

Guide to the Bertie Greatheed Papers

OSB MSS 68



by Diane J. Ducharme

June 1996

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: OSB MSS 68

CREATOR: Greatheed, Bertie, 1759-1826

TITLE: Bertie Greatheed papers

DATES: 1785-1819

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.3 linear feet (4 boxes) + 3 broadside folders

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, printed ephemera, and clippings regarding Greatheed's play, "The Regent." Also includes poetry by Greatheed and others, such as Robert Merry and William Parsons. There is one letter from Thomas King detailing his comments on the prologue to Greatheed's play.

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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

Bertie Greatheed Papers. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

BERTIE GREATHEED, 1759-1826

Bertie Greatheed, the son of Samuel Greatheed of Guy's Cliff, MP for Coventry, and Lady Mary Bertie, was born on October 17, 1759. He was raised at Guy's Cliff, and there met the actress Sarah Siddons when she was employed by his mother in 1771-73.

While living in Florence, Greatheed joined the society "Gli Oziosi" (The Idlers) and contributed to their privately published *Arno Miscellany* (1784). In 1785 he was one of the major contributors to the Della Cruscan *Florence Miscellany*, with Robert Merry, William Parsons, and Mrs. Piozzi.

In 1788, his blank verse tragedy, *The Regent*, was staged at Drury Lane Theatre, with his friend Sarah Siddons and John Kemble in the lead roles, but the play failed and was withdrawn after only nine nights.

The Greatheed family was in Paris in 1802-1803, during the Peace of Amiens; Bertie Bertie Greatheed, his son, received permission from Napoleon to draw many of the art treasures which had been brought to the Louvre. The Greatheeds journeyed to Italy in 1804, where Bertie Bertie Greatheed died in October, at Vicenza. His drawings were returned to his father by Napoleon on learning of the son's death.

Greatheed spent much time and money on improvements to Guy's Cliff, and designed the house's Elizabethan Revival additions and the memorial to the execution of Piers Gaveston on Blacklow Hill. He also acquired a considerable collection of Old Master paintings, including works attributed to Canaletto, Caravaggio, Salvator Rosa, Lely, and Reynolds.

Greatheed's only child, Bertie Bertie, had married in France before his early death, and in 1823 his daughter Anne Caroline Greatheed married Lord Charles Percy, who took the surname Greatheed Bertie Percy. Bertie Greatheed died at Guy's Cliff on January 16, 1826.

Scope and Contents

The Bertie Greatheed Papers consist of letters, manuscripts and printed material documenting the literary career and friendships of Bertie Greatheed. The papers span the dates 1741-1824 and are organized into three series: I. Letters; II. Manuscripts; III. Printed Material.

[Series I, Letters](#), is located in Box 1, folders 1-21 and has been arranged alphabetically by author. There are several letters concerning the 1788 production of *The Regent*, including congratulatory notes from relatives and from friends such as Lady Sophia Trevannion Byron and James Robson.

There are also letters by all of the other major members of the Della Cruscans. Notes by Robert Merry are accompanied by signed drafts of "Ode to Winter," "Address to Bacchus," and "Madness." Letters by William Parsons, located in folders 10-14, also enclose poems, including a draft of "Verses Written on the Island of Staffa." The earliest letters by Parsons, addressed to Greatheed at Eton, are almost entirely comic narratives written in verse. Folder 16 contains letters to Greatheed in Florence by Mrs. Piozzi.

[Series II, Manuscripts](#), is housed in folders 22-107 and is organized into two subseries: Poems and Prose. Material within each subseries is arranged alphabetically by author and then by title, with material by

unidentified authors listed at the end of the subseries. With few exceptions, works are attributed based on docketing or signatures on the manuscripts. Where this is not the case, the author's name appears in brackets in the listing.

Works by the Della Cruscan Robert Merry and William Parsons are located in folders 44-56. Merry's poems include "To Cloe in England, Written in Florence," and a heavily corrected draft of "A Character." Works by Parsons include an "Epistle from Naples to Bertie Greatheed" and a translation of the opening of Dante's *Inferno*."

Poems signed "Ellison" are found in folders 27-36. They include translations from Greek and Latin originals; "A Song of the Bards of Cairbar," probably in imitation of *Fingal*; "The Thoughts of an Evening;" and "Guy's Cliff." Folder 35 contains Ellison's translation of Gray's "O Tu, severi religio loci," another translation of which, by Hugh Hutton, can be found in folder 40.

Other poems with identifiable authors include Coleridge's "Recantation: A Political Allegory;" "Alonzo the Brave, and the Fair Imogen," by Matthew Lewis; and a poem attributed in the docketing to Thomas Gray, "The University Courtship."

