McMaster University recently purchased an album of approximately sixty-five photographs and ninety-five letters, c. 1840-70, which was once owned by Bertrand Russell's mother, Katharine, Viscountess Amberley. It would appear that Russell never owned the album, at least at the time that he edited the two volumes of *The Amberley Papers* (1937) with his third wife, Patricia, since none of the material from the album is quoted or cited in that work. Lady Amberley compiled many such albums in the course of her short life. Some of her albums contain photographs of family, friends and contemporaries and are located in Russell's library, which arrived at McMaster in 1978. Other albums included both photographs and letters. The contents, removed from the albums at one time, are listed in Barry Feinberg's *Detailed Catalogue of the Archives of Bertrand Russell* in the section devoted to the Amberley Papers. (This fact is not evident from the Catalogue itself but can be ascertained from detached album covers inside the archival boxes.)

Russell, of course, regarded the papers of his parents as more than mere artifacts. For him, the papers represented a severed connection caused by the premature deaths of the Amberleys. Yet, in 1936, four months before the typescript of *The Amberley Papers* went to the printer, Russell apparently sold several letters from these papers. He had been approached by a man called Harry Wells who wanted to purchase the letters Russell had received from D.H. Lawrence. Russell was quite willing to sell his Lawrence letters and told Lady Ottoline Morrell: "I have other letters I should be glad to sell: 2 very characteristic from Mrs. Carlyle, 2 or 3 from Herbert Spencer, 2 nice letters from Huxley, 1 Palmerston, etc."¹ Several of the Amberley letters were

¹ 10 March 1936, no. 1,747, Morrell papers, Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.
undoubtedly sold in this way, particularly the ones from Mrs. Carlyle and Lord Palmerston, since they are printed in The Amberley Papers but are not be found in the Russell Archives.

Lady Amberley’s “new” album was auctioned by Christie’s on 4 November 1981 and was sold to an American manuscript and book dealer. Mr. John Lenz, a collector of Russeliana, saw the album for sale at a book fair. He informed the American dealer that the Russell Archives would probably be interested in purchasing the album. Unfortunately, by the time we were notified by the dealer, the album leaves had been cut and the contents offered for sale individually. We purchased all the album material still in the dealer’s possession, tracked down and bought material sold elsewhere, and obtained photocopies of most of the letters in the hands of owners not willing to sell.2

The album covers have a brass clasp and measure 270 × 215 mm.; the binding is in red morocco, embossed and gold-tooled, with “KATE” stamped on the front board in Gothic lettering. All the leaves except two have been cut and removed, and the only item that now remains is an obituary newsclipping of Richard Cobden. On the front endpaper in pencil is written “Foster W Bond 1848 | formerly the property of C. Bertrand Thompson Esq.” There is other writing, apparently in Thompson’s hand, which identifies the Amberleys and the Stanleys and lists some of the correspondents. According to Mrs. Bond, it would appear that her husband, a philatelic collector, purchased the album sometime between 1933 and 1940 at a stamp auction either from Frank Maggs, Harmer Rooke & Co., or Robson Lowe. No further information is available about the album’s provenance.

What follows is a description in alphabetical order of the contents of this recently acquired album of Lady Amberley, filed as Recent Acquisition 754. With the exception of two photographs, all the material has been identified. Although there have been a few articles and chapters of books devoted to Russell’s parents, no major study has been undertaken on their contribution to Victorian society since the publication

2 The only items that were not recovered in any form are the following: a carte-de-visite size photograph of the noted explorer and scholar, Sir Richard F. Burton, and a signed autograph sentiment in which he has written, “Almost! never a pie. (African proverb)”3; a signed carte-de-visite size photograph of the Union soldier and attorney general of New York State, Francis C. Barlow; a signed carte-de-visite size photograph of the merchant, capitalist and promoter of the first Atlantic cable, Cyrus W. Field; a signature of Jefferson Davis on a plain white card; and two signed carte-de-visite size photographs, one of Giuseppe Garibaldi and the other of Menotti Garibaldi, his son.

of The Amberley Papers.3 Perhaps this new source material will prompt a reassessment.

Division of Archives and Research Collections
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Armstrong, Sir William George (inventor). L. to Benjamin Jowett, 1864. Re his inability to pay Jowett a visit due to the “Whitworth contest” in addition to his usual engagements.

Arnold, Thomas (headmaster of Rugby). L. addressed “Dear Sir”, 1841. Re sending two volumes by Micali relating to Roman history.

