as it may stay with Ruskin before going to Sheffield. He also hopes that Baxter will bring two pieces of agate to Fletcher. He warns Fletcher of some possible visitors.
1 item
- U DP8/23 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire [Mar 1884]
Ruskin expresses delight at a specimen, asks for identification of three stones he has sent, wants a further example of something he has, asks for a slice to be taken from a jasper and details a recent purchase. He finishes with mention of bad news from the Riviera.
1 item
- U DP8/24 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 20 Mar 1884
Details the contents of a box that he plans to send. It includes various stones and minerals that he wishes to add to the exhibition. Ruskin expresses regret at not being able to deliver them himself.
1 item
- U DP8/25 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 21 Mar 1884
States that he has lost a letter that includes 'the good German's name' and asks that Fletcher fill in the name on the enclosed cheque. Asks for the two geodes to be sent to him with anything else considered remarkable.
1 item
- U DP8/26 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 27 Mar [1884]
Expresses delight at two geodes and returns one of his own that we wants Fletcher to examine and then cut a section of. Ruskin remarks that he wishes to be with Fletcher again.
1 item
- U DP8/27 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin [Mar 1884]
Expresses pleasure at the re-arrangement of the chalcedonies that Fletcher has carried out. Goes on to say that they are the minerals best drawn to public notice as there is a greater possibility of finding one than a diamond. Ruskin asks Fletcher to get some minerals out for display in a new case. He states that he'll arrive early the next day and if any specimens are missing he hopes Mr Davies will be able to get them and Ruskin can continue with his prisms.
1 item

Hull History Centre: Copies of letters, mainly from John Ruskin to [Lazarus] Fletcher

- U DP8/28 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 17 Apr [1884]
States that he will get the catalogue finished with some gaps for Fletcher to fill in. He asks if the long flat diamond will be exhibited with the big one and enquires about the 'chalcedony juice'.
1 item
- U DP8/29 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 7 May [1884]
States that he arrived the day before and could see the mountains over Lancashire bay for the first time in thirty years. He mentions that he has enclosed the finishing specimen for the vacant square and a draft description for Fletcher's editing. Ruskin discusses other additions that need to be made. He agrees with Fletcher's previous suggestion of a table with fixed lenses to view the stones and says that he will pay for it if Fletcher can plan it.
1 item
- U DP8/30 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 14 May 1884
States that the general account of the varieties of silica is being arranged in a separate pamphlet. Goes into detail about Miller's writing on quartzs that bewilders Ruskin, asking for Fletcher's help. He says that Fletcher does not need to explain the catalogue annotations as he will accept them without question. Mentions that 'floating tubes seem probable'.
1 item
- U DP8/31 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 18 Jul [1884]
Ruskin appears to be annoyed that Fletcher has not commented on the 'sheaf arrangement' as he had hoped as he wanted his opinion before finishing the catalogue. He asks that Fletcher shows Mr WB Tarrant, 'my virtual Papa in business matters', the diamond, ruby and new case. Ruskin states that he wishes to see the numbers.
1 item
- U DP8/32 Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire 18 Jul [1884]
Partial letter stating that he had not proposed a theory about the sheaf crystals and that if they could talk in person and not by letter everything could be sorted out. Ruskin asks if Fletcher is taking any holiday and that he could visit Ruskin. He asks what 'hemimorphite' is and 'how dare you use such words to me!' He concludes by stating that Fletcher will have the last sheet of the catalogue from the printer early next week.
1 item

