

Guide to the Sir Joseph Banks Papers

MS 58



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and Diane E. Kaplan

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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New Haven, CT 06520-8240
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CALL NUMBER: MS 58

CREATOR: Banks, Joseph, 1743-1820

TITLE: Sir Joseph Banks papers

DATES: 1763-1830

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet (15 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, writings, notes, and other papers documenting the personal life and professional career of Sir Joseph Banks, a British naturalist and explorer. Correspondence with stewards and landowners in Lincolnshire and elsewhere detail Banks' interest in agriculture and farming. Other papers relate to family estates, to Banks' scientific investigations and to his interest in the exploration of Africa and other regions. A translation of Frederic Horneman's "Travels into the interior of Africa performed for the African Society," (circa 1800) and letters relating to the death of explorer Mungo Park are included.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0058>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0058>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Wilmarth S. Lewis, 1939; J. Marshall Osborn, 1966; Harold B. Carter, 1978; and by purchase, 1950-1955, 1981.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use FILM HM 37 instead of the originals.

Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Sir Joseph Banks Papers (MS 58). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies

Entire collection also available on microfilm (5,750 frames on 6 reels, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University, at cost. Order no. HM37.

Related Materials

The Banks Papers at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, England are also on microfilm in the Microform Room of Sterling Memorial Library. (See FILM MISC 636).

Additional Banks material may be found in other repositories at Yale. Please consult the Union Catalog of Manuscripts in the Department of Manuscripts and Archives.

Biographical / Historical

Sir Joseph Banks was born in London, England on February 13, 1743. He served on a scientific expedition to Newfoundland and Labrador (1766) and with Captain Cook's expedition to observe the transit of Venus in the Pacific Ocean. Banks also travelled to Iceland (1772). He served as president of the Royal Society from 1778 until his death in 1820.

Scope and Contents

The Joseph Banks papers reflect Banks' concern with the agricultural development of England rather than his better known botanical studies while accompanying Cook's expedition around the world on

the Endeavor. Banks had inherited Revesby Abbey and other estates in Lincolnshire and Spring Grove in Heston Parish, Middlesex. The papers include over 1000 letters from his stewards and from landowners in Lincolnshire and elsewhere who, like Banks, were interested in sheep, deer, and cattle raising, the wool trade and industry, fen drainage and enclosures, forestry, fishing and hunting, county elections, and other public affairs.

There are a few papers relating to Banks' scientific interests such as Lincolnshire archaeology and the founding of the Royal Society of London. Many letters and papers deal with the estate of Banks' uncle, Robert Banks Hodgkinson, of which Sir Joseph Banks and Sir Henry Hawley were executors. This estate included Hodgkinson's town house on New Burlington Street, London, his county seat in Heston Parish, Middlesex, and securities in mines and turnpikes.

The core of the papers come to the Yale University Library in 1939 as the gift of Wilmarth S. Lewis. Additional papers were given by J. Marshall Osborn, 1966, and Harold B. Carter, 1978. Papers were also added by purchase in 1950-1955 and 1981. The Lewis gift consisted of twenty-one calf-bound volumes, chiefly containing correspondence (1763 - 1819) and over one hundred loose items. The original volumes were divided as follows:

1763-1773: volumes 1 & 2 1774-1776: volume 3 1777-1779: volume 4 1780-1782: volume 5 1783-1784: volume 6 1785-1786: volume 7 1787: volume 8 1788: volume 9 1789-1790: volume 10 1791-1792: volume 11 1793-1794: volume 13 1795-1796: volume 14 1797-1798: volumes 15 & 16 1799-1800: volume 17 1801-1802: volume 18 1803-1816: volume 19 1817: volume 20 1818: volume 21

The condition of the manuscripts necessitated removal of the bindings; specimens of the bindings will be found in folders 268 and 269. All letters are now in chronological order in boxes 1-13. The original volume twelve contained the letters from 1819; these letters are now filed in proper order in box 13.

