



HATFIELD HOUSE ARCHIVES

COLLECTION LEVEL DESCRIPTION

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference code:	MCD
Title:	Papers of Lady Derby (formerly Marchioness of Salisbury, née Lady Mary Catherine Sackville-West)
Dates:	c. 1840-1900
Level of description:	Box list (July 2015)
Extent:	19 boxes

CONTEXT

Biographical history:	Lady Mary Catherine Sackville-West (1824-1900) was the daughter of George West, the 5 th Earl De la Warr and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Sackville. Lady Mary became the 2 nd wife of the 2 nd Marquess of Salisbury, with whom she had five children. Following the death of the 2 nd Marquess in 1868, she married the 15 th Earl of Derby in 1870. She had no children with him and he died in 1893.
Archival history:	Lady Derby's papers passed on her death to her daughter, Lady Margaret Cecil (1854-1919), who bequeathed them to her nephews, Captain James and Colonel Reginald Cecil. The papers in this collection remained with Colonel Reginald Cecil until his daughter, Angela Cecil, inherited them on his death in 1931. Angela Cecil died in 1969 and bequeathed the papers to the 5 th Marquess of Salisbury.
Acquisition:	The Papers were transferred to Hatfield House Archives ca. 1970, following the death of Angela Cecil.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and content:	The collection consists mainly of her incoming correspondence. The correspondents range from members of royal families, peers, politicians, ambassadors, clergymen, businessmen, employees and complete strangers. Lady Salisbury (as she was at the time) was particularly close to the Duke of Wellington and there are approximately 500 letters from him in the collection, which document the last three years of his life. Other notable correspondents include: Count Rudolf Apponyi; William Brett, 1 st Viscount Esher; William Bulwer, Lord Dalling; Richard Cross, 1 st Viscount Cross; Sir
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Mountstuart Grant Duff; Henry Herbert, 4th Earl of Carnarvon; Robert Lowe, 1st Viscount Sherbrooke; General Jonathan Peel, Lord Arthur Russell; Odo Russell, 1st Baron Amptill; Count Peter Schouvaloff; Queen Sophie of the Netherlands; Henry Wellesley, 1st Viscount Cowley and Charles Wood, 1st Viscount Halifax.

Topics covered in the correspondence vary from political and social issues, to gossip and personal matters, and developments at the Knowsley and Hatfield estates. Also in the collection is a small quantity of letters from her family, notes and memoranda, lists, draft speeches, photographs and ephemeral material.

Arrangement: The main series of letters are arranged alphabetically by correspondent, each bundle in chronological order. The letters from the Duke of Wellington form a separate series and are arranged chronologically.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: By appointment. See the Hatfield House website for details.

Language: English

Finding aid: The majority of the collection has been indexed by correspondent in a collection list, available in the Archives Office. There is a brief description for some files (consisting of one correspondent), which range in size from one to several hundred letters.

The Wellington letters have been edited by Lady Burghclere and published in *A Great Man's Friendship: letters of the Duke of Wellington to Mary, Marchioness of Salisbury, 1850-1852* (John Murrar, London, 1927)

An item level catalogue will be produced by July 2019

ALLIED MATERIALS

The Wellington Archive
University of Southampton Archives

Papers of James Gascoyne Cecil, 2nd Marquess of Salisbury
Hatfield House Archives
Ref. 2M

Some papers of her children: Lord Sackville Arthur Cecil, Lady Mary Cecil (later Countess of Galloway) and Lieutenant Colonel Lord Lionel Cecil
Hatfield House Archives