

Guide to the Letters to John Ives

LWL MSS 4



by Sandra Markham

2020

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Lewis Walpole Library
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CALL NUMBER: LWL MSS 4

CREATOR: Ives, John, 1751-1776

TITLE: Letters to John Ives

DATES: 1771-1779

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: A collection of thirty-nine letters to the British antiquary and herald John Ives (1751-1776), from several antiquarian colleagues, collectors, and scholars.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.004>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.004>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Maggs Bros.Ltd., December 2008.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Letters to John Ives is the physical property of the Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the W. S. Lewis Librarian/Executive Director.

Preferred Citation

Letters to John Ives. The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University.

John Ives (1751-1776)

John Ives, a British antiquary and herald, was born in Great Yarmouth, England, the son of John Ives, a wealthy merchant, and his wife Mary Hannot Ives. He was educated in Norwich and attended Caius College of the University of Cambridge, but did not graduate. An officer of arms at the College of Arms in London, Ives was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1771 and made a fellow of the Royal Society in 1773. In August 1773 Ives married Sarah Kett of Lopham, Norfolk.

Ives published several antiquarian collections before he died of consumption at Great Yarmouth on January 9, 1776. He was buried in the churchyard at Belton, Suffolk, with his father and grandfather. His library and collections of coins, medals, ancient paintings, and antiquities were sold at auction in London in the spring of 1777.

Scope and Contents

Series I contains thirty-nine letters written to the British antiquary John Ives, dating from 1771 to 1779, which reveal the close-knit world of antiquarians in England in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The correspondents include John Charles Brooke (2 letters), William Boys (1), John Bowle (1), Richard Bull (1), John Darby (1), Andrew C. Ducarel (6), William Gostling (1), Richard Gough (1), John Granger (6), James Hammond (2), Edward Jacob (1), Augustine Mann (1), Benjamin Pouncy (1), George Sandby (1), Joseph Strutt (1), Edward Thomas (1), Richard Turner (1), and John White (10). Series II holds one letter from Ives to Charles Ellis, and Series III has notes by Ives and the paper wrapper that formerly held the letters.

Ives's correspondents comment on each other's publications, buy and trade coins and seals, talk about shops and dealers in the trade, discuss other collectors and scholars engaged in similar research, mention recent discoveries of antiquities, and speculate on the dispersal of the collections of recently deceased collectors James West and Thomas Martin. They also discuss specific historical sites especially in the areas of--but not limited to--Kent, Suffolk, and Yarmouth, including a Roman Tower near Maidstone, Canterbury, and Monk Bretton Priory.

Several of the letters cover the details of negotiating with engravers and printers Turner and Pouncey, as well as William Norris, to produce accurate reproductions of the antiquities in their collections or for use in their publications. Augustine Mann writes of the history of the Cinque Ports and the Dover Straits. Hammond and Mann discuss searching the monastic archives at Nieuwport in Flanders.

All the letters are autograph and are signed by the writers. Many of the letters were annotated by Ives to indicate the date that he responded and the gist of his response.

Arrangement

Organized into three series: I. Letters to John Ives, 1771-1779. II. Letter from John Ives, 1771. III. Other Papers, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Letters to John Ives, 1771–1779

