

NINETEENTH CENTURY LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS

Part 3: The Correspondence and Literary Manuscripts of Arthur Hugh Clough (1819-1861)
from the Bodleian Library, Oxford

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Publisher's Note

"Clough should be of great interest to us now. He is the most modern of Victorian poets. In terms of everything from his attitude to metre to his sceptical moral temper, he was far closer to our own cultural persuasion than Tennyson or Browning. ... His verse does not sing or soar or rhapsodise: it is prosy, anxious, witty, multivalent, and it delves into matters of sexual instinct with a startling frankness and sensuality unparalleled in 19th-century English literature."

Rupert Christiansen, writing in *The Voice of Victorian Sex* (2001)

The correspondence and papers of Arthur Hugh Clough (1819-1861) are the focus for part 3 of *Nineteenth Century Literary Manuscripts*. Clough was born in Liverpool on 1 January 1819 to parents James Butler Clough, a Liverpool cotton merchant, and Anne Perfect, daughter of a Yorkshire banker. In 1822 the family with their four young children sailed to Charleston, South Carolina, a centre of the cotton industry. Here Arthur grew into 'a somewhat grave and studious little boy, not without tastes for walking, shooting and sight-seeing, but with little capacity for play and mixing with others'. He was a constant companion to his mother, a woman of Evangelical persuasion and 'stern integrity', and at age seven he was described by other family members as the genius of the family. They also noted that he had an obstinate streak, preferring to act from his own will, not that of others. The years spent in Charleston provided Arthur with a relatively happy and secure childhood. Then in 1828 Clough's life took a dramatic turn, and while his parents continued to live in Charleston, Clough was taken back to England to attend school in Chester, and in 1829 with his elder brother he entered Rugby School. Here, under the headmastership of Thomas Arnold, the school's aim was to produce English gentlemen combining the classical ideals of manliness with a sense of righteousness gained from the Bible. Clough was taken into the Arnold household and became good friends with the two eldest boys, Matthew and Thomas; he worked hard becoming a star pupil and looking forward to a brilliant career.

In 1836 Clough won a scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford where he enjoyed a lively social life, taking active part in student societies such as the Union and Decade. He was also attracted to the Oxford Movement by his tutor and friend, W G Ward, and Clough for a while fell under the influence of John Henry Newman: Newman argued that historical Catholicism embodied the only true Church. Brought up by his mother in the evangelical tradition, and later with the liberal Christianity of Rugby, Clough suffered great moral and spiritual strain by these conflicting theological traditions. His academic work suffered and it was not until 1842 that he achieved the great prize of an Oriel fellowship. However, his religious doubts persisted and in 1848, influenced by Carlyle and Thomas Waldo Emerson, he resigned his tutorship, feeling that he could no longer adhere to the Thirty-Nine Articles. Clough spent the spring of that year in Paris where he and Emerson witnessed the Revolution in France. Later in the year when Emerson left Liverpool for America Clough began to write his finest poetry.

Clough spent the summer of 1848 working on the narrative poem *The Bothie of Tober-na Vuolich*. Written in an accessible, conversational tone the poem describes a love affair between an intellectual student on a walking holiday and Elspie, the daughter of a crofter. Elspie is self-assured and the love is neither idealistic nor unrequited. It is a search for new values, recognised by the fact that the lovers resolve their situation by eloping to New Zealand. The poem was no pastoral idyll, containing critical comment about relationships between the sexes and the classes of Victorian Britain. The work sold well and Clough's reputation as a poet was swiftly acknowledged.

