

Item: Letters from Giacomo Meyerbeer to unidentified recipients

Call Number: MS-6 - Box-folder 1.8

## Additional Notes:

These letters (circa 1857) from Giacomo Meyerbeer are destined to unidentified recipients. Three of the letters are in German, one is in French.

Document dimensions: 24x36.5cm

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Jum missions Bach

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## GIACOMO MEYERBEER, 1791-1864

Giacomo Meyerbeer was born in Tasdorf, near Berlin in 1791 and died in Paris in 1864. He was an opera composer who established in Paris a vogue for spectacular romantic opera.

Meyerbeer studied composition in Berlin and later at Darmstadt, where he formed a friendship with C.M. von Weber. His early German operas, produced at Munich, Stuttgart, and Vienna, were failures, and after a journey to Paris and London he settled in 1816 in Italy, where he produced five operas in the style of Rossini.

Meyerbeer's first French opera, written in association with Eugene Scribe, was Robert le diable (Paris, 1831), produced on an extremely lavish scale and calculated to appeal to the current romantic taste for medievalism, the supernatural, and the macabre. Its success was immediate, establishing this work as the model of French grand opera.

Meyerbeer enjoyed an enormous vogue in his day, but his reputation, based on his four Paris operas, did not survive long. Yet he exercised a considerable influence on the development of opera by his conception of big character scenes, his dramatic style of vocal writing, and his original sense of orchestration -- particularly his novel use of the bass clarinet, the saxophone, and the bassoon.

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