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Guide to the Freeling Correspondence

OSB MSS 36



by Beinecke Staff

June 1996

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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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beinecke.library@yale.edu
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	3
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
SIR FRANCIS FREELING, 1764-1836	4
Scope and Contents	4
Collection Contents	5
Series I: Correspondence, 1794-1841	5
ARBUTHNOT, CHARLES, 1767-1850	5
ARRAN, ARTHUR SAUNDERS, EARL OF, 1761-1837	5
AUCKLAND, WILLIAM EDEN, LORD, 1744-1814	5
BARRY, JOHN M.	5
BEAUFORT, HENRY CHARLES SOMERSET, DUKE OF, 1766-1835	5
BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, RICHARD TEMPLE	5
CARDIGAN, ROBERT BRUDENELL, EARL OF, 1769-1837	5
CARYSFORT, JOHN JOSHUA PROBY, EARL OF, 1751-1828	5
CAWDOR, JOHN FREDERICK, EARL OF, 1790-1860	6
CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY, WILLIAM, SIR, 1765-1829	6
CHARTERIS, FRANCIS, (LORD ELCHO), 1749-1808	6
CHESTERFIELD, HENRIETTA (THYNNE) STANHOPE,	6
CHICHESTER, MARY HENRIETTA JULIANA (GODOLPHIN)	6
CIPRIANI, [PHILIP]	6
CLAYTON, WILLIAM ROBERT, SIR, 1786-1866	6
COOKE, EDWARD, 1755-1820	6
CURREY, EDMUND	6
DERBY, EDWARD SMITH STANLEY, EARL OF, 1752-1834	7
DULCIE, FRANCIS REYNOLDS-MORETON, BARON, 1739-1808	7
FREELING, FRANCIS, SIR, 1764-1836	7
GARDINER, ROBERT WILLIAM, SIR, 1781-1864	7
GREVILLE, CHARLES FRANCIS, 1749-1809	7
GREVILLE, ROBERT FULKE, 1751-1824	7
HARTWELL, FRANCIS JOHN, SIR, 1757-1831	7
HOBHOUSE, HENRY, 1776-1854	7
JONES, WILLIAM	7
MALMESBURY, JAMES HARRIS, EARL OF, 1746-1820	7
PELHAM, THOMAS, EARL OF CHICHESTER, 1756-1826	7
POLE, L. S.	8
Selected Search Terms	9

Collection Overview

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CALL NUMBER: OSB MSS 36

CREATOR: Freeling, Francis, Sir, 1764-1836

TITLE: Freeling correspondence

DATES: 1794-1841

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Letters to Freeling, mainly concerning his work for the postal service. Some letters contain a draft of Freeling's reply.

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

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

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Bequest of James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

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

SIR FRANCIS FREELING, 1764-1836

Sir Francis Freeling was born in Radcliffe Parish, Bristol, on August 25, 1764. His first employment was with the Bristol Post Office, but when the new Palmer system of mail coaches was established in 1785, Freeling was appointed to assist Palmer. In 1787 he joined the General Post Office in London, where he served for almost half a century, rising finally to the office of Sole Secretary.

Freeling's management of the postal service was widely praised, and in 1828 a baronetcy was conferred on him for his public service. He was also a book collector and antiquarian, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a founding member of the Roxburghe Club. He died at home in Bryanston Square, London, in 1836, and was succeeded in the baronetcy by his eldest son, Sir George Henry Freeling, an Oxford alumnus and Commissioner of Customs.

Scope and Contents

[The Freeling Correspondence](#) consists almost entirely of business letters addressed to Sir Francis Freeling as an employee of the Post Office. The letters are mostly by members of the peerage, suggesting that they may have been selected from Freeling's files and saved for their autograph value. Authors include the Earl of Arran, the Duke of Beaufort, the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, Lord Elcho, and the Earl of Chichester. Subjects include franking privileges; mail routes and mail delivery times; delayed or lost mail; recommendations for employment; and requests for favors. Some of the letters are docketed with summaries of Freeling's replies.

