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Guide to the Goldwin Smith Collection circa 1860



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.SMITHG
Title	Smith, Goldwin. Collection
Date	circa 1860
Size	0.25 linear feet (1 box)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	Goldwin Smith (1823 –1910) British historian and journalist. The collection contains four autograph letters from Smith. The letters primarily discuss social engagements, and are believed to date to about 1860.

Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Townshend, George, Marquis Townshend, and Charlotte, Lady Townshend. Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library.

Biographical Note

Goldwin Smith was born on August 13, 1823, in Reading, Berkshire, to Richard Pritchard Smith and Elizabeth Breton. He was educated at Eton College and Magdalen College, Oxford, and went on to be elected to a fellowship at University College. He was very involved in the cause of university reform. In 1850, Smith served as the assistant-secretary on the Royal Commission of reform. He was later appointed to a seat on the Popular Education Commission of 1858. In 1868, when educational reform was once again growing in public consciousness, he published a pamphlet, entitled *The Reorganization of the University of Oxford*.

Smith also held the regius professorship of Modern History at Oxford from 1858-1866. His work as a historian, however, is not particularly remembered as it lacked original research, though it is praised for Smith's skill as a writer. The outbreak of the American Civil War found Smith supporting the North, unlike many of his upper-class peers in England. In 1863, Smith published a pamphlet, *Does the Bible Sanction American Slavery?*, which is credited with helping to alter English opinion on the matter. In 1868, Smith left England and settled in the

United States where he held the professorship of English and Constitutional History at Cornell University. In 1871, he moved to Toronto, Canada, where he edited *The Canadian Monthly* and founded the *Week* and the *Bystander*. Smith also continued to contribute to a number of journals, including *The Farmer's Sun*, and the *Spectator*. Smith died at his Toronto residence, *The Grange*, on June 7, 1910.

Scope Note

The Goldwin Smith Collection contains four letters written by Smith. Three of the letters are addressed to someone referred to only as "Principal" while the fourth is to "Mr. Waring." The primarily discuss social engagements. Unfortunately, there are no dates on the letters, but it is suspected that they were written circa 1860.

The collection was previously part of the *Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection*.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/topics.php>

Subject Headings

- Smith, Goldwin, 1823-1910
-
-

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Correspondence, circa 1860

- Goldwin Smith to Principal, March 16
- Goldwin Smith to Principal, May 21
- Goldwin Smith to Principal, Friday
- Goldwin Smith to Mr. Waring, Monday