

# **Guide to the James Marshall Osborn Research Files**

**OSB MSS 333**



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October 2022

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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 333

**CREATOR:** Osborn, James M. (James Marshall), 1906-1976

**TITLE:** James Marshall Osborn Research Files

**DATES:** 1620s-1979

**BULK DATES:** 1932-1973

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 27.72 linear feet (37 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Lecture and class notes, research files and other papers, card indexes, and microfilms compiled by James Marshall Osborn during the course of his studies at Columbia University and Oxford University, as well as his time teaching and curating at Yale University, 1932-1979. Included are Osborn's paleography files, which consist of 296 examples relating to seventeenth-century English government and law. There are also three 16mm silent film reels, two of which are titled "Tour to the Hebrides."

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

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## 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.jmosbornresearch>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Bequest of James Marshall Osborn, 1976.

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 25 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies are available. For further information, consult Access Services.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The James Marshall Osborn Research Files 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.

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## Preferred Citation

James Marshall Osborn Research Files. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Separated Materials

Printed material received with the collection was removed for separate cataloging and can be accessed by searching the library's online catalog.

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## Biographical / Historical

James Marshall Osborn, literary historian, founder of the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection at Yale University, and Holstein cattle breeder, was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1906. He graduated from Wesleyan University in 1928, and joined the investment advisory department of Guaranty Trust in New York. The next year, he married Marie-Louise Montgomery, a graduate of Vassar.

In 1932 Osborn left Guaranty Trust to study for a Master's degree in English at Columbia University. Two years later, the Osborns moved to England with their two sons, and James began to work toward a B.Litt degree at Oxford University. While at Oxford, Osborn pursued his interest in eighteenth-century literary history and began to acquire the literary and historical manuscripts that would form the core of the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection.

Osborn was appointed Research Associate in English at Yale University in 1938; he held the position until his death. He was named Adviser on Seventeenth Century Manuscripts to the Yale Library in 1954, and in 1963, when he began the transfer of his collection to Yale, became the first curator of the Osborn Collection.

Osborn's publications include *The Autobiography of Thomas Whythorne* (1961); an edition of Joseph Spence's *Observations, Anecdotes and Characters* (1966); and *Young Philip Sidney* (1972).

In addition to his scholarly activities, Osborn was also a noted dairy cattle breeder and promoter of Holsteins from 1940 to 1960. He received the D.Litt from Oxford University in 1968, and was named Curator Emeritus of the Osborn Collection in 1972. James Marshall Osborn died in New Haven on October 17, 1976.

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## Scope and Contents

Lecture and class notes, research files and other papers, card indexes, and microfilms compiled by James Marshall Osborn during the course of his studies at Columbia University and Oxford University, as well as his time teaching and curating at Yale University, 1932-1979. Included are Osborn's paleography files, which consist of 296 examples relating to seventeenth-century English government and law. There are also three 16mm silent film reels, two of which are titled "Tour to the Hebrides."

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## Arrangement

Organized into six series: I. Lecture and Class Notes, 1932-1940. II. Research Files and Other Papers, 1933-1979. III. Paleography Files, circa 1620s. IV. Index Card Files, circa 1940s-1970s. V. Audiovisual Material, 1932-1935. VI. Microfilm, circa 1950s-circa 1970s.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Lecture and Class Notes, 1932-1940

Series I contains manuscript and typescript lecture and class notes kept by James Marshall Osborn during his time at Columbia University and Oxford University.

Folder titles were transcribed. Instructor and lecturer names are included in parentheses if present.

Series I is arranged in the order in which it was received.

|              |   |                   |
|--------------|---|-------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1   | Great Scholars, Paleography (Campbell)                                      | 1935              |
| b. 1, f. 2   | Drafts of bibliography lectures   | 1938 December 10  |
| b. 1, f. 3   | History of English Studies (Nichol-Smith)                                   | 1934              |
| b. 1, f. 4   | Christian and Pagan Mood in OE Poetry (Mrs. Martin Clarke)                  | 1934              |
| b. 1, f. 5   | Textual Criticism   | undated           |
| b. 1, f. 6   | History of English Studies (Nichol-Smith)                                   | 1937              |
| b. 1, f. 7-8 | History versus criticism in the university study of literature (Crane)      | undated           |
| b. 1, f. 9   | Dryden, Swift & Defoe (Wolff)   | 1932              |
| b. 1, f. 10  | Literary Criticism  | 1935              |
| b. 2, f. 11  | Economic History 1700-1850 (Clark)  | undated           |
| b. 2, f. 12  | Dr. Johnson (Nichol-Smith and Fletcher)                                     | 1936              |
| b. 2, f. 13  | Medieval (Lewis)  | undated           |
| b. 2, f. 14  | English Economic History 1660-1760 (Clark)                                  | 1935              |
| b. 2, f. 15  | Resources of the Bodleian (Brett-Smith)                                     | 1935              |
| b. 2, f. 16  | Donne and Metaphysical Poetry (Fletcher)                                    | 1936              |
| b. 2, f. 17  | The Interaction of Intellectual and Economic Movements 1550-1750 (Clark)    | undated           |
| b. 2, f. 18  | Religion in England from 1660-1760 (Brewis)                                 | 1935              |
| b. 2, f. 19  | Bibliography (Gibson)   | 1937              |
| b. 2, f. 20  | "The Evidence of Illustrations" (Dr. Edward Hodnett)                        | 1940 September 10 |
| b. 2, f. 21  | "The Evidence of Type and Printing House Practice" (Carl Purington Rollins) | 1940 September 9  |
| b. 2, f. 22  | "Problems in the Priority of Editions and Issues" (R. H. Griffith)          | 1940 September 11 |
| b. 2, f. 23  | The Reign of James II (Ogg)   | undated           |

