

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Stephen Parks Research Collection on Charles Cotton

OSB MSS 104



by Michael Rush

June 2005

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: OSB MSS 104

CREATOR: Parks, Stephen

TITLE: Stephen Parks research collection on Charles Cotton

DATES: 1962–1987

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.33 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, notes, and copies documenting Stephen Parks's research regarding Charles Cotton's autograph and handwriting in order to authenticate a manuscript copy of Cotton's poem, "Contentation." Research files include correspondence, notes, photocopies, and photographs of Cotton manuscripts from repositories including the Beinecke, Bodleian, British, Clark, Derby Borough, Houghton, Huntington, and New York Public Libraries, as well as dealers and scholars including Peter Croft and Alvin Dust. Research copies consist of manuscripts, including a complete copy the Derby Manuscript; photographs of manuscripts used in Parks's article on Cotton; dealer catalogs; and secondary sources.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.cotton>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.cotton>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Stephen Parks, February 2005.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Stephen Parks Research Collection on Charles Cotton is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Stephen Parks Research Collection on Charles Cotton. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

In Series I, *Research Files*, Stephen Parks's file names have been retained. Titles of additional files created during processing are enclosed in brackets. During processing, loose, unsorted materials were integrated with research files (Series I) when possible. The remaining materials were organized into Series II, *Research Copies*.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Charles Cotton (1630-1687) was an English poet and translator. He is best known for writing the second part of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*.

Stephen Parks was the Curator of the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library from 1972 to 2004. Parks authenticated a Charles Cotton manuscript, "Contentation" (Osborn fb64), in his paper, "Charles Cotton and the Derby Manuscript" (in Stephen Parks and P.J. Croft, *Literary Autographs*, University of California, Los Angeles: William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, 1983).

Scope and Contents

The Stephen Parks Research Collection on Charles Cotton consists of correspondence, notes, and research copies, spanning the years 1962-1987. The collection documents Stephen Parks's research regarding the handwriting of Charles Cotton (1630-1687), in order to authenticate a manuscript copy of Cotton's poem, "Contentation" (Osborn fb65). The collection is housed in 2 boxes (including 1 oversized box) and has been organized into two series: *Research Files* and *Research Copies*.

[Series I, *Research Files*](#), is arranged alphabetically by name of file in folders 1-33. The files relate to the libraries, antiquarian book dealers, and individuals that Parks contacted in the course of his research, as well as some research subjects, and include correspondence, notes, photocopies, and photographs of Charles Cotton manuscripts. Repositories with which Parks corresponded include the Beinecke, Bodleian, British, Clark, Houghton, Huntington, and New York Public Libraries, as well as the Derby Borough Library. Among the individuals with whom Parks corresponded are Peter Croft and Alvin Dust.

[Series II, *Research Copies*](#), is arranged by type of material in folders 34-43. The research copies consist of photocopies and photographs of Charles Cotton manuscripts, dealer catalogs listing Cotton-related material, Cotton-related secondary sources, and miscellaneous secondary sources. The copies include a complete copy of the Derby Manuscript, the primary manuscript source of Cotton's poetry. It is a commonplace book of verses kept by members of the Fitzherbert family, friends of Cotton's. The original

is in the collection of the Derby Borough Library. Copies of Cotton manuscripts also include photographs used by Parks in "Charles Cotton and the Derby Manuscript."

Collection Contents

Series I: Research Files, 1962-84

33 Folders

Series I, Research Files, is arranged alphabetically by folder title. File titles in brackets were supplied during processing.

b. 1, f. 1	Beinecke Library	n.d.
b. 1, f. 2	[Bevan, Jonquil]	1980 Oct 16
b. 1, f. 3	[Bletcher]	1976 May 6
b. 1, f. 4	Bodleian Library	1977 Oct 26
b. 1, f. 5	British Library	1977
b. 1, f. 6	[Chapple, John]	1982 Apr-May
b. 1, f. 7	Clark Library	1982 Jan-Aug
b. 1, f. 8	[Clarke, Thomas]	1977 Mar 11
b. 1, f. 9	[Croft, Peter]	1962-82
b. 1, f. 10	Derby Borough Library	n.d.
b. 1, f. 11	Derbyshire Records Office	1976-81
b. 1, f. 12	[Dust, Allen]	1975-84
b. 1, f. 13	Facsimilies Printed reproductions of Cotton's autograph	n.d.
b. 1, f. 14	[Goodspeed's Book Shop]	1977 Mar 31
b. 1, f. 15	[The Grolier Club]	1977 Mar
b. 1, f. 16	[Hatchwell, Richard]	1975 Nov
b. 1, f. 17	Houghton Library	1975-82
b. 1, f. 18	H. P. Kraus Rare Books & Manuscripts	1978 Apr
b. 1, f. 19	Huntington Library	1977 Mar
b. 1, f. 20	[Kirschenbaum]	1980 Apr 4
b. 1, f. 21	[Library of Congress]	1977 Apr
b. 1, f. 22	[The Newberry Library]	1977 Apr
b. 1, f. 23	New York Public Library	1977 Mar-Apr
b. 1, f. 24	Not Traced	1977-80
b. 1, f. 25	[Notes]	n.d.

b. 1, f. 26	Osborn Collection	n.d.
b. 1, f. 27	[Pool, J. Lawrence]	1977 Dec 21
b. 1, f. 28	[Princeton University Library]	1977 Mar 29
b. 1, f. 29	[Seven Gables Book Shop]	1977 Mar
b. 1, f. 30	[Simpson, John]	1978 Mar 16
b. 1, f. 31	[Staffordshire County Council]	1977 Mar-Apr
b. 1, f. 32	[Traylen, Charles W.]	1980 Aug
b. 1, f. 33	[Walter R. Benjamin Autographs]	1977 Mar

Series II: Research Copies, n.d.*10 Folders*

Series II, Research Copies, is arranged by type of material.

Copies of Cotton manuscripts

	Copy of the Derby Manuscript (ca. 1660-66) Stored in: Oversize, Box 2, folders 39-42	n.d.
b. 1, f. 34	Photographs of Cotton manuscripts, plates 1-9 from Parks, "Charles Cotton and the Derby Manuscript"	n.d.
	Oversize copies of plate 8 from Parks, "Charles Cotton and the Derby Manuscript" Stored in: Oversize, Box 2, folder 43	n.d.
b. 1, f. 35	Photocopies of Charles Cotton manuscripts, printed autographs, and typescripts (ca. 1660s, 1836)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 36	Copies of dealer catalogs listing Charles Cotton-related material (1848-1985)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 37	Copies of Charles Cotton-related secondary sources (1759-1987)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 38	Copies of miscellaneous secondary sources (1848-1961)	n.d.

Oversize*5 Folders (1 box)*

b. 2 (Oversize), f. Copy of the Derby Manuscript (ca. 1660-66) (in Series II) n.d.
39-42

b. 2 (Oversize), f. Oversize copies of plate 8 from Parks, "Charles Cotton and the Derby
43 Manuscript" (in Series II) n.d.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Authors, English -- Autographs
English poetry -- Early modern, 1500-1700 --
Manuscripts

Names

Cotton, Charles, 1630-1687 -- Manuscripts
Croft, P. J. (Peter John), 1929-1984
Parks, Stephen

Contributors

Parks, Stephen
Cotton, Charles, 1630-1687