

[Accueil](#)[Revenir à l'accueil](#)[Collection](#)[Les correspondances de François Guizot : 1806-1874](#)[Collection](#)[177_Lettres de Henry Hallam à François Guizot : 1827-1855](#)[Item](#)[Londres, le 4 mai 1831, Henry Hallam à François Guizot](#)

Londres, le 4 mai 1831, Henry Hallam à François Guizot

Auteurs : Hallam, Henry (1777-1859)

Les folios

En passant la souris sur une vignette, le titre de l'image apparaît.

4 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[Amis et relations](#), [Conditions matérielles de la correspondance](#), [France \(1814-1830, Restauration\)](#), [histoire](#), [Portrait \(Guizot\)](#), [Presse](#), [Publication](#), [Réception \(Guizot\)](#)

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Présentation

Date1831-05-04

GenreCorrespondance

Editeur de la ficheMarie Dupond & Association François Guizot, projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle)

Information générales

LangueAnglais

Cote3, AN : 163 MI 42 AP 177 Papiers Guizot Bobine Opérateur 27

Nature du documentLettre autographe

Supportcopie numérisée de microfilm

Etat général du documentBon

Localisation du documentArchives Nationales (Paris)

Citer cette page

Hallam, Henry (1777-1859), Londres, le 4 mai 1831, Henry Hallam à François Guizot, 1831-05-04.

Marie Dupond & Association François Guizot, projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle).

Consulté le 22/12/2024 sur la plate-forme EMAN :

<https://eman-archives.org/Guizot-Lieven/items/show/7119>

Informations éditoriales

Destinataire Guizot, François (1787-1874)

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Lieu de rédaction Londres (Angleterre)

Notice créée par [Marie Dupond](#) Notice créée le 02/08/2024 Dernière modification le 16/08/2024

31

London West
London

May 4. 1851

Sir

I avail myself of the opportunity afforded me by
the return to France of the Duc de Broglie, who has kindly
permitted to be the bearer of this letter, to express the senti-
ments of esteem & of personal gratitude which I entertain
for you; & very hope that you will permit me to add
those of private acquaintance, though circumstances have
hitherto prevented us from becoming known to each other
in the ordinary of society. It was exceedingly gratifying
to me, that in the view I took of the constitutional history
of my own country, I felt it so nearly as I may presume
by your entree in the *Revue*, & by the translation

of the work which commenced before your arrival, that I did,
with a writer equally distinguished for his historical knowledge
& his political impartiality. The events of the last year have
brought you to another more than literary commission; & I was
proud to remark, that you effectively disproof the vulgar
sland, that literature generally writes a man for public
affairs; a slander, however, which though it may be readily
implied by those who know nothing of books themselves, has
derived too much countenance from the rashness & ill judgment
of some men of letters, especially in revolutionary periods.

It cannot be the wish of any man, who loves that philosophical
reflection which its only true fruit is tranquillity, to find his lot
cast in such periods. Sed quo fata trahunt, vitas securas
suppetunt. The necessity of self defence against insatiable aggression
has driven France into a crisis of difficulty from which
I already hope she may emerge without further injury to

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locally or there. We have thought fit, in the credit of colonies
& property, or at best of only such adverse circumstances as
do all depend on government, actively set on evolution for their
safety, to call for such a reform of our ancient constitution, as
gives it the chance of surviving many years. He mistake
manners do not. The course of human events has for a long
time been taking the western waters of Europe towards democracy;
this is the fruit of diffused wealth & knowledge; but I do not
perceive why it was necessary to accelerate a great change in the
order of society, which might have been gradually regulated, &
which, if brought on gradually, would not have been attended with
those misfortunes which I must do justice from it. Every one
admits, that a reform in our parliament, much less ^{that} has
been broached by our ministers, would have been secured with
the assent of our legislature by the moderate part of the nation,
& as to those who are not only republican institutions, but the
virtual abolition of property under the mask of exemption of taxes,
it is certain that they will not consent with this bill, &
you doubtless, to say the least, whether they will not be greatly
strengthened by it.

I entertain some hopes of paying a short visit to Paris
in the summer, when I shall hope for the pleasure of becoming
personally acquainted with you.

I have the honor to remain

Sir

with great esteem & respect

Your very faithful & obedient servant

Henry Hallam