|             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| b. 3, f. 24 | Colloquial English in the Days of Dryden and Milton (Wyld) | 1934-1935 |
| b. 3, f. 25 | Lesser Eighteenth Century Poets (Lascelles)                | 1936      |
| b. 3, f. 26 | Medieval (Lawrence)  | undated   |
| b. 3, f. 27 | Victorian (Neff)   | 1932-1933 |
| b. 3, f. 28 | German Influence (Nobbe)                                   | 1933      |
| b. 3, f. 29 | 18th Century Literature (Wright)                           | 1932      |
| b. 3, f. 30 | Romantic (Fairchild)                                       | 1932-1933 |
| b. 3, f. 31 | Dryden (Nichol-Smith)                                      | undated   |
| b. 3, f. 32 | Shakespeare (Chambers)                                     | 1937      |
| b. 4, f. 33 | 16th Century (Ayres)                                       | undated   |
| b. 4, f. 34 | Chaucer (Lawrence and Barnouw)                             | 1932      |
| b. 4, f. 35 | Pope and Swift (Nichol-Smith)                              | 1935      |

**Series II: Research Files and Other Papers, 1933-1979**

Series II contains research files and other papers kept by James Marshall Osborn chiefly during his time at Yale University. Some papers relate to his time at Oxford University.

Folder titles were transcribed. Supplied folder titles are in brackets.

Series II is arranged in the order in which it was received.

|                |  |                 |
|----------------|--|-----------------|
| b. 5, f. 36    | Notes on John Wesley (for presentation of portrait)                        | 1962 June       |
| b. 5, f. 37    | Notes on the poems of John Cleaveland                                      | undated         |
| b. 5, f. 38    | Postscript and correspondence  | circa 1941-1961 |
| b. 5, f. 39    | Christmas poems from Clark Library   | undated         |
| b. 5, f. 40    | Waverly Report   | circa 1954      |
| b. 5, f. 41    | Thomas Stanley   | undated         |
| b. 6, f. 42    | Wing's STC (Short Title Catalog)   | undated         |
| b. 6, f. 43    | Drafts of "Contemporary Collectors" article                                | undated         |
| b. 6, f. 44    | Strickland Gibson texts  | 1940-1955       |
| b. 6, f. 45    | Notes on Spence's "Collections Relating to the English Poets" (Harvard MS) | undated         |
| b. 6, f. 46    | 17c Eng. Lit. library info.  | undated         |
| b. 6, f. 47    | Opening of the New Bodleian  | circa 1946      |
| b. 6, f. 48    | Notes on lectures by David Ogg   | circa 1935      |
| b. 6, f. 49    | "Bibliographical Errors" text  | circa 1935      |
| b. 6, f. 50    | Papers on Correspondence; Bibliography of Rymes                            | 1939            |
| b. 6, f. 51    | "Edmond Malone: Scholar-Collector"   | 1968            |
| b. 6, f. 52    | Class papers   | 1936            |
| b. 7, f. 53    | Notes on William Oldys and his writings                                    | undated         |
| b. 7, f. 54    | Sir Aston Cockayne   | undated         |
| b. 7, f. 55    | Yearbook of the Elizabethan Club   | 1933            |
| b. 7, f. 56    | Papers concerning specimen lecture and outline for course sent to Columbia | 1937            |
| b. 7, f. 57    | Photograph of a drawing of Dr. Burney's first wife                         | undated         |
| b. 7, f. 58    | Play by William Howe   | circa 1952      |
| b. 7, f. 59    | Transparency of a map of London circa 1561                                 | undated         |
| b. 8, f. 60    | Cambridge Bibliography of English Language proof sheets                    | undated         |
| b. 8, f. 61-65 | Urquhart's Epigram   | undated         |