Baker, Samuel White (traveller). L. to Lady Amberley, 1866. Re his not saying goodbye to the Amberleys and meeting their friend, Lord St. Maur [Edward A. Seymour], on his visit to the Dowager Duchess of Cleveland.


Bekell, Richard, 1st Baron Westbury. 2 ls. to Lord Stanley of Alderley [c. 1861–65]. Re cost of postage of mail sent to the Lord Chancellor, Westbury’s recommendation of Charles Keane for the position of Solicitor to the Post Office, and the Land Transfer Bill (enacted 1862). A carte-de-visite size photo of Westbury is on the verso of an album leaf; on the recto is a l. from Robert Lowe to Lady Amberley.

Bridgman, Laura D. (first blind deaf-mute to be systematically educated). Note addressed to “Amberley” [ sic] (glued to an album leaf), 1867.

Bright, John (orator and statesman). L. to Lady Amberley, 1867. Re his declining an invitation.

Brougham, Henry Peter, Baron Brougham and Vaux. L. (glued to an album leaf) to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1862. Verso of album leaf has a carte-de-visite size photo of Sir Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice, 3rd Marquis of Lansdowne. Re the appointment of a local postmaster.

Burton, Lady Isabel (wife of the explorer and scholar, Sir Richard F. Burton). 3 ls. to Lady Amberley, c. 1865. Re her pregnancy and Frank’s birth, Lord Amberley’s recent speech at Leeds and the report in The Times, Lady Isabel and Sir Richard’s

work on a panorama of Mecca and Medina, their plans to travel in Spain and Portugal before going to Brazil, and giving Lord John Russell a present of two Dahoman idols.

Butler, Benjamin F. (Union general, congressman, and Governor of Massachusetts). Signature (glued to an album leaf, "For Viscount Amberley [Benj. F. Butler]"), n.d.

Cardwell, Edward, Viscount Cardwell. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1861. A carte-de-viste size photo of Cardwell is glued to a separate album leaf. Re the wishes of the Waterford people to have their mail accelerated.

Carlyle, Thomas (?). (essayist and historian). Torn portion of leaf glued to an album leaf (4 lines beginning "Have the Carriage..."). [1866?]. Verso of leaf is a carte-de-viste size photo of an unidentified lady.

Chartres, Robert d’Orleans, duc de. L. (glued to an album leaf) addressed "Madame [Lady Henrietta Maria Stanley of Alderley]", 1867. On a separate album leaf are 2 carte-de-viste size photos, one of two soldiers (Chartres probably being one) and the other of an unidentified lady. Re the photos which they were to exchange.

Clough, Arthur H. (poet). Concluding leaf of 1., 1848. Re his decision to resign his position as tutor at Oriel College. Glued on a separate album leaf is part of a ms. in Clough’s hand consisting of 6 lines in English from Book 11 of The Odyssey; on the verso of the ms. is a note saying that the ms. was given to Lady Amberley by Jowett in June 1864.

Cobbe, Frances Power (philanthropist, feminist, and writer). L. to Lady Amberley, n.d. There is also a carte-de-viste size photo (probably) of Cobbe.

Cobden, Richard (statesman and publicist). Carte-de-viste size photo glued to an album leaf.

Copley, John Singleton, Baron Lyndhurst. L. addressed "My Dear Lord" [Lord Stanley of Alderley?], n.d. A carte-de-viste size photo of Lyndhurst is glued to a separate album leaf. Re "the great victory that Lady L heard last night at Palmerston’s".


Edwards [Edmunds?], H. Envelope, 1868, addressed to Lord Amberley.


Fawcett, Henry (statesman and political economist). L. to Lady Amberley, 1866. A large albumen print photo of Millicent Garrett Fawcett is glued to a separate album leaf. Re his fiancée (Millicent Garrett), her sister, and the Jamaica Committee.


Gibson, Thomas Muthier (statesman, privy councillor, and president of board of trade). L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1863. A carte-de-viste size photo of Gibson is glued to a separate album leaf. Re the Telegraph Bill.


Grey, Sir George. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1861. A carte-de-viste size photo of Grey is glued to a separate album leaf. Re the postal arrangements in Northumberland.

Grote, George (historian). L. (glued to an album leaf) to Miss Stanley [Kate Amberley], 1864. Re the photograph which she sent to him. Ms. mainly in Greek on Plato’s Crito, 1 leaf, n.d., glued to an album leaf; and on the same leaf is a carte-de-viste size photo of Grote.

