

MY VICTORIAN ADVENTURE

Transcribing 19th Century Letters at the Armstrong Browning Library



The Armstrong Browning Library



About the Armstrong Browning Library: Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning

❖ Elizabeth Barrett (1806 – 1861) and Robert Browning (1812 – 1889). Well loved Victorian poets. Married in 1846.



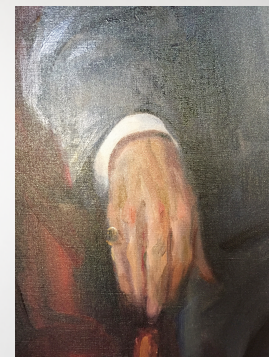
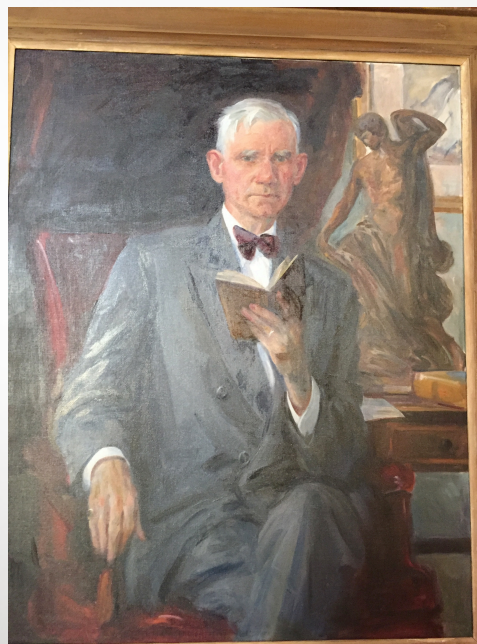
How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

- How do I Love Thee? (Sonnet 43) by Elizabeth Barrett Browning



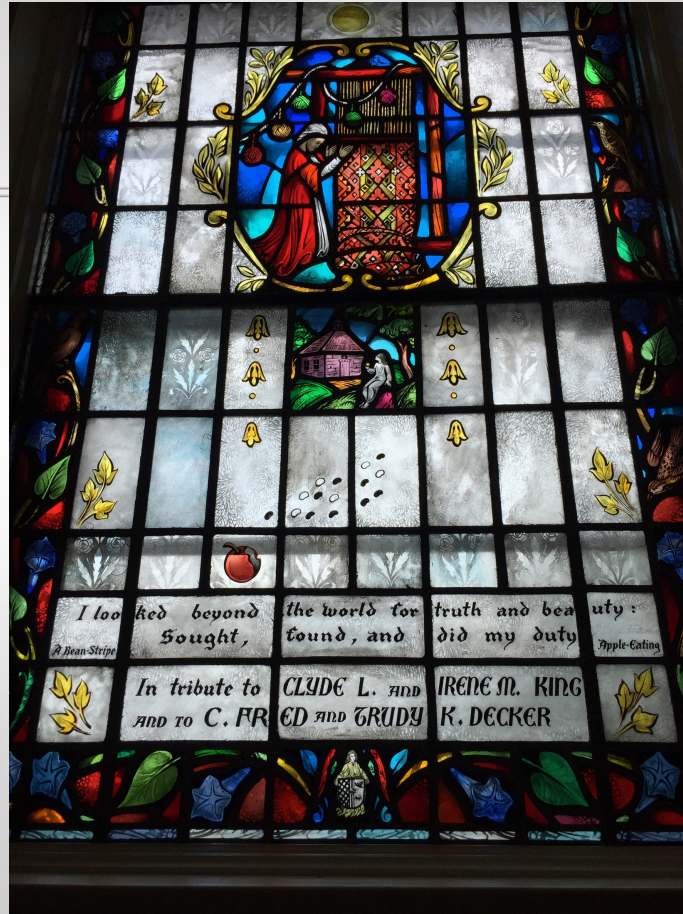
About the Armstrong Browning Library: Dr. A. J. Armstrong

- ❖ Andrew Joseph Armstrong (1873 – 1954) was an English Professor at Baylor.
- ❖ Loved Robert Browning's poetry. It was his dream to create a Browning Library at Baylor. With a lot of hard work his dream came true in 1951!