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| U DP8/33 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire</p> <p>Mentions a disagreement over alterations to the text that Fletcher has made. Ruskin is willing to accept them all to save their time except the classification of hyalite which he is proud to have separated from opal due to its structure. He states that he has sent the proof to the printer for revision and asks that Fletcher send the last articles to Ruskin.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 24 Jul [1884] |
| U DP8/34 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire</p> <p>Expresses the hope that Fletcher will receive the proof copy soon and that it will be satisfactory. He states that he believes that the epilogue explaining the reasons for the 'whole thing' was necessary and hopes that Fletcher will be able to pass Ruskin's analysis of chlorite. He states that 'No one will for a moment think the Museum answerable for it.' Ruskin believes that no compliments should be paid to Fletcher in 'this' catalogue, but that he'll have his 'revenge' in his 'grammar of silica'. He then goes on to ask Fletcher about where he takes his axes in a quartz pyramid. He concludes by asking when Fletcher leaves town.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 3 Aug 1884 |
| U DP8/35 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Davies from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire</p> <p>Ruskin has written to Davies about the case catalogue to save Fletcher more trouble. He explains that he has sent catalogue orders to Messrs Hazell at Aylesbury and that the Museum can charge whatever price they like. Ruskin will take no profit on them and does not wish to sell any at Orpington, but will supply them if asked. He anticipates the charge will be one shilling.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 18 Aug 1884 |
| U DP8/36 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Davies from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire</p> <p>Ruskin is pleased to have the Directors approval of the arrangement and the catalogue. He agrees to send Davies copies of the catalogue, but does not want them cutting up for labels.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 18 Aug
[1884] |
| U DP8/37 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire</p> <p>Ruskin expresses his own and Mrs Severn's pleasure at Fletcher's upcoming visit and that Mr Severn can take him boating or fishing. Thanks Fletcher for the hemimorphite and comments on never having seen a sheaf of rutile or iron in quartz reach a right angle.</p> <p>1 item</p> | [Aug-Sep
1884] |

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U DP8/38	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, 84 Woodstock Road, Oxford Expresses pleasure at the arrangement authorised by the Trustees and that he will be giving an account of the Normans next Saturday. 1 item	28 Oct 1884
U DP8/39	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire He states that his last illness has been a warning to him and that he supposes his days at the British Museum are over. He asks Fletcher if the Trustees will return Ruskin's diamond and ruby and whether he is wrong in discrediting something in Roscoe's Chemistry. Ruskin hopes that Fletcher is happy with his own work, states how useful Fletcher's guide is and hopes that he won't mind if Ruskin continues to send him stones for identification. He mentions Mrs Severn and Mr Davies. 1 item	13 Oct 1885
U DP8/40	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire Ruskin is glad that Fletcher likes the stones and believes that the continued loan of the ruby and flat diamond can be arranged, but that he needs them 'just now' for some work he is carrying out. 1 item	Nov 1885
U DP8/41	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire Ruskin is pleased that Fletcher has taken four days holiday. He states that the stones are safe and that the box and fittings are worth £100. 1 item	6 Nov [1885]
U DP8/42	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire Thanks Fletcher for his letter and the information provided. Ruskin states that he is regaining his strength and returned to work on his Recreations in Mineralogy. He misses Fletcher's room at the Museum. He sends his love to Dr Gunther and remembrances to Mr Davies. 1 item	19 Dec 1886
U DP8/43	Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Sandgate Expresses satisfaction at items Fletcher has sent him. He goes on to state the belief that the Geological Society should meet at Chamonix that year and not return until they have found the 'Home of Rose-Fluor!' 1 item	8 Jan 1887

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| U DP8/44 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Sandgate
Details a disagreement between Ruskin and Fletcher about the positioning of specimens. He states that the diamond should not be called the Ruskin as it is unworthy of a name, but he will give it to the Museum on condition they include the inscription he provides. Ruskin will come to the Museum to see the labels placed and states that they are not to be moved by 'any miserable little Darwinian cad'.
1 item</p> | 14 Dec 1887 |
| U DP8/45 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from John Ruskin, Kent Hotel, Sandgate
States that the new ruby is packed and ready to be sent and includes the details of the label to be attached. Mentions that he should have given another talk, but had to go to Sandgate to 'cool down' following a row at the National Gallery about the Turners. He sends his love to Dr Gunther and includes an offer to draw 'alligators or any other sort of Anti-Georgian monster'.
1 item</p> | 26 Dec 1887 |
| U DP8/46 | <p>Copy of letter to Mr Fletcher from Joan R Severn, Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire
Letter from Ruskin's cousin stating that Ruskin's ruby has been sent.
1 item</p> | 29 Dec
[1887] |