Grote, Harriet (author and wife of George Grote). L. to Lady [Henrietta Maria] Stanley [of Alderley?], (24 April, no year). Re invitation to Lady Stanley and her family to attend a party where Henry Thomas Buckle, Prof. Huxley, and "a sprinkling of the Laity" will be present. L. to Katharine Stanley [Kate Amberley], (7 Feb., no year). Re plans upon visiting. This l. is glued to an album leaf; beside it is a carte-de-viste size photo of Mrs. Grote; on the verso of the leaf is George Grote’s L. to Lord Amberley.

Hare, Thomas (political reformer). L. to Lady Amberley, (24 May, no year). Re dinner invitation and women’s suffrage.

Harris, James H., 3rd Earl of Malmesbury (statesman). L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, (28 July, no year). A carte-de-viste size photo of Malmesbury is glued to a separate album leaf. Re the Salmon Bill.

Hunt, W. Holman (pre-Raphaelite painter). L. to Lady [Henrietta Maria] Stanley [of Alderley?], 1863. The l. is glued to an album leaf with a carte-de-viste size photo of Hunt on the top right-hand corner of the leaf. Re his not attending the “at Home” the previous evening due to illness.

Huxley, T.H. (biologist and defender of Darwin). L. to Lady Amberley, n.d. (glued to an album leaf). Re his inability to meet Dr. Ransom at Lady Amberley’s house due to a previous lecture engagement.

Jowett, Benjamin. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, [June 1861]. Re invitation to Stanley to meet Jowett at the Lake district, “base compacts about Galway packets”, and Jowett’s note-taking or Plato.

Kelly, Mary Anne (Irish poet). Carte-de-viste size photo glued to an album leaf.

Kingsley, Charles (clergyman and author). L. to George Howard, n.d. A carte-de-viste size photo of Kingsley is glued to a separate album leaf.

Landseer, Sir Edwin (painter). L. (glued to an album leaf) to [Lord John Russell], 1868. Re his regrets at not coming to Pembroke Lodge, meeting of the Royal Academy, and pictures to be returned from the Academy.

Layard, Austen H. (archaeologist and diplomat). L. to Lady Amberley, n.d. Re his coming to tea and the difficulty of doing so due to the debate on the Reform Bill.

Lecky, W.E.H. (historian and essayist). L. to Lady Amberley, [1867?]. A carte-de-viste size photo of Lecky is glued to a separate album leaf. Re his acceptance of invitation to meet Henry W. Longfellow at Lady Amberley’s house.

Leighton, Frederic (portrait painter and president of the Royal Academy). L. to Lady [Henrietta Maria] Stanley [of Alderley?], n.d. Re invitation to Lady Stanley and her daughters to see his pictures.

Lewson-Gower, Granville G., 2nd Earl Granville. L. to Lady [Henrietta Maria] Stanley [of Alderley?], 1861. A carte-de-viste size photo of Granville is glued to a separate album leaf. Re dinner invitation.

Lewes, G.H. (philosopher, literary critic and scientific writer). L. to Lord Amberley, [1865–66]. Re Amberley’s contribution probably to The Fortnightly Review.


Lowe, Robert, Viscount Sherbrooke. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1862. A carte-de-viste size photo of Lowe is glued to a separate album leaf. Re l. of introduction for...


Richmond, George (portrait painter). L. addressed “Madam” [Lady Henrietta Maria Stanley of Alderley?], 1860. Re his thanks for the cheque and the note.

Rolfe, Robert Monsey, Baron Cranworth. L. to Lord Stanley [of Alderley], n.d. A carte-de-visite size photo of Cranworth is glued to a separate album leaf. Re his appeal to Lord Stanley to attend a meeting of the Mercantile Law Committee.

Ruskin, John (author, artist, and social reformer). L. to Miss Stanley [Kate Amberley], (19 May, no year). A carte-de-visite size photo of Ruskin is glued to a separate album leaf. Re the sending of mail as he is going abroad.

Russell, Lord John, 1st Earl Russell. L. addressed “Sir”, 1837. (This is the master copy of a form L. probably reproduced by collotype and sent to all Whig members of the House of Commons.) Re important business transacted in the House and appeal to the recipient to attend the sessions. L. to Lord Amberley, 1865. With a carte-de-visite size photo of Lord John and another photo of an unidentified person. Re Lord John becoming Prime Minister upon the death of Lord Palmerston.

Seward, William H. (Governor of New York, etc.). Carte-de-visite size photo.


