

38 Marlborough Hill
St. John's Wood

26 April 1878 N.W.

Dear Sir,

I enclose printed particulars of a translation of Villon's Poetry, by Payne, whom you doubtless know as author of "The Masque of Shadows", "Intaglios", &c. In common with a number of literary men, I am anxious to see the book in print; and

there seems no such ready
means to that end as a private
subscription.

Mr Payne was not disposed
to move in the matter beyond
the circle of his own immediate
friends; so he has placed his
subscription list in my
hands, that I may see if the
necessary complement of
subscribers cannot be
obtained by seeking a little
further.

May I reckon upon you?
If so, pray do not trouble to
write in reply, but kindly
fill up the subscription form
and return it to me at the
above address.

I am very truly yours

H. Buxton Forman

H. V. Pym Esq

HENRY BUXTON FORMAN, A. L. S., 26 April 1878,
to Horatio Noble Pym.

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[flourish]

H. N. Pym Esqr

ALS, 3 pages. Double sheet, 18.3 x 11.4 cm.

Laid paper. No watermark.

Provenance: *Ex libris* H. N. Pym; bookplate of George Mason (unidentified). Tipped in to *Letters to John Keats to Fanny Brawne* (London, 1878).

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. John Payne's *Poems of Francis Villon*, 1878, was privately printed by the Villon Society in an edition of 157. The Lewis copy of this volume does not have a list of subscribers. Buxton Forman's connection with the Society, if that is what it was—and with similar publishing adventures (not to mention his established partnership with Thomas J. Wise in the production of literary forgeries)—remains to be investigated. Forman himself wrote: "The device of dignifying the list of subscribers by the title of the Villon Society was confided by the Devil to me, and was destined to have wide issues for some of which I hope I have no responsibility." See James T. Bratcher and Lyle H. Kendall, Jr., "Two Further Footnotes to *An Enquiry*," *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*, VII (1965), 75 (n. 35).

2. Horatio Noble Pym edited the journals and letters of Caroline Fox (London, 1882, 1883).