About the Armstrong Browning Library: Building





I looked beyond the world for truth and beauty :
Sought, found, and did my duty
In tribute to CLYDE L. AND IRENE M. KING
AND TO C. FR ED AND TRUDY K. DECKER



About the Armstrong Browning Library: Mission

- ❖ “The primary mission of the Armstrong Browning Library is to serve as ‘library of record’ of research materials relating to Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning; to acquire, preserve, and provide access for effective use of these materials and its other collections; and to promote opportunities for the study, appreciation, and understanding of the Brownings and the wider field of 19th-century literature and culture by the Baylor community, the larger academic community, and the general public.” – Armstrong Browning Library
- ❖ Collecting focus: The Brownings and 19th century literature and culture.

Victorian Letters Digitization Project

❖ Main Project – Transcribe and prepare Victorian letters to be digitized

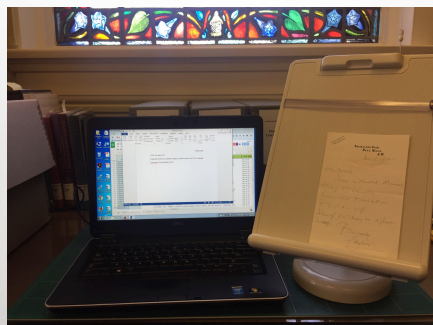
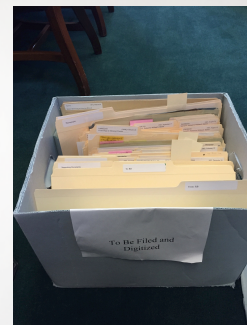
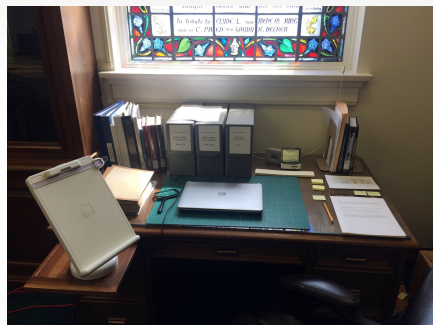
❖ Jennifer Borderud: Director of the Armstrong Browning Library



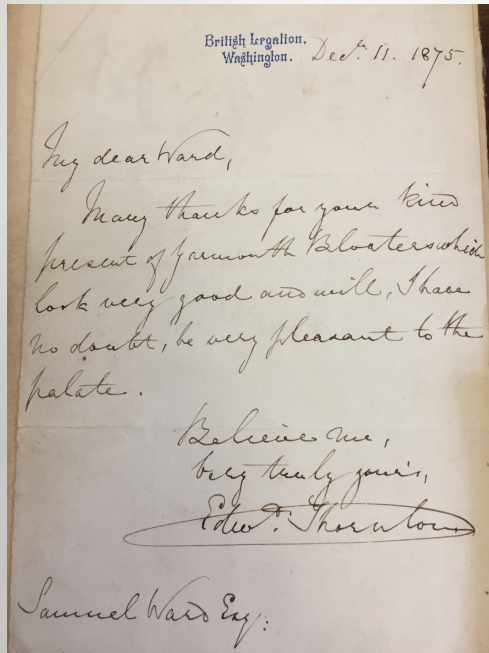
❖ Melinda Creech: Manuscript Specialist



Transcribing Victorian Letters



Sir Edward Thornton to Samuel A. Ward
December 11, 1875



V875121101

[1875, December 11]

[Thornton, Edward, Sir, 1817 - 1906 to Ward, Samuel A.]

[British Legation, Washington]

[British Legation,]

[Washington.]

Dec^r. 11, 1875

My dear Ward,

Many thanks for your kind present of Yarmouth Bloaters which look very
good and will, I have no doubt, be very pleasant to the palate.

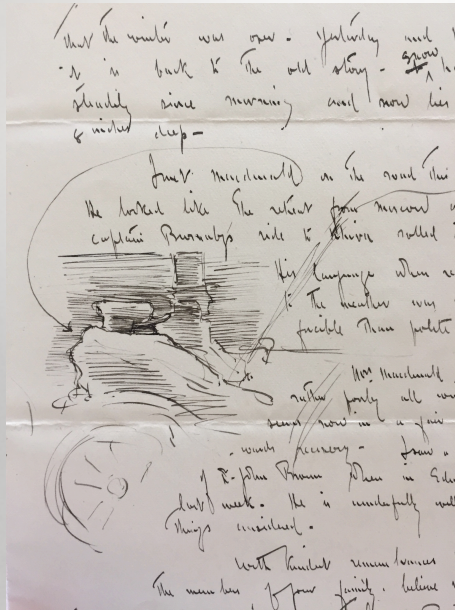
Believe me,

Very truly yours,

Edw^d. Thornton

Samuel Ward Esq.