The several subsequent additions to the papers are now in Series I: Select. These include letters to Lord Macartney on the state of Chinese technology, on the occasion of his departing on a special mission to China in 1792 (folder 257), letters to Lord Sheffield on sheep raising (folders 259-260) and a series of letters to Sir Charles Blagden, secretary of the Royal Society, on scientific matters (folders 253 -255). Also in the section is a bound volume of letters and manuscripts (folder 264) reflecting Banks' active interest in exploration and his membership in the Association for Promoting the Discovery of the Interior Parts of Africa. Included in this volume is a manuscript translation of part 1 of Friedrich Hornemann's journal of a trip from Cairo to Mourzouk (1797 - 1798). This journey was underwritten by the association, as was the second journey of Mungo Park in his search for the course of the Niger. Park's disappearance on this expedition in 1806 led Banks to make extensive inquiries and some of the correspondence reporting on the last sighting of Park and his murder are bound into this volume. Also included are letters and narratives by travelers to Abyssinia and other parts of Africa, Brazil, Newfoundland, Java, and Russia, an account of Indians and plants in America (1820), and a letter about a whaling voyage in the Davis Strait (1800).

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence, 1763-1819. II. Writings and Miscellanea, 1800-1830.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1763-1819

This series contains correspondence arranged in two sections: General and Select.

General files are arranged in chronological order.

Select files are arranged alphabetically by the name of the individual.

General		
b. 1, f. 1-16	1763-1775	1763-1775
b. 2, f. 17-40	1776-1782 April	1776-1782 April
b. 3, f. 41-62	1782 May-1785 November	1782 May-1785 November
b. 4, f. 63-81	1785 December-1787 September	1785 December-1787 September
b. 5, f. 82-96	1787 October-1788 December	1787 October-1788 December
b. 6, f. 97-116	1789 January-1791 March	1789 January-1791 March
b. 7, f. 117-133	1791 April-1793 December	1791 April-1793 December
b. 8, f. 134-147	1794 January-1796 December	1794 January-1796 December
b. 9, f. 150-167	1797 January-1798 December	1797 January-1798 December
b. 10, f. 168-184	1799 January-1801 February	1799 January-1801 February
b. 11, f. 185-209	1801 March-1816 March	1801 March-1816 March
b. 12, f. 210-228	1816 April-1817 December	1816 April-1817 December
b. 13, f. 229-252	1818 January-1819 December	1818 January-1819 December
Select		
b. 14, f. 253-255	Blagden, Sir Charles	1773-1819

Select (continued)

b. 14, f. 256	Cockrell, H.	1792
b. 14, f. 257	McCartney, Lord	1792
b. 14, f. 258	Sandwich, Lord	1768
b. 14, f. 259-260	Sheffield, Lord	1786-1819
b. 14, f. 261	de Wivelenchofen, M.	
b. 14, f. 262-263	Unidentified	1794-1818
b. 14, f. 264	Volume Contains letters and manuscripts reflecting Banks' active interest in exploration and his membership in the Association for Promoting the Discovery of the Interior Parts of Africa. Included is a manuscript translation of part 1 of Friedrich Hornemann's journal of a trip from Cairo to Mourzouk (1797-1798). Some of the correspondence reporting on the last sighting of Mungo Park and his murder during his search for the course of the Niger are bound into this volume. Also included are letters and narratives by travelers to Abyssinia and other parts of Africa, Brazil, Newfoundland, Java, and Russia, an account of Indians and plants in America (1820), and a letter about a whaling voyage in the Davis Strait (1800).	1768-1820
Oversized correspondence See: box 16, folder 271		

Series II: Writings and Miscellanea, 1800-1830

This series contains material arranged alphabetically by record type.

b. 15, f. 265	Biographies and engravings	1830, undated
	Notes	
b. 15, f. 266	Copper money	1800
b. 15, f. 267	"Some collections respecting the office and duties of the King's Exchequer" English	[ca. 1807]
	Volumes	
b. 15, f. 268	Sample binding from Bank's library	undated
b. 15, f. 269	"Some Circumstances Relative to Merino Sheep ..." English	1809
b. 15, f. 270	Botanical specimen book (blank)	undated
b. 16, f. 271	Oversized correspondence, accounts, maps, and other miscellanea	

Index to the Microfilm

The Banks Papers are available on microfilm on FILM HM 37. This film shows the papers in the order as they were in 1965.