Ambarvalia, a collection of verse by Clough and his Cambridge friend Thomas Burbidge followed early in 1849, and contains Clough's poems written while at Balliol and Oriel. Included is *Natura Naturans* a surprisingly open celebration of fleeting sexual impulse, as well as poems of love and friendship in various moods. From April to August Clough was in Rome and his letters vividly describe Garibaldi's defence of the city against the besieging French army commanded by General Oudinot. Out of these experiences Clough created the most enduringly popular of his works, *Amours de voyage*, which tells the story of Claude, a young man who is contemptuous of Rome, and of a young Englishwoman, Mary Trevellyn, who is on the grand tour with her family. Claude falls in love with Mary and Rome but loses both as the Trevellyn's continue their tour, and the French restore the rule of the pope. The poem ends in disappointment as Claude's life unravels. Clough completed the first draft shortly after his return to England, and over the next few years worked on further drafts until the poem eventually appeared in the American journal, *Atlantic Monthly* in 1858.

Italian influences continued to inspire Clough and during the summer of 1848 during a visit to Naples he wrote his most successful poem on religious topics, *Easter Day*. The work contains a denial of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and is admired by critics for its intellectual and emotional power. Another visit to Italy, this time to Venice in 1850 inspired the dramatic poem, *Dipsychus*, featuring a Faust-like dialogue between a tormented youth in two minds: Dipsychus about his future career and Mephistopheles, a spirit who represents worldly temptations, the flesh and the devil. Clough's papers contain rough notes and three revisions of this poem which remained unpublished until after his death. Even in its unfinished state it is judged to contain his most mature thought on religious topics.

In 1851 Clough met and fell in love with Blanche Mary Shore Smith (a cousin of Florence Nightingale) and they became engaged in 1852. In search of work Clough sailed to America with W M Thackeray where he spent nine months, and his letters home to Blanche recount his warm associations with Emerson, Longfellow, Charles Eliot Norton, as well as other members of the Boston literary society. In England Clough's friends found him a post as examiner in the education office enabling him to marry Blanche in June 1854. Blanche was a devoted wife and bore him four children. In his spare time Clough assisted Florence Nightingale in her campaign to reform military hospitals, and escorted her to Calais on the her first voyage to the Crimea in 1854.

By 1861 Clough's health had broken down and he was allowed unpaid leave to regain his strength. He spent six happy weeks with his family at Freshwater in the Isle of Wight, and later, with Blanche then pregnant, he travelled alone to Greece and Constantinople where he began his last long poetical work, *Mari magno*. Further travels took him to the Pyrenees where the Tennysons were based for the summer, but he did not recover his health and died on 13 November in Florence, where he is buried in a protestant cemetery. His death was mourned by his friend, Matthew Arnold, in his elegy *Thyrsis* which recreates the Oxford companionship of the two poets.

Clough's poems range from the inspirational *Say not the struggle nought availeth*, to the satirical *The Last Decalogue*. While both *The Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich* and *Amours de Voyage* mirror his own tortured uncertainty, when his orthodox faith was challenged by the religious ferment of 1840s Oxford. Over the years changing fashions have led to a comparative neglect of Clough's poetry though popular editions of his most important works have continued to appear regularly. Today, there is a revival of interest in his life and poetry and Arthur Hugh Clough is admired as the 'most interesting and most modern of Victorian poets'. (Francis Wheen)

Nineteenth Century Literary Manuscripts, Part 3

The project brings together 18 volumes of his letters, 33 volumes of poetical notebooks and 7 volumes of formerly loose manuscripts. These include exchanges with Matthew Arnold and Ralph Waldo Emerson, a cluster of material relating to Florence Nightingale, a list of Clough's books, material regarding Rugby School and extensive literary manuscripts including drafts of *Dipsychus*, *Songs in Absence*, *Adam & Eve* and *Amours de Voyage*. Most of his poetic output is covered as these were the manuscripts that were used by Blanche Clough to prepare his posthumous *Poems* (1862) and *Letters and Remains* (1865).

I have found Anthony Kenny's biography of Clough in the Oxford DNB (website) particularly helpful in preparing this publisher's note.