|                |  |                  |
|----------------|--|------------------|
| b. 9, f. 66    | Copies of examinations   | circa 1936       |
| b. 9, f. 67    | [Sheet music for A. Scarlatti: Il Martirio]                    | undated          |
| b. 9, f. 68    | [Photocopy of Osborn Music MS 26]                              | undated          |
| b. 9, f. 69-70 | [Newspaper clippings]  | circa 1971-1972  |
| b. 9, f. 71    | [Scrapbook relating to cattle]                                 | circa 1944-1947  |
| b. 9, f. 72    | Miscellaneous  | undated          |
| b. 9, f. 73-74 | [Materials removed from printed items]                         | undated          |
| b. 9, f. 75    | Osborn Research Microfilm                                      | undated          |
| b. 10, f. 76   | VVil Bagnals' ghost (negative photostatic copy)                | undated          |
| b. 10, f. 77   | Non-Malonian photocopies (negative photostatic copies)         | undated          |
| b. 10, f. 78   | Folger 17c photostats (negative photostatic copies)            | undated          |
| b. 10, f. 79   | Colman, Henry. Divine Meditations Xerox of Bodl. Rawl Poet 204 | undated          |
| b. 10, f. 80   | Xerox of Mahler's 2nd Symphony MS                              | undated          |
| b. 10, f. 81   | [Miscellaneous]  | 1954 and undated |
| b. 26, f. 82   | Political poems of Restoration England                         | 1957             |
| b. 26, f. 83   | Eng Institute Bibliographical Evidence                         | 1939             |
| b. 26, f. 84   | Annual Bibliographies  | 1939-1941        |
| b. 26, f. 85   | Silliman   | 1943-1951        |
| b. 26, f. 86   | [Bodleian Index to manuscript poetry]                          | 1963-1966        |
| b. 26, f. 87   | Index Society to MLA   | 1962             |
| b. 26, f. 88   | Fisher, John (MLA)   | 1963-1964        |
| b. 26, f. 89   | Index Committee  | 1966-1969        |
| b. 26, f. 90   | Queries about Dryden   | 1939-1940        |
| b. 26, f. 91   | MLA - Index Society  | 1962-1964        |
| b. 26, f. 92   | Work In Progress   | 1939-1946        |
| b. 26, f. 93   | Civil Defense-Corres.  | 1941-1943        |
| b. 26, f. 94   | Air Raid Wardens   | 1941 July        |
| b. 26, f. 95   | Index Society  | 1963-1965        |
| b. 26, f. 96   | [Short Title Catalog]  | 1970-1973        |
| b. 26, f. 97   | Index Society II   | 1940-1941        |

|                                   |   |            |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|
| b. 26, f. 98                      | [Short Title Catalog]   | 1946-1949  |
| b. 27, f. 99                      | [Notes for John Dryden: Some Biographical Facts and Problems]   | undated    |
| b. 27, f. 100                     | Dryden Queries  | circa 1940 |
| b. 27, f. 101                     | Material useful for Dryden biographical writings  | 1938       |
| b. 27, f. 102                     | Annus Mirabilis & other Dryden articles   | 1941       |
| b. 27, f. 103                     | [Notes for John Dryden: Some Biographical Facts and Problems]   | 1937-1938  |
| b. 27, f. 104                     | Dryden Iconography  | 1940       |
| b. 27, f. 105-107                 | Postscript to Dryden  | 1941-1958  |
| b. 27, f. 108                     | Queries on Malone   | circa 1947 |
| b. 27, f. 109                     | Photograph of portrait of Dryden  | undated    |
| b. 27, f. 110-111                 | Dryden & Shadwell   | 1953-1958  |
| b. 27, f. 112                     | [Essay on D. Green]   | 1958       |
| b. 28, f. 113                     | [Photostat of Dryden's prologue & epilogue to "The History of Bacon in Virginia"]                                 | undated    |
| b. 28, f. 114                     | [David] Vieth's Notes on Mac Flecknoe   | 1955?      |
| b. 28, f. 115                     | Negatives used in 17c Newsletter  | undated    |
| b. 28, f. 116                     | Negatives & photos regarding Dr. Burney et al.  | undated    |
| b. 28, f. 117                     | Photos "Elizabeth and her England"  | 1958       |
| b. 28, f. 118                     | Photostat from MS of London Charter   | undated    |
| b. 28, f. 119                     | Photostats "The Weekly Pacquet of Advice from Rome; or the History of the Popery"                                 | undated    |
| b. 28, f. 120                     | Photostats "Diana's Grove, or the Faithful Genius"  | undated    |
| b. 28, f. 121                     | Negatives for "Contemporary Collections" article  | undated    |
| b. 28, f. 122                     | Dryden Pope by Hoare  | 1964       |
| b. 28, f. 123                     | Photos Hoare portrait of Pope   | 1963       |
| b. 28, f. 123                     | Handlist of Joyce Cary Manuscripts  | 1958       |
| b. 28, f. 125                     | Spence 2nd edition-to be checked & considered   | circa 1963 |
| b. 29, f. 126                     | Photostats William Oldys  | undated    |
| b. 29, f. 127                     | Photostats Queries on Malone  | undated    |
| b. 30                             | Plate Walsh letter to Dryden  | undated    |
| b. 36, f. 128-131b.<br>37, f. 132 | [Materials relating to Joseph Spence and/or gardening]<br>Some material posthumously dates James Marshall Osborn. | 1938-1979  |

