



**James Guillaume Papers  
1862-1915**

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## James Guillaume Papers

**Collection ID** ARCH00531

**Creator** Guillaume, James

**Period** 1862-1915

**Extent** 0.62 m.

**Language list** English

**Language of Material** French

## Context

### Biographical Note

Born in London 1844, died in Paris 1916; socialist, later syndicalist; main organizer of the Fédération Jurassienne; pedagogical and historical writer, published Progrès, edited La Solidarité 1870-1871 and from 1871 the Bulletin de la Fédération jurassienne; together with Michail Bakunin he was excluded from the International Working Men's Association (IWMA) at the Congress in The Hague in 1872; after 1874 the virtual leader of the 'antiauthoritarian' International; went to Paris in 1878 and withdrew from the movement; editorial secretary for the Revue Pédagogique, contributed from 1877 to the 'Dictionnaire de Pédagogie' edited by Ferdinand Buisson; became a French citizen in 1889; after 1887 principal contributor to the 'Dictionnaire géographique de la France'; became active again in the time of revolutionary syndicalism; supported the Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT); wrote 'L'Internationale. Documents et souvenirs'.

### Acquisition

The IISH acquired this collection in 1936 from Lucien Descaves in Paris with financial support of the Centrale Arbeiders-Verzekerings- en Deposito-Bank (the Centrale). The contract was signed 5 July 1936. The collection was mentioned in the Annual Report of 1936 (p. 12-14).

## Content and Structure

### Content

Correspondence with his parents George and Susanne Guillaume, his brothers and sisters and his wife Elise Golay 1862-1864, 1868-1869; manuscripts of 'Causeries sur la révolution française (études révolutionnaires, 3ième série)' c. 1915, 'L'Association Internationale des Travailleurs et les trois procès de l'Internationale parisienne (1864-1870)' published as 'Karl Marx pangermaniste et l'Association Internationale des Travailleurs de 1864-1870' Paris 1915, etc.; notes: 'Extraits de la correspondance de Marx et d'Engels'; file on his publication of 'Excursions et séjours dans les glaciers (extraits du livre Desor)' in the 'Annuaire' du Club Alpin Français; printed material, including copies of La Bataille Socialiste Paris, with articles by Guillaume 1914 and documentation used for articles.

### Processing Information

Inventory made by Rena Fuks-Mansfeld in 2010.

Adjusted for purposes of digitization by Eva van Oene in 2015.

## Subjects

## **Geographic Names**

Switzerland  
France

## **Persons**

Guillaume, Ernest  
Guillaume, Charles  
Bakunin, Michael

## **Themes**

Anarchist movements  
Workers sport organizations and activities  
Syndicalism/Trade unions

## **Material Type**

Archival material

## **Access and Use**

### **Access**

Not restricted

### **Restrictions on Use**

For reasons of protection of the original documents, only scans are available for use.

### **Preferred Citation**

James Guillaume Papers, inventory number ..., International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam

## **Allied Material**

### **Alternative Form**

Complete Papers digitized as part of the Centrale Project 2012-2016.

## **Appendices**

## **INTRODUCTION**

James Guillaume (London, 16 February 1844 - Paris, 20 November 1916) was the eldest son of a Swiss watchmaker from Neuchatel and a French mother, who worked as a governess in London. George Guillaume lived temporarily in England to organize the international extension of the family-business. He was a cultured man with many interests. When in 1848 the Swiss Republic

came into being, he returned with his family to Neuchatel and became a public servant. From 1853 to 1886 he was a member of the city-council of Neuchatel for the Radical Party. His son James received a good education. From 1862-1864 he studied literature and history at the University of Zurich, but could not finish his studies because of lack of funds. In August 1864 he received a post as teacher of history and literature at the local highschool of Le Locle, a small industrial town not far from Neuchatel. There he continued his historical studies and became interested in the work of the Internationale Arbeiter Assoziation (I.A.A.) which was founded in London in 1864, better known as the first Socialist International. He was one of the founders of the section of Le Locle of the I.A.A. and took part in the local and international work for the Association which brought him into close contact with the Russian activist Michael Bakunin. In 1869 he married Elise Golay and he had to leave his post as a teacher because of his political engagement. In 1872, he left the I.A.A. together with Bakunin, because of the ever growing conflict with Karl Marx, who imposed his political views in the I.A.A. He subsisted by giving private lessons and translations into French of English and German novels and articles. In 1878 he moved with his family to Paris where he had found a job as collaborator of the Dictionnaire de pedagogie and became editor of a pedagogical journal. He published vastly on the history of public instruction during the French revolution, the history of the first Internationale, and he wrote articles for several leftist and syndicalist journals. He was a well-known personality in anarchist and syndicalist circles and published a biography of the Italian pedagogue Pestalozzi (1890) and several articles in learned journals and the left-wing press. After the death of his eldest daughter in 1897 he became depressed and fell dangerously ill. In a fit fit of insanity he destroyed the greater part of his library and personal papers. In 1899, he resumed his work. From 1907 onward, he worked closely together with Max Nettlau on the edition of the collected works of Michael Bakunin of which six volumes appeared at the Librairie Stock in Paris between 1895 and 1913. He remained active until the end of his life.