Sheridan, Helen S., Lady Dufferin and Countess of Gifford. L. to Lord and Lady Stanley of Alderley, n.d. Re their dinner invitation with the L. having a pen sketch of Lady Dufferin seated at a dining table.

Smith, Goldwin (historian and journalist). L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1865. Re Stanley’s parcel. L. to H. Cradock, 1865, with a note from Cradock (probably) to Lord Amberley, “For you to read & burn”. Re Amberley’s beginning career in politics and Lord John’s remarks about Americans made at the opening of Parliament.

Spencer, Herbert (philosopher). L. (glued to an album leaf) to Lady Amberley, 1866. Re an invitation.

Stanley, Arthur P. (author and Dean of Westminster). L. addressed to “My dear Bride & Bridegroom” [Lord and Lady Amberley], 1865. Re the two vases which they sent to him. “Epitaph on Sir Timothy Grey” [Sir Grey was a cat that belonged to the Russell family]. MS. (4-line poem). 1 leaf, n.d.

Stanley, Edward Geoffrey, 14th Earl of Derby. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1857. A carte-de-visite size photo of Derby is glued to a separate album leaf. Re L. of recommendation for John Huddle, who had been a ponyboy to the Derbys.

Stanley, Edward Henry, 15th Earl of Derby. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1862. Re his sending a memorial from people in Lynn in favour of an applicant for a position, apparently in the postal service. L. to Lady Amberley, (7 May, no year). Re his declining an invitation due to parliamentary business.

Summer, Charles (American senator, orator, and abolitionist). L. to Hon. E. Lyulph Stanley, 1864. Re Stanley ret returning to Boston before seeing other parts of the U.S.
and gaining knowledge of American politics while travelling.

Taylor, Tom (dramatist, editor of *Punch*). L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, (16 July, no year). A carte-de-visite size photo of Taylor is glued to a separate album leaf. Re the consent of the House of Lords to an amendment made by the House of Commons in the second Conforming Bill.

Temple, Henry John, 3rd Viscount Palmerston. 2 ls. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, n.d. A carte-de-visite photo of Palmerston is glued to a separate album leaf. Re the Mercantile Law amendment and meeting with a deputation from Manchester in favour of the Dues Repeal Bill.

Tennyson, Alfred, 1st Baron Tennyson (poet). Carte-de-visite size photo glued to an album leaf with his signature from the bottom part of a torn l.


Tocqueville, Alexis de (French statesman and writer). Incomplete 1. to Harriet Grote, [1857] (glued to another piece of paper which was once mounted on an album leaf). On the album page Lady Amberley notes that she received the l. from Mrs. Grote on Feb. 1865. Re his thanks to the Grotes and wishing them a happy new year.


Trollope, Anthony (novelist). L. to Lady Amberley, [1867-8?]. Re her l. being delivered too late for him to accept her invitation. Photocopy, courtesy of Princeton University Library.

Victoria, Queen. Third-person 1. to Lord John Russell, 1864 (l. signed “the Queen”, probably in Lord Amberley's hand). Re writing for Lord Palmerston on the Queen’s behalf and congratulations on the engagement of Amberley. Third-person pencilled note, n.d., saying the Queen is too busy to receive formal visits. The first leaf where the l. occurs has been cut from the second (blank) leaf which is glued to an album leaf. On the verso of the album leaf is a carte-de-visite size photo of the Queen with her signature on a clipped piece of paper. On a separate album leaf is a carte-de-visite photo of Albert, Prince Consort with one of Henry P. Brougham, Baron Brougham and Vaux, on the verso.

Villiers, Charles Pelham (statesman, opponent of the Corn Laws). Third-person l. to Lord and Lady Stanley of Alderley, 1861. A carte-de-visite size photo of Villiers is glued to a separate album leaf. Re his accepting their dinner invitation.

Villiers, George W.F., 4th Earl of Clarendon. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1862. A carte-de-visite size photo of Clarendon is glued to a separate album leaf. Re his recommending a man for postmaster at Halsted.

Weyer (?), Sylvain (?), Van De. L. to Lord Stanley of Alderley, 1862. A carte-de-visite size photo of the former is glued to a separate piece of an album leaf. Re meeting Lord Stanley.


Wigan, Horace (actor). Carte-de-visite size photo and his signature clipped from a l., both glued to an album leaf. On the verso of the leaf is a carte-de-visite size photo of John T. Delane.

Woolner, Thomas (sculptor, poet). “All is painted show ...”. Ms., fair copy of a ten-line poem. 1864. 1 leaf glued to an album leaf.