Jane Sheppard, 2005

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Contents of Reels

REEL 1

General correspondence of Clough and his wife, Blanche, 1829-1900

MSS. Eng. lett. c.189-90, d. 175-78, e. 74-76
c. 189 1829-40 (214 leaves)
d. 175 1841-45 (234 leaves)

REEL 2

General correspondence of Clough and his wife, Blanche, 1829-1900

MSS. Eng. lett. c.189-90, d. 175-78, e. 74-76
c. 190 1846-48 (288 leaves)
d. 176 1849-50 (219 leaves)

REEL 3

General correspondence of Clough and his wife, Blanche, 1829-1900

MSS. Eng. lett. c.189-90, d. 175-78, e. 74-76
d. 177 1851-June 1853 (201 leaves)
e. 74 July 1853-1857 (170 leaves)
e. 75 1858-October 1861 (183 leaves)

REEL 4

General correspondence of Clough and his wife, Blanche, 1829-1900

MSS. Eng. lett. c.189-90, d. 175-78, e. 74-76
d. 178 November 1861-January 1866 (180 leaves)
e. 76 February 1866-1900, n.d. (181 leaves)

Correspondence between Clough and his wife, 1851-52

MSS. Eng. lett. e. 77-79
e. 77 December 1851-February 1852 (174 leaves)

REEL 5

Correspondence between Clough and his wife, 1851-52

MSS. Eng. lett. e. 77-79
e. 78 March-June 1852 (197 leaves)
e. 79 July-October 1852 (181 leaves)

Letters from Clough in America to his wife, 1852-1853

MSS. Eng. lett. e. 80-81
e. 80 November 1852-January 1853 (117 leaves)

REEL 6

Letters from Clough in America to his wife, 1852-1853

MSS. Eng. lett. e. 80-81
e. 81 February-July 1853 (280 leaves)

Letters to Clough from his wife, 1852-1853

MSS. Eng. lett. d. 179
d. 179 November 1852-June 1853 (368 leaves)

REEL 7

Correspondence between Clough and his wife, 1853-57, 1858-61

MSS. Eng. lett. e. 82-83
e. 82 1853-1857 (124 leaves)
e. 83 1858-1861 (153 leaves)

Letters from Henry Sidgwick to Blanche Clough, 1866-84

MS. Eng. lett. e. 84
e. 84 1866-84 (125 leaves)

REEL 8

Lectures by Clough on language and literature, n.d.

MS. Eng. misc. d. 511
d. 511 n.d. 238 leaves

Essays on social and literary topics, n.d.

MS. Eng. misc. d. 512

Nineteenth Century Literary Manuscripts, Part 3

d. 512 n.d. (177 leaves)

Three exercise books on English essays written at Balliol College, Oxford, 1837, 1839, 1840

MSS. Eng. misc. d. 513-515

d. 513 1837 (44 leaves)

d. 514 1839 (44 leaves)

d. 515 1840 (22 leaves)

REEL 9

Miscellaneous papers, 1830-1860

MS. Eng. misc. c. 359

c. 359 1830-1860 (168 leaves)

Two printed copies of the 1850 re-issue of Clough's poems in Ambarvalia, with his manuscript corrections.

MSS. Eng. poet. e. 88-89

e. 88 1850

e. 89 1850

REEL 10

Notebooks containing rough drafts and fair copies of poems, 1843-1851

MSS. Eng. poet. d. 117-23

d. 117 1843 (35 leaves)

d. 118 1844 (30 leaves)

d. 119 1845 (30 leaves)

d. 120 1847 (45 leaves)

d. 121 1851 (A) (26 leaves)

d. 122 1851 (B) (24 leaves)

d. 123 1851 (C) (22 leaves)

Notebooks containing drafts and fair copies of 'Adam and Eve'

MSS Eng. poet. d. 124-25

d. 124 (46 leaves)

d. 125 (27 leaves)

Notebooks containing fair copies of poems, 1839-52

MSS. Eng. poet. d. 126-28

d. 126 1839-42 (47 leaves)

d. 127 1849-50 (64 leaves)

d. 128 1852 (22 leaves)