The Guillaume Papers were originally part of the of the collection of books and papers of the French writer Lucien Descaves (1861-1949) which was acquired by the IISH in 1936. Another part of James Guillaume's papers can be found in the Archives de l'Etat in Neuchatel (A.E.N.). Among the papers of Michael Bakunin which also repose in the IISH, many letters of Guillaume and Nettlau can be found on the subject of their cooperation on the publication of Bakunin's Collected Works. See also: Dorothea Roth, James Guillaume, *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Geschichte* 1965, nr. 1, p.30-86; Marc Vuilleumier, *Les archives de James Guillaume, Le mouvement social* 1964, nr.48, p. 95-108.

## INVENTORY

### Correspondence

- 1-13 Incoming letters from relatives. 1862-1864, 1868-1869, 1900 and n.d. 2 folders and 10 covers
- 1 Golay, Elise. 1868  
NB. Fiancee.
  - 2 Golay, Elise. 1869  
NB. Fiancee.
  - 3 Guillaume, Charles. 1863 and n.d.  
NB. Brother.
  - 4 Guillaume, Charles. 1869.  
NB. Uncle.
  - 5 Guillaume, Ed. and Guillaume, Emilie. 1869.  
NB. Uncle and aunt.
  - 6 Guillaume, Emile. 1862-1863 and n.d.

- NB. Brother.
- 7 Guillaume, Emilie. 1863-1864 and n.d.  
NB. Sister.
- 8 Guillaume, Ernest. 1863.  
NB. Brother.
- 9 Guillaume, George. 1863.  
NB. Father.
- 10 Guillaume, Georges. N.d.  
NB. Brother.
- 11 [Guillaume?], Julia. 1869 and n.d.  
NB. Niece.
- 12 Guillaume, Julie. 1863-1864, 1869, 1900.  
NB. Sister.
- 13 Guillaume, Susanne. 1868-1869 and n.d.  
NB. Mother.
- 14-16 Other incoming letters. [1869], 1905, 1907-1909, 1913 and n.d. 3 covers
  - 14 B.,J. (?). 1869.
  - 15 Keller, Charles. 1905, 1907-1909, 1913 and n.d.
  - 16 Monnier. [1869].
- 17-19 Letters from James Guillaume to relatives. 1862-1864, 1868-1869. 3 folders
  - 17 Golay, Elise. 1868.  
NB. Fiancee.
  - 18 Golay, Elise. 1869.  
NB. Fiancee.
  - 19 Guillaume, George and Guillaume, Susanne, including some letters to his brothers and sisters. 1862-1864.  
NB. Parents.
- 20-21 Letters from Susanne Guillaume to relatives. 1868. 2 covers
  - 20 Golay, Amelie. 1868.  
NB. Mother of fiancee Elise Golay.
  - 21 Golay, Elise. 1868.  
NB. Fiancee.

## Manuscripts

## Books

- 22-24 Causeries sur la Révolution française. Manuscript. N.d. 3 folders  
NB. Partly published in Bulletin de la Révolution Jurassienne, 1875.
  - 22 Original. p. 1-149.
  - 23 'Copie'. p. 1-222.
  - 24 Notes.
- 25 Part of the manuscript of 'L'Association Internationale des Travailleurs et les trois procès de L'Internationale parisienne, 1864-1870', parts of which were published in 'Karl Marx, pangermaniste', Paris, 1915. N.d. 1 folder

- 26-28 Manuscript of 'Bakounine et l'Italie' of the unpublished 7th volume of Bakunin's 'Oeuvres completes', including correspondence between Librairie Stock and Lucien Descaves in 1923, 1925-1926. c. 1915, 1923, 1925-1926 and n.d.  
NB. Published by Champ Libre (Paris), Introduction and annotation by Arthur Lehning. 1973-1974.
- 3 folders
- 26 Manuscript P. 1-195.
  - 27 Correspondence and transcriptions 1-8, 11.
  - 28 Other transcriptions.

## Articles

- 29 Manuscript and proof sheets of the article 'Excursions et sejours dans les glaciers'. 1899. 1 folder  
NB. Partly published in *Annuaire des Clubs Alpains Francais*, 1899.
- 30 Manuscripts of articles on syndicalism. 1906, 1908, 1912-1913. 1 cover
- 31 Manuscripts of studies on the French Revolution. With a proof and the printed article 'L'Heure Décimale, published in *La Bataille Syndicaliste*. 1907-1913. 1 cover  
NB. Partly published in *Etudes revolutionnaires*, Paris.
- 32 Manuscripts of articles on education in France. 1909-1910, 1912-1913. 1 cover
- 33 Manuscripts of articles on the Socialist International and Bakunin. With the printed articles 'La Commune de Paris. Le Fédéralisme. Ecrit en mars 1871', 'Michel Bakounine' and 'Charles Keller', published in *La Bataille Syndicaliste*, 1913. 1909, 1911-1913. 1 cover  
NB. Mainly published in *La vie ouvriere*, Paris.
- 34 Manuscript of the article 'Workingmen's International Association'. N.d. 1 cover

## Abstracts

- 35 Abstracts from an article by F. Mehring on Marx and Engels, including annotations by Guillaume. 1914. 1 cover
- 36 Abstracts from the correspondence between Marx and Engels, including correspondence with *La Vie Ouvrière* and annotations by Guillaume. 1914. 1 cover

## Other documents

- 37 Receipt of the dinner at Hotel du Grand Pont. 1869. 1 piece
- 38 Notes concerning received and sent letters. N.d. 1 cover
- 39 Drawing of the floor plan of Guillaume's apartment during 1864-1869. N.d. 1 piece
- 40-41 Old packing materials for the manuscripts of Guillaume, probably from the time that his papers were in the possession of Descaves. n.d. 2 boxes
  - 40 Box 1.
  - 41 Box 2.