Poems by unidentified authors are located in folders 62-96 and include epigrams, epitaphs and mock epitaphs, satires, songs, riddles and occasional verses in a variety of hands. Satires include "On a House of Office;" "The Royal Vision;" and "On the Duchess of Leeds Marrying Lord Portmore a Week after the Death of the Duke." Folder 84 contains "On the discovery of the bodies of Henry 8th and Charles 1st;" a "Ditirambo sul caffè" is located in folder 69.

There are eleven folders of Prose, including an account of prayers offered at a London synagogue for the Prince of Wales in 1788; a description of an avalanche; and a "prophecy," supposed to have been written in 1701, concerning the destruction of the French royal line.

[Series III, Printed Material](#), is housed in Box 3 and organized into four subseries: Artwork, Newspaper Clippings, Playbills, and Other Printed Material. Newspaper Clippings includes carefully saved and annotated copies of reviews of Greatheed's *The Regent* and a chronology of the life of Napoleon published in 1814. Folder 119 contains a playbill for an October 19, 1741 production of *King Richard the Third*, annotated "announcing Garrick's first performance." Other Printed Material includes a broadside advertisement for a 1777 performance by the magician Philadelphus Philadelphia.

[Oversize](#) material has been housed in Box 4.

Collection Contents

Series I: Letters, 1788-1819

21 Folders

Letters is arranged alphabetically by author.

ANCASTER, MARY (PANTON) BERTIE, DUCHESS OF, D. 1793		
b. 1, f. 1	ALS to Bertie Greatheed, [London] On his play, <i>The Regent</i> .	[1788 Mar 29]
BYRON, SOPHIA (TREVANNION), D. 1790		
b. 1, f. 2	AL to Bertie Greatheed (and wife); Bolton Row	[1788] Apr 2
DE CELY, CONTE		
b. 1, f. 3	ALS to "Eliza;" Chicksand Priory	n.d.
G., A. D.		
b. 1, f. 4	ALS to Bertie Greatheed; Guy's Cliff Letter in French.	1819 Mar 18
[GREATHEED FAMILY?]		
b. 1, f. 5	AL in the third person to Bertie Greatheed Letter of congratulations on <i>The Regent</i> , from "The Families in Queen Anne Street and Park Place."	[1788 Mar]
GREATHEED, MARY		
b. 1, f. 6	ALS to (her nephew) Bertie Greatheed; Warwick On <i>The Regent</i> .	1788 Apr 1
JUNIUS, PSEUD.		
b. 1, f. 7	Manuscript of political satire written as ALS "To the King" Opens with a quotation from the letters of the original "Junius," 1769 Dec 29	1810 Jan 17
KING, THOMAS, 1730-1805		
b. 1, f. 8	ALS to Bertie Greatheed; Gerrard Street	1788 Mar 20
MERRY, ROBERT, 1755-1798		
b. 1, f. 9	ALS containing "Address to Bacchus" and "Madness" Two holograph poems, the first addressed to Bertie Greatheed. Accompanied by signed draft of "Ode to Winter" and two epigrams.	n.d.
MURPHY, ARTHUR, 1727-1805		
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to Hester Lynch Piozzi; Lincoln's Inn	1787 Sep 3
PARSONS, WILLIAM, FL. 1785-1807		

PARSONS, WILLIAM, FL. 1785-1807 (continued)

b. 1, f. 11	4 ALS to Bertie Greatheed, Jr. Sent to Greatheed at Eton College. Three are entirely in verse; the fourth includes verses.	1795 Dec 18, n.d.
b. 1, f. 12	3 ALS to Bertie Greatheed, [n.p.] In each case sending verses. Accompanied by five autograph sonnets.	n.d.
b. 1, f. 13	ALS (in verse) to Robert Merry, [n.p.]	n.d.
b. 1, f. 14	"Verses written in the Island of Staffa" Holograph. Accompanied by copy of macaronic verse, "conceived on the road from Warwick to Welbourn."	1787 Aug 6
PENNINGTON, PENELOPE SOPHIA (WESTON), 1752-1827		
b. 1, f. 15	ALS to Ann Greatheed; Cecil St.	[1788 Apr 1]
PIOZZI, HESTER LYNCH (SALSBURY) THRALE, 1741-1821		
b. 1, f. 16	4 ALS, 1 AL to Ann Greatheed; London	1788-89, n.d.
ROBSON, JAMES, 1733-1806		
b. 1, f. 17	ALS to [Bertie Greatheed]; [London]	[1788 Mar 29]
SATCHWELL, BENJAMIN, 1732-1809		
b. 1, f. 18	ALS to Mr. Tombs; Leamington Encloses three papers for delivery to Bertie Greatheed, (1) ALS to Greatheed, 1808 Sep 21, (2) "A Eulogy on Bertie Greatheed Esqr.," (3) "Escribe on Building a New Town Newbold-Comyn, 1808."	1808 Sep 24
SOAME, FRANCES (WYNN)		
b. 1, f. 19	AL to Ann Greatheed; [London] Congratulations on success of <i>The Regent</i> .	[1788] Mar 30
WARWICK, GEORGE GREVILLE, 2D EARL OF, 1746-1816		
b. 1, f. 20	ALS to Bertie Greatheed; [London]	[1788] Mar 29
UNIDENTIFIED CORRESPONDENT		
b. 1, f. 21	ALS to [Bertie Greatheed?] Letter in French.	n.d.

