

[Accueil](#)[Revenir à l'accueil](#)[Collection](#)[Les correspondances de François Guizot : 1806-1874](#)[Collection](#)[178_Lettres de John Croker : 1837-1857](#)[Item](#)[West Molesey, the 23rd Feb. 1854, John Croker à François Guizot](#)

West Molesey, the 23rd Feb. 1854, John Croker à François Guizot

Auteurs : Croker, John-Wilson (1780-1857)

Les folios

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

8 Fichier(s)

Les mots clés

[Archives](#), [France \(1852-1870, Second Empire\)](#), [Histoire \(France\)](#), [Napoléon 1 \(1769-1821 ; empereur des Français\)](#), [Politique \(France\)](#), [Portrait \(Guizot\)](#), [Publication](#), [Réseau social et politique](#), [Révolution française](#), [Revue des deux Mondes \(périodique\)](#), [Santé](#)

Relations entre les lettres

Ce document n'a pas de relation indiquée avec un autre document du projet.□

Présentation

Date1854-02-23

GenreCorrespondance

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

Information générales

LangueAnglais

Cote75, AN : 163 MI 42 AP 178 Papiers Guizot Bobine Opérateur 28

Nature du documentLettre autographe

Supportcopie numérisée de microfilm

Etat général du documentBon

Localisation du documentArchives Nationales (Paris)

Citer cette page

Croker, John-Wilson (1780-1857), West Molesey, the 23rd Feb. 1854, John Croker à François Guizot, 1854-02-23.

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/7507>

Informations éditoriales

Destinataire Guizot, François (1787-1874)

Lieu de destination Val-Richer (France)

Droits Marie Dupond & Association François Guizot, projet EMAN (Thalim, CNRS-ENS-Sorbonne nouvelle). Licence Creative Commons Attribution - Partage à l'Identique 3.0.

Lieu de rédaction West Molesey (Angleterre)

Notice créée par [Marie Dupond](#) Notice créée le 01/10/2024 Dernière modification le 14/12/2024

75

West Molesey, Surrey
23^d Feb 54

My dear uncle - I have postponed answering yours of the 19th for a few days that I might send you the accompanying little brochure which perhaps may interest you on my account. I began very early in life full 50 years ago to be a dabbler in literary & political polemics & had given & received a good many hard knocks in various encounters in Parliaments & the Press. In parliament I could take my own part & in the press that of my party; but I seldom, (indeed I believe never) returned the personal abuse of which I was often the object - I was content to live it down! But when, just on the verge of the grave, I found myself assailed both in moral character & personal honour by a person of Lord John Russell

Sell's rank & station. I thought it a
case to justify, nay to require, a di-
rect defence - and so I made one - first
against Lord John in the Times news-
paper; and, as I wished to place it in
a more permanent shape than the
feuilleton volantes of a newspaper, I
reprinted it as a pamphlet &
added to my correspondence
with his lordship some accounts of
my acquaintance & connexion with
Mr. Moore whom Lord John had
made the prize-man of his old both
political & personal malevolence
against me. All the world here "of
all parties" as Bramham writes to me,
agree that I have had a complete vic-
tory - I hope you will think so too.

I suppose it will surprise you to find
that 55 years ago I affected to be a scho-
lar & a poet and fancied that I could
make

make sense
I suppose & also
that folly. It
early letter of
in the bracket

I am very y
find with you
Quarterly - y
Mr. Libby's; &
it is of English
other share
of what I than
you; and you
whatever fac
may feel toward
ally reciproc
all admit, &
regret, that you
read jealous
for the prosper
are proud ex

make sense of the greek fragments of
Sappho & Alcaeus. I had totally forgotten
that folly till I found the other day the
early letters of Moore, which you will see
in the brochure.

I am very glad that you are not disap-
pointed with your own article of the Irish
Quarterly - you know, of course, that it is
Dr Libby's; & a very wonderful specimen
it is of English by a foreigner. I had no
other share in it than my approbation
of what I thought honourable & just to
you; and you may be well satisfied that
whatever favourable sentiments you
may feel towards England, England cordi-
ally reciprocates towards you. Tho' we
all admit, & sometimes perhaps a little
regret, that you are too good a Frenchman -
and jealous of the honour & zealous
for the prosperity of your ^{own} country, we
are proud enough to think that you

have in your feelings & your turn of
mind a great sympathy with ours, and
we pay you the greatest compliment that
John Bull can imagine, of thinking
that you are of all Frenchmen the most
like an Englishman.