Reel 1: 1763 Jun 23-1784 Aug 16 Reel 2: 1784 Sep 20-1788 Oct 31 Reel 3: 1788 Nov 3-1794 Feb 25 Reel 4: 1794 Feb 27-1800 Apr 1 Reel 5: 1800 Apr 2-1817 Feb 26 Reel 6: 1817 Feb 26-1819 Dec ALS to unidentified correspondent, 1818 Jul 18 27 ALS to Sir Charles Blagden with one fragment (signed), 1783 Jun 27 - 1819 Sep 24, n.d. ALS to M. de Wivelenchofen, 1787 Sep 10 Blagden, Sir Charles. Draft of an address to George III, sent to Sir Joseph Banks with a note, n.d. Blagden, Sir Charles, 1748-1820. AMS, on fiery meteors, 1783 Ms, "Some collections respecting the office and duties of the King's Exchanger", 81, after 1807 Ms notes on copper money, duties on imported goods. 10 leaves, 1800 6 ALS to Lord Macartney, 1792 Jan 22, 29, Mar 21, May 21, 22, Jun 17 1 ALS (copy) from Lord Macartney to Banks, 1792 Mar 17 AMS describing experiments in water-divining by Mr. Elkiner at Woburn Park, 1794, 1796 Bound volume of correspondence and accounts of travel in Africa, America, China, Europe and Java, 1768-1820

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

Agriculture
Agriculture -- Great Britain
Botany
Cattle -- Breeding
Fens
Horticulture
Merino sheep
Reclamation of land
Science -- Great Britain
Sheep -- Breeding
Wool industry

Geographic Names

Africa -- Discovery and exploration
Brazil -- Description and travel
China -- Foreign relations -- Great Britain
Europe
Great Britain
Java (Indonesia) -- Description and travel
Lincolnshire (England) -- Antiquities
Middle East -- Description and travel
Newfoundland and Labrador -- Description and travel
Soviet Union -- Description and travel

Occupations

Botanists
Explorers
Naturalists

Names

Ali Bey, 1766-1818
Allix, Charles, 1783-1866
Alströmer, Johan, 1742-1786
Ancestir, Brownlow Bertie, 1739-1809
Arbuthnot, Charles, 1767-1850
Aubert, Alexander, 1730-1805
Aylesford, Heneage Finch, Earl of, 1751-1812
Bahwell, Robert, 1725-1795
Balguy, John, 1782-
Bankes, Henry, 1757-1834
Banks, Dorothea, d. 1820

Banks, Joseph, 1743-1820
Banks, Sarah Sophia, 1744-1818
Bentinck, William, 1764-1813
Berridge, Basil Burry, ca. 1737-1808
Bernard, Thomas, Sir, 1750-1818
Bertie, Pereguine, ca. 1723-1786
Bertier de Sauvigny, Louis-Bénigne-François de, 1737-1789
Blagden, Charles, Sir, 1748-1820
Boucheritt, Ascough, 1755-1815
Boulton, John, fl. 1776-1788
Boulton, Matthew, 1728-1809
Brackenbury, Joseph, 1753-1811
Bragge-Bathurst, Charles, approximately 1754-1831
Brooke, John Charles, 1748-1794
Brossonet, Pierre Marie Auguste, 1761-1807
Browne, Thomas, 1708?-1780
Brownlow, John Crest, 1779-1853
Buckinghamshire, George Hobart, 1731-1804
Burrell, William, Sir, 1732-1796
Caldecott, Thomas, 1744-1833
Caley, John, 1763-1834
Calthrop, John, 1784-1846
Cartwright, George, 1739-1819
Cartwright, John, 1740-1824
Caulefield, Wade Tobey, 1732-1800
Chalmers, George, 1742-1825
Chambers, William, Sir, 1723-1796
Chapman, Stephen Remnant, 1776-1851
Cheales, Benjamin, 1758-1824
Cholmeley, Montague, 1772-1831
Clark, Bracy, 1771-1860
Clarke, Richard, 1739-1831
Cockran, John Dundras
Colebrooke, William Macbean George, Sir, 1787-1870
Collman, Thomas, 1747-1826
Colman, George, 1732-1794
Cook, James, 1728-1779
Court, Alexander
Cumming, Alexander, 1733-1814
Davy, Martin, 1763-1839
Dodd, Ralph, 1756-1822
Dumaresq, John, d. 1819
Dundas, Henry, 1742-1811
Dunning, John, Baron Ashburton, 1731-1783
Duten, Louis, 1730-1812
Dymole, Lewis, 1763-1820