Rough drafts and fair copies of poems, arranged by Mrs A H Clough, junior

MSS Eng. poet d. 129

d. 129 (132 leaves)

REEL 11

Notebooks containing early drafts of *Amours de voyage*

MSS. Eng. poet. d. 130-31

d. 130 (70 leaves)

d. 131 (34 leaves)

Earlier drafts of *Amours de voyage*, removed from d. 130

MS. Eng. poet. d. 132

d. 132 (9 leaves)

Notebooks containing rough drafts and fair copies of *Dipsychus*

MSS. Eng. poet. d. 133-38

d. 133 Rough notes (96 leaves)

d. 134 First revision (i) (38 leaves)

d. 135 First revision (ii) (62 leaves)

d. 136 Second revision (66 leaves)

d. 137 Third revision (i) (20 leaves)

d. 138 Third revision (ii) (23 leaves)

Loose papers, including drafts of parts of *Dipsychus*

MS. Eng. poet. d. 139

d. 139 (30 leaves)

Three notebooks and (d. 143) loose papers containing drafts and fair copies of '*Songs in absence*'

MSS. Eng. poet. d. 140-43

- d. 140 (23 leaves)
- d. 141 (14 leaves)
- d. 142 (21 leaves)
- d. 143 (11 leaves)

REEL 12

Diary of 1861 and four notebooks containing drafts and fair copies of *Mari magno*

MSS. Eng. poet. d. 144-48

- d. 144 1861 124 leaves
- d. 145 (94 leaves)
- d. 146 (48 leaves)
- d. 147 (22 leaves)
- d. 148 (82 leaves)

Four notebooks and (c. 47) loose papers containing translations from Homer

MSS. Eng. poet. c. 43-47

- c. 43 (20 leaves)
- c. 44 (47 leaves)
- c. 45 (20 leaves)
- c. 46 (23 leaves)
- c. 47 (127 leaves)

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Chronology of Clough's Life and Times

1819

- Arthur Hugh Clough (ACH). Born on 1 January, second son of James Butler Clough, a cotton merchant, and Anne Perfect, a bankers daughter.

Keats, *Hyperion* (published 1856)
Byron begins *Don Juan*
George Eliot born (d.1880)
Victoria, future queen of England born (d.1901)
Peterloo Massacre, Manchester

1822-3

- ACH. Moves with family to Charleston, South Carolina.

Charlotte M Yonge born (d.1901)
Shelley dies (b.1792)
E T A Hoffman dies (b.1776)
Stendhal, *De l'amour*

1828

- ACH. October: Returns to England to attend school at Chester

Bulwer-Lytton, *Pelham*
Scott, *Tales of a Grandfather* and *The Fair Maid of Perth*
Margaret Oliphant born (d.1897)
Jules Verne born (d.1905)
Henry Ibsen born (d.1906)

- ACH. Starts at Rugby School

Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus*
Lamb, *Last Essays of Elia*
Longfellow, *Outre-Mer*
Hannah More dies (b.1745)
Oxford Movement begins
Abolition of Slavery

- ACH. November: Wins Balliol Scholarship
Charles Dickens, *Sketches by Boz*

- ACH. October: Goes up to Balliol College, Oxford

Carlyle, *French Revolution*
Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*
Accession of Queen Victoria

1841

- ACH. June: Fails to achieve the expected first-class degree.