Among the more substantive items are a letter from the Earl of Cardigan concerning a large theft by a servant; complaints by Baron Dulcie of repeatedly delayed mail; and an MP's complaint that his franks are not being honored. An 1809 letter from Edward Cooke, Undersecretary of State for War, explains the Army's position on mail privileges for officers "it is a matter of much accommodation to the officer and the loss to revenue is but casual." And a letter from Freeling himself to the Postmasters-General in 1810 takes issue with an anonymous complaint about working conditions in the Post Office, noting that "the Income of the Letter Carriers, considering the order in Society from which they are selected and the duty they have to perform, is sufficiently ample."

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1794-1841

0.21' (1 box)

Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by author.

ARBUTHNOT, CHARLES, 1767-1850

b. 1, f. 1 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Treasury Chambers 1818 Aug 29
Arbuthnot, citing his franking privileges, complains letters have returned to him.

ARRAN, ARTHUR SAUNDERS, EARL OF, 1761-1837

b. 1, f. 2 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling 1815 Apr 22
Informs Freeling of his support for a Mr. Bosauquet's election to an unnamed club or position.

AUCKLAND, WILLIAM EDEN, LORD, 1744-1814

b. 1, f. 3 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Eden Farm 1803 Oct 9

b. 1, f. 4 ALS to Francis Freeling; Eden Farm [1808 Dec 27]
Holiday greetings to the Freelings from the Aucklands, who plan to "settle" in town from 18 Jan to 10 May.

BARRY, JOHN M.

b. 1, f. 5 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Treasury Chambers, Dublin Castle 1818 Sep 11
Barry requests Freeling to hold some postal packets for him. Freeling's reply (copy) is included on the letter.

BEAUFORT, HENRY CHARLES SOMERSET, DUKE OF, 1766-1835

b. 1, f. 6 ALS to Francis Freeling; Grosvenor Square 1828 May 28
Concerning Beaufort's mother's suggestion to leave a letter bag at her gate at Stoke near Bristol.

BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS, RICHARD TEMPLE [NUGENT BRYDGES CHANDOS GRENVILLE, DUKE OF, 1776-1839]

b. 1, f. 7 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Pall Mall 1834 Apr 2
Chandos requests delivery of a letter of the "utmost importance."

CARDIGAN, ROBERT BRUDENELL, EARL OF, 1769-1837

b. 1, f. 8 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Portman Square 1827 June 29
States that Wm. Upton has absconded with a very large sum of money.

CARYSFORT, JOHN JOSHUA PROBY, EARL OF, 1751-1828

b. 1, f. 9 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Archlow [Ireland] 1809 Aug 30
Carysfort asks Freeling to frank, "on a literary matter, a pretty bulky packed [sent] to Mr. George Ellis, at Sunning Hill or Clarenont."