**Series III: Paleography Files, circa 1620s**

Series III contains 296 examples for the study of historic manuscripts. Examples relate chiefly to seventeenth-century English government and law. Approximately half are blank pages. All pages may have once been bound together and identified as Osborn #768.

Chiefly in English. Several pages are in Latin.

Series III is arranged numerically.

|       |         |
|-------|---------|
| b. 11 | 1-88    |
| b. 12 | 89-198  |
| b. 13 | 200-296 |

**Series IV: Index Card Files, circa 1940s-1970s**

Series IV contains index card files kept by James Marshall Osborn during his time Yale University. Index cards relate to English poet John Dryden (1631-1700), English essayist Joseph Addison (1672-1719), Neo-Hellenism, and other topics.

Series IV is arranged in the order in which it was received.

|          |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| b. 14    | Dryden notes                      |
| b. 15-19 | Bibliography                      |
| b. 20    | Notes on Neo-Hellenism            |
| b. 21    | W. Graham 1715-19                 |
| b. 22    | Walter Graham books about Addison |
| b. 23    | Microfilm library catalogue       |
| b. 24    | Unidentified index cards          |

## Series V: Audiovisual Material, 1932-1935

Series V contains three 16 millimeter silent film reels. Two reels are titled "Tour to the Hebrides" and relate to the travel journal by Scotsman James Boswell, *The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson, LL.D.*. The third reel is of Williamsburg, Virginia, and of a child in a living room in New York, New York. There is also a scene taken at an unidentified zoo showing monkeys, rabbits, and birds.

Box 25 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies are available. For further information, consult Access Services.

Series V is arranged alphabetically by transcribed title.

|       |  |                  |
|-------|--|------------------|
| b. 25 | Tour to the Hebrides, Film I<br><i>1 Film Reel (16mm)</i>              | before 1935 July |
| b. 25 | Tour to the Hebrides, Film II<br><i>1 Film Reel (16mm)</i>             | before 1935 July |
| b. 25 | Williamsburg, VA; Baby living room of NYC<br><i>1 Film Reel (16mm)</i> | 1932 May         |
| b. 25 | CD and mini-DV of 16 millimeter silent film reels                      | 2005             |

**Series VI: Microfilm, circa 1950s-circa 1970s**

Series VI contains approximately 220 microfilm reels kept by James Marshall Osborn. Reels are of materials at the Bodleian Library, Boston Public Library, British Museum, Cambridge University, Columbia University, University of Edinburgh, Folger Library, Harvard University, Huntington Library, Leeds University, London University, National Library of Scotland, New York Public Library, University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, Royal College of Physicians, Rutgers University, John Rylands Research Institute and Library, Texas University, Trinity College, Victoria and Albert Museum, and other repositories.

Series VI is arranged in the order in which it was received: roughly alphabetical by repository followed by James Marshall Osborn's numerical schema.

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| b. 31 | Bodleian Library-British Museum               |
| b. 32 | British Museum-Folger Library                 |
| b. 33 | Cambridge University-Huntington Library       |
| b. 34 | Huntington Library-University of Oxford       |
| b. 35 | Public Record Office-Victoria & Albert Museum |

## **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.

### **Genres / Formats**

16mm (photographic film size)  
Lecture notes  
Microfilms

### **Subjects**

English literature -- 18th century -- History and criticism  
English literature -- 18th century -- Study and teaching  
English literature -- Early modern, 1500-1700 -- History and criticism  
English literature -- Early modern, 1500-1700 -- Study and teaching  
Learning and scholarship -- United States -- History -- 20th Century  
Paleography, English -- 17th century  
Scholars -- United States

### **Geographic Names**

Great Britain -- Politics and government -- 1603-1625  
Hebrides (Scotland) -- Pictorial works  
Scotland -- Pictorial works

### **Occupations**

Scholars -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Corporate Bodies**

Columbia University -- Students  
University of Oxford -- Students  
Yale University -- Faculty

### **Acquired From**

Osborn, James M. (James Marshall), 1906-1976