George Reid to Mrs. Tom Taylor (nee Laura Wilson Barker) February 18, 1879



[1879, February 18]

[Reid, G. W. to Taylor, Mrs. Tom Taylor (nee Laura Wilson Barker)]

[St. Luke's, Kepplestone, Aberdeen]

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St. Luke's, Kepplestone, Aberdeen.

18th February. 1879.

Dear M^{rs} Taylor,

I have been from home for the past ten days. But for this I should have sooner answered your kind note of the 12th.

There is little chance of my being able to be in London till May – I am rather in a mess with my work at present, having been sorely tired and sat upon by a full length portrait of an old schoolmaster who is sadly deficient in picturesqueness of aspect! Though full enough of character [-----]. He ought to have been finished long since. I am tired of him and he is, I suspect, pretty well tired of me, but The Thing, must, be done and the sooner the better. I feel however that the result is not to be satisfactory – at least to me – this is disappointing as I have wasted half the winter on him –

Then – The Provost of Peterhead has to be Taken up – and Macdonald's

[Page 2]

head finished – and, if possible, a bit of landscape for the R.A. This will keep my hands full till May, when if alls well I shall be in [-----] of a short holiday, part of which, if you can [-----] receive me, I shall be delighted to spend with you –

I hope I may have an opportunity of being of some use to your son by putting him in the ^ right way of doing things. I have had to [-----] much, that a little good advice, given at the right time, would have [-----] – one has to pick up their art education as best they may in this country – Whenever he is ready to go abroad, don't hesitate to send him –

We have had a trying and tedious winter here. For weeks the snow lays a foot and a half deep – it vanished at last slowly and led me to think

[Page 3]

that the winter was over. Yesterday and today it is back to the old story – snow has fallen steadily since morning and now lies 6 or 8 inches deep –

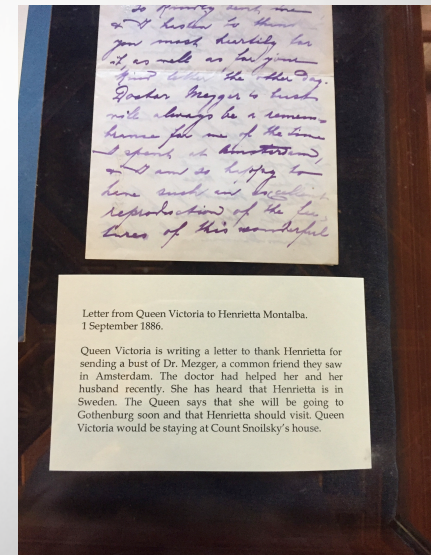
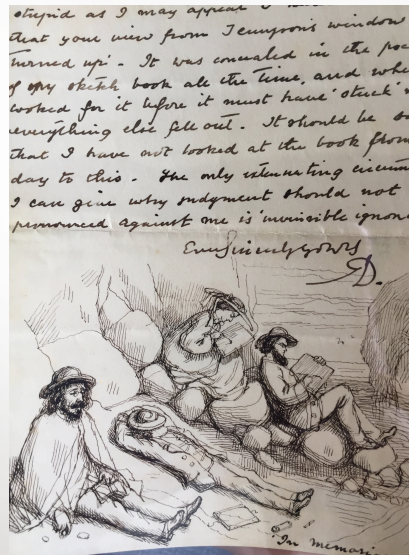
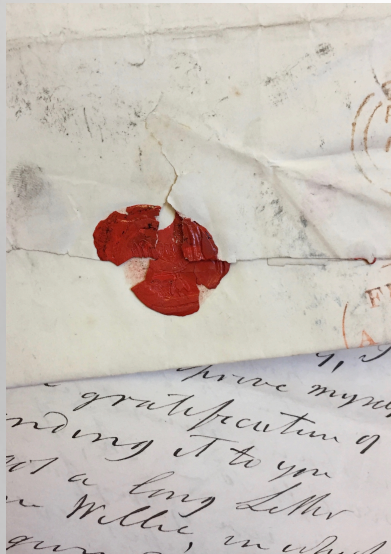
[-----] Macdonald on the road this afternoon He looked like the [-----] from Moscow and Captain Burnaby's ride to Khiva rolled into one. His language when referring to the weather was more [forcible] than polite.

M^r. Macdonald has been rather poorly all winter but seems now in a fair way towards recovery – I saw a good deal of Sir John [-----] when in Edinburgh last week. He is wonderfully well – all things considered.