A propos of the Buonaparte article by
me mentions that I strongly suspect that
the 15th of Augt. was, after all, a fictitious
birth day. I know it is given in various
documents which appear to have been
printed long before he could have had
any interests in disguising the truth, but
the extensive falsification of the regis-
ters in Corsica & the accuracy of the va-
riants in the "Almanachs Imperiaux"
show that there was nothing that he could
not do & in his whole preparation, nothing that
he could not do to carry out even these
trivial impostures. I have a 4th volume
printed

Printed by order of the Convention in 1793,
in which he appears as "Napoléone Buonaparte
Capitaine né le 15 Aout 1769
à Ajaccio" The volume seems to be in
contemporaneous binding, & looks alto-
gether homogeneous - There is no suspi-
cious circumstance about it. This evidence
seemed to me conclusive - but lo! on a
close examination I have discovered,
by that we call the water marks woven
in the texture of the paper, that there is one
feuille - 4 pages of the volume, printed
on a different paper from the rest; very
like it no doubt, but still with ^{an imper-}~~able~~
bitable difference in the water mark, & this
feuille is precisely that which contains
the name of Buonaparte's. There is no other
distinction to be discovered - the type looks
the same - but still the fact is that of the
volume of some hundreds of pages, found
only

only exhibit this peculiar paper. It seems almost impossible that even his hauts papiers - same should have extended itself to such a volume as this, and yet it would not be so, the more difficult, than the falsification of the registers in Corsica. The extracts from the registers of the College de Brives are, of course, of no more authority than those of Corsica - nor indeed is any thing that could be possibly, ^{be} within his reach; & I, at first, thought this volume of the "Services de l'Armée" - which is extremely rare & for which, after a long search I paid 30 frs - while the other volumes relating to the rest of the Army I got for one or two francs the volume - I say, I at first thought this volume conclusive - but soon I am now very suspicious about it, & especially when I recollect that he at first took the date

of the 5th Feb. 1793
but appeared to

I wish you could
your historical
whether you had
any clue to
is of ~~no~~ little
trait of charac
tern of decadal
our points.

You have seen
account of his
the Service des
quoted in my
Haut & by his
first account of
the two volumes
Louis XVI, & the
signed 30 Aug
been more not
to have ^{given} been a

a par. It seems
a laudable proof=
could not be
the falsify
the extracts
ole. Nicolas
ity than
is any thing
for his
to volume
which is
after a
like the other
the army
the volume
volumes
is very
ally show
the date
of

of the 5th Feb. 1788 - & then publicly or con-
sul assumed the fate - day of 16 August.

I wish you would turn this over in
your historical head & let me know
whether you think there can be found
any clue to the truth. The fact itself
is of ~~no~~ little importance, but as a
trait of character & specimen of a sys-
tem of deception it would be very curi-
ous points.

You have seen, of course, M. Libri's
account of his Buonaparte's papers in
the Levee des Deux Mondes, which I have
quoted in my article; I cannot under-
stand why he has given so very imper-
fect account of the documents - especially
the two relations to the pension from
Louis XVI, & the Captain's commission
signed 30 August 1792! "What could have
been more natural or more easy, than
to have ^{given} ~~been~~ a precise description of

of these papers even if he had not the means of giving us the text. I shall endeavour to enquire here, but perhaps you may know something about the matter, as the article in the Revue des Deux Mondes could hardly have failed to excite your curiosity.

My Ladies join me in kind regards to Mrs James de Pitt & to friends of whom, I hope I may say that Moore said of me on my youth, bravi venturis in ora. I think it is time he should come again to England to rub up his English - if he comes I hope he will give us a week - I feel a kind of awe in talking of even the shortest futurity, but if you were to come to ^{England} ~~me~~ this summer there is a chance that I might see you again - I am little, if at all, in more danger than I have been these two years. *Croyez moi, cher ami, tout à vous*
J. G. L.