Carlyle, *Heroes and Hero Worship*
Emerson, *Essays*
Lord Melbourne, Prime Minister (Whig) resigns, succeeded by Sir Robert Peel (Tory)
Newman's Tract 90 condemned

- ACH. March: Elected Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. June: Death of Dr Thomas Arnold, Head Master of Rugby school, (b.1795)

Tennyson, *Poems*
Eugene Sue, *The Mysteries of Paris*
Longfellow, *Poems of Slavery*
Chartist riots in industrial areas of northern England

- ACH. Death of Clough's father

Disraeli, *Coningsby*
Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Poems*
Gerard Manley Hopkins born (d.1889)
Factory Act
Royal Health Commission

Nineteenth Century Literary Manuscripts, Part 3

1846

- ACH. Wrote letters about political economy to *The Balance*

Brontës, *Poems*
Edward Lear, *Book of Nonsense*
Repeal of Corn Laws

- ACH. November: Beginning of friendship with Ralph Waldo Emerson. Begins talks with Edward Hawkins, Provost of Oriel, about resigning his post.

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*

- ACH. February: Outbreak of French Revolution. May-June: Visit to Paris with Emerson witnesses the revolution at first-hand. October: Resigns Fellowship. November: *The Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich* is published in its first version.

Emily Brontë dies (b.1818)
Mrs (Elizabeth) Gaskell, *Mary Barton*
Newman, *Loss and Gain*
Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood founded by Holman Hunt, Millais and D G Rossetti
Revolutions throughout Europe
Communist Manifesto issued by Marx and Engels

- ACH. January: Publication of *Ambarvalia*, poems by Clough and Thomas Burbidge. April-August: Visits Italy during the siege and occupation of the Roman Republic by French Forces under General Oudinot. October: Takes up post as Principal of University Hall, London. November: First draft of *Amours de Voyage* sent to J C Shairp.

Charlotte Brontë, *Shirley*
James Anthony Froude, *Nemesis of Faith*
Matthew Arnold, *The Strayed Reveller*
Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*
Christian Socialism of F D Maurice and Charles Kingsley

- ACH. August-September: Visit to Venice, and writes the first draft of *Dipsychus*. December: Named Professor of English Language and Literature at University College, London.

Wordsworth, poet laureate, dies (b.1770), *Prelude*
Alfred Lord Tennyson, succeeds as new poet laureate, *In Memoriam*

- ACH. June: Meets Blanche Smith, his future wife.

Ruskin, *Stones of Venice*
Longfellow, *The Golden Legend*
Great Exhibition, London

- ACH. January: Resigns his post at University Hall.

Matthew Arnold, *Empedocles on Etna*
Dickens, *Bleak House*
Death of Wellington
Millais, *Ophelia*
Holman Hunt, *The Light of the World*

1852-3

- ACH. October-June: Visit to New England, stays with Emerson, then to Cambridge and Boston; works on revision of Dryden's *Plutarch*.

- ACH. July: Returns to England; starts work in the Education Office as an Examiner.

Matthew Arnold, Poems containing *The Scholar-Gipsy*
Charlotte Brontë, *Villette*
C M Yonge, *The Heir of Redclyffe*
Crimean War, 1853-6

- ACH. June: Marries Blanche Smith.

Dickens, *Hard Times*
Tennyson, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*
Florence Nightingale at Scutari

1854-5

- ACH. Probable date of composition of only surviving complete draft of '*Dipsychus and The Spirit*'.

1855

Charlotte Brontë dies (b.1816)
Anthony Trollope, *The Warden*
Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
Longfellow, *The Song of Hiawatha*
Fall of Sebastopol.

- ACH. Begins to undertake large volume of work assisting Florence Nightingale.

Charles Baudelaire, *Les Fleurs du mal*
George Elliot, *Scenes from Clerical Life*
Dinah Mulock, *John Halifax, Gentleman*
Thomas Hughes, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*
National Portrait Gallery opened

1858

- ACH. February-May: First publication of *Amours de Voyage* in the American magazine, *Atlantic Monthly*.

Carlyle, *Frederick the Great*
William Morris, *The Defence of Guinevere*
Indian Mutiny suppressed

Darwin, *Origin of the Species, by Natural Selection*
Nightingale, *Notes on Hospitals*
Franco-Austrian war

- ACH. Death of Clough's mother.