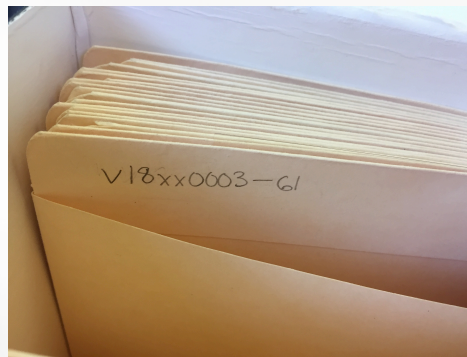
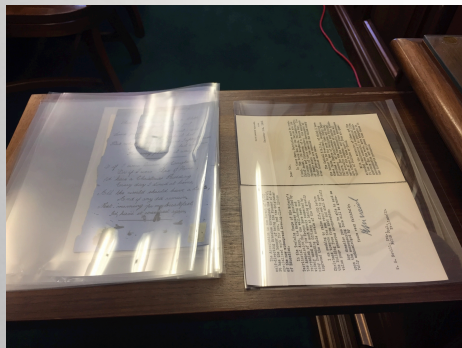
With kindest [-----] to all the members of your family. Believe me yours very truly

GW Reid.

Favorite Things!



Preparing Letters to be Digitized



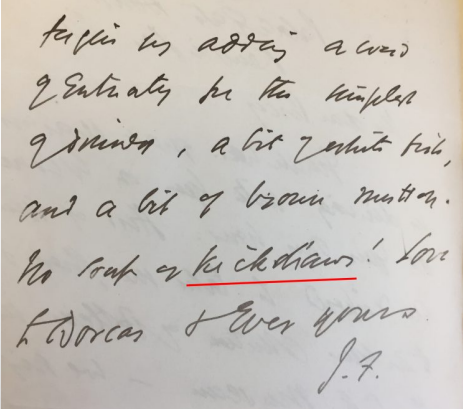


Future Online Exhibit

❖ <http://digitalcollections.baylor.edu/cdm/ablhome>

The Armstrong Browning Library Blog

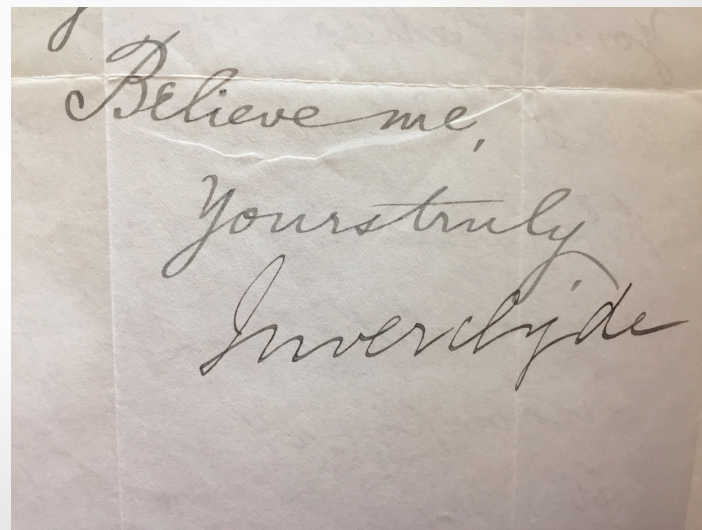
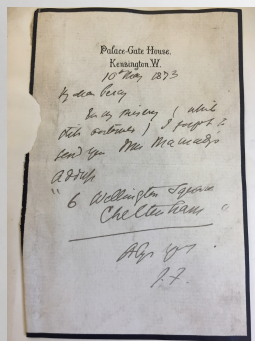
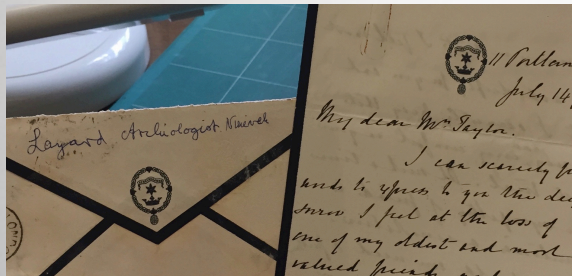
❖ <https://blogs.baylor.edu/armstrongbrowning/2017/06/13/reflections-from-a-summer-intern-stories-from-victorian-letters-john-forster-and-percy-fitzgerald/>



Keep us adding a word
of gratitude for the kindness
of yours, a bit of white fish,
and a bit of brown mutton.
No soup or kickshaw! Love
L. Dorcas & Ever yours.
J.F.

I learned about...

Victorian Culture and History, and Archives!



THANK YOU!

❖ Thank you to my wonderful mentors: Jennifer Borderud, Melinda Creech, and Dr. Hafertepe!