Egremont, George O'Brien Wyndham, Earl of, 1751-1837
Fortescue, Hugh Fortescue, Earl, 1753-1841
Fothergill, John, 1712-1780
Frankland, Thomas, Sir, 1750-1831
Freeling, Francis, Sir, 1764-1836
Fyddell, Thomas, 1740-1812
Gascoyne, Bamber, 1725-1791
Gauntlett, Samuel, approximately 1745-1822
Gilbert, John, 1817-1897
Goddard, Charles, 1770?-1848
Goodenough, Samuel, 1743-1827
Goring, Charles, 1744-1829
Gough, Richard, 1735-1809
Grenville, Charles Francis, 1749-1809
Grenville, Robert Fulke, 1751-1824
Harcourt, Edward, 1757-1847
Hardwicke, Philip Yorke, Earl of, 1757-1834
Hastings, Francis Rawdon-Hastings, Marquess of, 1754-1826
Hawkins, John, 1761-1841
Hawley, Henry, 1745-1826
Heathcote, Gilbert, 1773-1841
Herminier, Felix Louis, 1779-1833
Heron, Robert, Sir, 1765-1854
Hodgkinson, Robert Banks
Hodgson, Bernard, 1745-1805
Honeywood, Filmer, -1809
Honeywood, John, -1781
Hope, Alexander, 1769-1837
Hornemann, Friedrich, 1772-1800
Itzenplatz, Peter Ludwig J.A., -1834
Jenkinson, Charles, 1727-1808
Jerdan, William, 1782-1869
Johnson, Maurice, 1756-1834
Kaye, Richard, 1737-1809
Kenyon, Lloyd Kenyon, Baron, 1732-1802
Knatchbull, Edward, 1759-1819
Knatchbull, Edward, 1781-1849
Lind, James, 1736-1812
Linton, John, 1721-1782
Linton, John, 1751-
Lister, Matthew Bancroft, 1766-
Luc, J. A. de (Jean André), 1727-1817
Lyon, G. F. (George Francis), 1795-1832
Lysons, Samuel, 1763-1819
Macartney, George Macartney, Earl, 1737-1806
Maittans, John, 1754-1831
Manners, Robert, 1758-1782
Marrat, William, 1772-1853
Monson, John Monson, Baron, 1753-1806
Mulgrave, Constantine John Phipps, Baron, 1744-1792
Musge, William, 1762-1820
Nicholl, John, Sir, 1759-1838
Nicholson, William, 1753-1815

Norfolk, Charles Howard, Duke of, 1746-1815
Northumberland, Hugh Smithson, 1714-1786
Onslow, Arthur, 1746 or 1747-1817
Orford, George Walpole, Earl of, 1730-1791
Osbaldeston, George, 1786-1866
Park, Mungo, 1771-1806
Partridge, Samuel, 1751?-1817
Peckham, Harry, ca. 1740-1787
Perrin, William Philip, b. 1742
Pollard, Robert, 1755-1838
Pollock, Jonathan Frederick, 1783-1870
Portland, William Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Duke of, 1738-1809
Radcliffe, Ann Ward, 1764-1823
Ramsden, Jesse
Relhan, Richard
Sandwich, John Montagu, Earl of, 1718-1792
Somerset, Edward Adolphus Seymour, Duke of, 1775-1855
Spencer, George John Spencer, Earl, 1758-1834
Stanhope, Charles Stanhope, Earl, 1753-1816
Swainson, William, 1789-1855
Taylor, Herbert, Sir, 1775-1839
Thompson, Perronet
Thorold, John, 1734-1815
Tiarks, J. L.
Turnor, Edmund, 1755?-1829
Vyner, Robert, 1717-1799
Vyner, Robert, 1762-1810
Warnick, George Greville, 1746-1816
Warren, John, 1730-1800
Wells, William Charles, 1757-1817
Whichcote, Thomas, 1763-1828
Wilby, John, 1738-1798
Williams, J. (John), 1817-1899
Winchelsea, George Finch, Earl of, 1752-1826
Windham, William, 1750-1810

Corporate Bodies

Association for Promoting the Discovery of the Interior Parts of Africa
Royal Society (Great Britain)