CAWDOR, JOHN FREDERICK, EARL OF, 1790-1860		
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Stackpole Court Cawdor inquires about the route of mail between London and Cork, Ireland. Note on Docket states Dublin.	1828 Aug 16
CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY, WILLIAM, SIR, 1765-1829		
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Southampton De Crespigny seeks Freeling's aid.	1818 Apr 27
CHARTERIS, FRANCIS, (LORD ELCHO), 1749-1808		
b. 1, f. 12	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Grosvenor Street	1794 Dec 6
CHESTERFIELD, HENRIETTA (THYNNE) STANHOPE, [COUNTESS OF, 1762-1813]		
b. 1, f. 13	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Chesterfield House Lady Chesterfield lobbies for the appointment of a Mr. Dunn as letter carrier.	1803 Mar 29
CHICHESTER, MARY HENRIETTA JULIANA (GODOLPHIN) [PELHAM, COUNTESS OF, 1776-1862]		
b. 1, f. 14	2 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Stanmer Concerning the 5th birthday celebration of her eldest son Henry (b. 25 Aug 1804).	1809 Aug, Sep
b. 1, f. 15	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Stanmer Concerning her husband Lord Chichester's cold which has kept him three days abed.	1818 Feb 17
CIPRIANI, [PHILIP]		
b. 1, f. 16	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Treasury Cipriani recommends a Mr. Knowles for employment. Copy of Freeling's response on reverse side.	1809 Nov 5
CLAYTON, WILLIAM ROBERT, SIR, 1786-1866		
b. 1, f. 17	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Boulogne-sur-Mer Clayton warns Freeling that a letter with Freeling's frank mailed to Calais had produced a charge of postage due there and Freeling is admonished not to allow such a precedent to be set.	1816 May 15
COOKE, EDWARD, 1755-1820		
b. 1, f. 18	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Downing Street Cooke, Undersecretary of State for War and colonies, concerning abuses of the mail by the army and foreign services.	1809 Jul 6
CURREY, EDMUND		
b. 1, f. 19	2 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Bath and Bankhouse Currey writes on behalf of the Duke of Gloucester.	1808, 1809

DERBY, EDWARD SMITH STANLEY, EARL OF, 1752-1834		
b. 1, f. 20	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Grosvenor Square Derby thanks Freeling for his attention in securing a Post Mastership for an individual.	1806 Mar 29
DULCIE, FRANCIS REYNOLDS-MORETON, BARON, 1739-1808		
b. 1, f. 21	LS to Sir Francis Freeling; Tortworth Dulcie complains about postal service delays.	1794 Jul 17
FREELING, FRANCIS, SIR, 1764-1836		
b. 1, f. 22	Letter (copy) to Charles Arbuthnot, General Post Office	1818 Sep 3
b. 1, f. 23	Letter (copy) to Mr. Hindell at Truro, [n.p.] Freeling states: "... an <i>Official Man</i> cannot indulge those feelings and inclinations which would at once influence him as a <i>Private Individual</i> ."	1810 Jun 13
b. 1, f. 24	Letter to [the Earls of Chichester and Sandwich], General Post Office Chichester and Sandwich, serving in 1810 as Postmasters-General. Freeling's letter concerns an anonymous letter of complaint, apparently from a letter carrier. Docketed response from Chichester urges Freeling to "attempt ... to discover the writer of this letter."	1810 Sep 4
GARDINER, ROBERT WILLIAM, SIR, 1781-1864		
b. 1, f. 25	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Cassell	1818 Feb 19
GREVILLE, CHARLES FRANCIS, 1749-1809		
b. 1, f. 26	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Stackpole Court	1798 Nov 4
GREVILLE, ROBERT FULKE, 1751-1824		
b. 1, f. 27	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Mayfair	1818 May 13
HARTWELL, FRANCIS JOHN, SIR, 1757-1831		
b. 1, f. 28	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Dorchester	1818 May 25
HOBHOUSE, HENRY, 1776-1854		
b. 1, f. 29	ALS to Francis Freeling; Whitehall	1818 May 28
b. 1, f. 30	ALS to Lt. Col. William Leader Maberly, Wincanton	1841 Jun 23
JONES, WILLIAM		
b. 1, f. 31	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Cassel	1818 Feb 19
MALMESBURY, JAMES HARRIS, EARL OF, 1746-1820		
b. 1, f. 32	ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Huru Court, Christchurch	1806 Nov 6
PELHAM, THOMAS, EARL OF CHICHESTER, 1756-1826		
b. 1, f. 33	3 ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Eridge Castle and Stanmer	1818 Aug-Sep

POLE, L. S.

b. 1, f. 34

ALS to Sir Francis Freeling; Oxford Street

1816 May 26

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

Postal service -- Great Britain

Names

Freeling, Francis, Sir, 1764-1836