

Livingstone Online News

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010

Livingstone Letter from the Wordsworth Museum and Art Gallery



[The Wordsworth Museum and Art Gallery](#)

is centred on Dove Cottage in Grasmere in the English Lake District, the home of William Wordsworth from December 1799 to May 1808. The first Wordsworth Museum was opened near the cottage in 1936. Today the library holds many Wordsworth manuscripts as well as the journals and letters of his sister Dorothy and those of a number of Romantic poets.

The library also holds a letter from David Livingstone to Charles Murray Hay (1802-1864) written at Tette on the Zambezi, 26 November 1860. Hay had been a commander of the Garrison in Mauritius when Livingstone visited the island on his first homeward journey in 1856 and recuperated at Hay's house. Livingstone, now leading the 'Zambesi Expedition', thanks Hay for his hospitality and gives details of the expedition's discoveries.

The letter is in one of four large autograph albums organised according to rank and profession in society. They were compiled by Mary Stanger, née Calvert, niece of Raisley Calvert who bequeathed William and Dorothy Wordsworth £900 on his death in 1794. Wordsworth was thereafter able to devote his life to poetry. Mary lived in Keswick, 13 miles north of Grasmere, and was an acquaintance of William's daughter, Dora, and the daughters of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey. The albums came to the library through family descent and entered the collection probably c.1981.

Livingstone Online would like to thank the curator of the Museum, Jeff Cowton for his help.

Image Credit: Wordsworth Museum and Art Gallery

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[Livingstone Online](#)

Livingstone Online is an ongoing project that provides access to the manuscripts of the missionary, doctor and African explorer David Livingstone (1813-1873). We currently offer images and detailed transcriptions of many of Livingstone's letters, and we aim to make all of his manuscripts - including his diaries and journals - freely available online. We also run a transatlantic collaboration to apply spectral imaging and processing to restore a series of faded, illegible texts produced by Livingstone during his last travels (1866-1873).

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