18 Folders

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

b. 1, f. 1	Bowle, John John Bowle (1725-1788), British literary editor.	1773 July 15
b. 1, f. 2	Boys, William William Boys (1735-1803), British surgeon and topographer, known for his collection of antiquities connected with Sandwich, and his studies in astronomy, natural history, and mathematics. Author of <i>Collections for a History of Sandwich</i> and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.	1775 March 12
b. 1, f. 3	Brooke, John Charles John Charles Brooke (1748-1794), British herald and antiquary, fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.	1775
b. 1, f. 4	Bull, Richard Richard Bull (1725-1788), British literary editor.	1773 December 9
b. 1, f. 5	Darby, John	1775 March 11
b. 1, f. 6	Ducarel, Andrew Coltée Andrew Coltée Ducarel (1713-1785), a Huguenot born in Paris, fled to England in 1721, admitted as a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1737. Author of <i>Anglo-Norman Antiquities considered in a tour through part of Normandy</i> (1767). First librarian at Lambeth Palace.	1773–1775
b. 1, f. 7	Gosling, William William Gosling (1696-1777), British antiquary and topographer, music collector. Author of <i>A Walk in and about the City of Canterbury</i> (1774), contributor to the <i>Philosophical Transactions</i> (1743 and 1744) and to the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> (1756 and 1776) on various subjects.	1779 October 9
b. 1, f. 8	Gough, Richard Richard Gough (1735-1809), British antiquary and author of many works on antiquarian topics including: <i>Anecdotes of British Topography</i> , sepulchral monuments, and a revision of William Camden's <i>Britannia</i> .	1772 April 10
b. 1, f. 9	Granger, James James Granger (1723-1776), British print collector and biographer. Author of <i>Biographical History of England from Egbert the Great to the Revolution</i> , a catalogue of engraved historical portraits. A draft response by Ives to Granger's December 17, 1772, letter is present.	1772–1773
b. 1, f. 10	Hammond, James	1773
b. 1, f. 11	Jacob, Edward Edward Jacob (1710?-1788), British antiquary and naturalist. Author of <i>The History of the Town and Port of Faversham and Plantae Favershamienses</i> , among other works.	1772 September 28

b. 1, f. 12	Mann, Theodore Augustine Theodore Augustine Mann, also known as Abbé Mann (1735-1809), natural philosopher and historian. In 1758 he entered the English Charterhouse in Nieuwpoort, on the Flemish coast, where he was ordained priest on 20 September 1760 and elected prior in 1764.	1773 October 11
b. 1, f. 13	Pouncy, Benjamin Thomas Benjamin Thomas Pouncy (-1799), British draughtsman and engraver of plates to illustrate a number of antiquarian and travel books, including architectural and archaeological illustrations for the historian Andrew Coltée Ducarel.	undated
b. 1, f. 14	Sandby, George George Sandby (1717-1807), Master of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge (1760-1774), vice-chancellor at Cambridge (1760-1761), and chancellor of the Diocese of Norwich (1768-1807).	1771 October 11
b. 1, f. 15	Strutt, Joseph Joseph Strutt (1749-1802), British antiquary and engraver. Among his publications are <i>The Regal and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of England</i> (1773) and <i>Horda Angel-Cynnan</i> (1775-1776).	1775 January 29
b. 1, f. 16	Thomas, Edward	1773 September 13
b. 1, f. 17	Turner, Richard	1775 January 24
b. 1, f. 18	White, John	1771-1773

Series II: Letter from John Ives, 1771

1 Folder

b. 1, f. 19

Ellis, Charles

1771 June 15

Series III: Other Papers, undated

Notes by John Ives	undated
Three pages of notes on antiquarian concerns.	
Paper wrapper that formerly held the letters	undated

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

Antiquarians -- Great Britain
Antiquarians -- Great Britain --
Correspondence
Coins, Anglo-Saxon
Coins, Roman -- England
Collectors and collecting -- Great Britain
Printing -- England -- Costs
Seals (Numismatics) -- England

Corporate Bodies

Cinque Ports (England)
Monk Bretton Priory
Society of Antiquaries of London

Geographic Names

Burgh Castle (England)
Canterbury Cathedral
Cinque Ports (England)
England -- Antiquities
Kent (England) -- Antiquities
Suffolk (England) -- Antiquities
Yarmouth (England) -- Antiquities

Names

Bowle, John, 1725-1788
Boys, William, 1735-1803
Brooke, John Charles, 1748-1794
Bull, Richard, 1725-1806
Ducarel, Andrew Coltee, 1713-1785
Gostling, William, 1696-1777
Gough, Richard, 1735-1809
Granger, James, 1723-1776
Hammond, James, 1751-1776
Ives, John, 1751-1776
Jacob, Edward, 1709 or 1710-1788
Mann, Augustine, 1735-1809
Martin, Thomas, 1697-1771
Norris, William, 1718-1791
Pouncy, Benjamin Thomas, -1799
Sandby, George, 1717-1807
Strutt, Joseph, 1749-1802
Swinden, Henry, 1716-1772
Thomas, Edward, 1717-1807
Walpole, Horace, 1717-1797
White, John, -1787