Burckhardt, *Essays and Reviews*
Italian Unification; first Italian convenes at Turin.
George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*

- ACH. November: Death of Clough in Florence, following a lengthy period of ill health.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning dies (b.1806)
Matthew Arnold, *On Translating Homer*
Prince Albert, Consort, dies (b.1819)
American Civil War

- Publication of Clough's Poems in London and Boston.

Meredith, *Modern Love*
Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*
Colenso controversy

- 1865 First publication of '*Dipsychus and The Spirit*' (as *Dipsychus*)

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Further Reading

- BEER, John, ed., *Arthur Hugh Clough*, Everyman's Poetry Series (London, Everyman, J M Dent, 1998)
- BISWAS, Robindra Kumar, *Arthur Hugh Clough: towards a reconsideration* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1972)
- CHRISTIANSEN, Rupert, *The voice of Victorian sex: Arthur Hugh Clough, 1819-1861* (London, Short, 2001)
- GOLLIN, R M, HOUGHTON, Walter E, and TIMKO, Michael, *Arthur Hugh Clough: a descriptive catalogue* (New York, NYPL, 1967)
- KENNY, Anthony, ed., *The Oxford diaries of Arthur Hugh Clough* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1990)
- LOWRY, Howard Foster, ed., *The letters of Matthew Arnold to Arthur Hugh Clough* (New York, Russell & Russell, 1968)
- MULHAUSER, F L, ed., *The correspondence of Arthur Hugh Clough* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1957, 2 vols)
- MULHAUSER, F L, ed., *The poems of Arthur Hugh Clough* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1974, 2 vols, tr. edited by Jane Turner)
- RICKS, Christopher, ed., *The new Oxford book of Victorian verse* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1987)
- SCOTT, Patrick, *The early editions of Arthur Hugh Clough* (NY, London, Garland, 1977)
- THORPE, Michael, ed., *Arthur Hugh Clough: the critical heritage* (London, Routledge, 1995)
- TRAWICK, Buckner B, ed., *Selected prose works of Arthur Hugh Clough* (University of Alabama Press, 1966)

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The journal *English Literature: Theories, Interpretations, Contexts*, published at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, invites scholars to send article proposals on the topic of "Fictions, Facts and 'Effects of Reality': Questioning the Mimetic in the Nineteenth-Century Novel". The new deadline for sending proposals is August 15th, 2019. To send your proposal please refer to the journal webpage: <https://edizionicafoscari.unive.it/en/edizioni/riviste/english-literature/>, click on "Contacts", fill in the form complete with proposed title and abstract, then click on "Submit".

Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism. Mf. Edgar Allan Poe 1809-1849 Author Index. Poe's stature as a major figure in world literature is based in large part on his short stories and on his critical theories, which established a highly influential model for the short form in fiction. Regarded by literary historians as the architect of the modern short story, Poe is credited with the invention of several popular story genres: the modern horror tale, the science fiction tale, and the detective story. Both his short stories and his critical writings are also considered important for their profound impact on generations of later writers.

Authors, English -- 18th century -- Correspondence -- Union lists, Authors, English -- 19th century -- Correspondence -- Union lists, Catalogs, Union -- Great Britain, English literature -- 18th century -- Manuscripts -- Union lists, English literature -- 19th century -- Manuscripts -- Union lists, Manuscripts, English -- Union lists. Publisher. London : British Library. Collection. inlibrary; printdisabled; trent_university; internetarchivebooks. Digitizing sponsor. Nineteenth-Century Literature publishes articles on a broad-based group of transatlantic authors and poets, literary characters, and discourses—all discussed with a keen understanding of nineteenth-century literary history and theory. The major journal for publication of new research in its field, *Nineteenth-Century Literature* features essays that span disciplines and which explore theoretical questions of gender, race, history, ecology and the anthropocene, cultural studies, empire, urbanism, and more. The journal also reviews select volumes of scholarship and criticism in nineteenth-century