Series II: Manuscripts, 1766-1813

86 Folders

Manuscripts is organized into two subseries: Poems and Prose.

POEMS

[Alfieri, Vittorio?]

b. 1, f. 22	"Sonetto del Conte Alfieri, nel 1788" With "Sonetto Pastorale del C. P. di Monte Vecchio, nel 1705"	[1788?]
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[Coleridge, Samuel Taylor]

b. 1, f. 23	"Recantation: A Political Allegory" With explanatory annotations.	[1798?]
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Concannon, L.

b. 1, f. 24	"Verses to Mrs. Rigby occasioned by her departure from Sackets hill on the 12th of Oct. 1794"	n.d.
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Craven, Miss

b. 1, f. 25	"Liberty"	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 25	"The Spring, from Metastasio"	1795
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Dawkins, Miss

b. 1, f. 26	"To Captain Manning, on having received a present of Noah's Ark"	
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Ellison, ----?

b. 1, f. 27	"Danae--from Simonides" " A Song of Callistratus"	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 28	"The Death of Erragon, from <i>Fingal</i> "	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 29	[Epitaphs by Jortin and Lowth, translated from the Latin]	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 30	"The Fishers: An Ode"	1776
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b. 1, f. 30	"From Anacreon, etc."	1780
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b. 1, f. 31	"Guy's Cliff: An Inscription"	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 32	"On Eternity, from Waller"	1783 Mar
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b. 1, f. 33	"A Song of the Bards of Cairbar"	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 34	"The Thoughts of an Evening"	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 35	"Translation of Mr. Gray's Ode made at the Grande Chartreuse" Translation of "O Tu, severi Religio loci"	n.d.
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b. 1, f. 36	"Warwick Castle"	1766
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b. 1, f. 36	"Finchale Abbey"	1766
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POEMS (continued)

	[Gray, Thomas?]	
b. 1, f. 37	"The University Courtship" Annotated: "Written by Mr. Gray when Lord Sandwich was a candidate for the office of Stewart of the University of Cambridge"	n.d.
	Greatheed, Lady Mary	
b. 1, f. 38	"Why dims this tear..."	n.d.
	Greatheed, Peregrine	
b. 1, f. 39	"As raised aloft, in windy weather"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 39	"Cease boirsous winds!"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 39	"Cloe Sleeping"	n.d.
	Hutton, Hugh	
b. 1, f. 40	"Stranger, whom thou art whose wandring feet" Verso contains a copy of Gray's "O Tu, severi Religio loci", of which this is a translation	1776 Aug 1
	Jekyll, [Joseph?]	
b. 1, f. 41	"Some new stanzas to 'God Save the King'"	1801
	King, Mr.	
b. 1, f. 42	"To the Author of 'The Regent'"	[1788]
	Knight. Payne	
b. 1, f. 43	"Verses on the Miss Cornwalls"	n.d.
	[Lewis, M. G. (Matthew Gregory)]	
	["Alonzo the Brave, and Fair Imogene"] Stored in: Oversize, Box 4, folder 124 Copy, with minor corrections, of ballad from <i>The Monk</i> .	n.d.
	Merry, Robert	
b. 2, f. 44	"A Character" ("I know a man, an abject slave") Heavily corrected.	n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	"Serenade"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	"To Anna at Florence, at the time the Emperour and King of Sweeden were both there in 1783"	[1783?]
b. 2, f. 46	"Sonnet" ("An amorous wreath of flowers by Britain's far sons")	1785 Aug
b. 2, f. 47	"To Cloe in England, Written at Florence" Signed "Strephon" and addressed to "Mounseer Bertie Greatheed Esq."	n.d.
b. 2, f. 48	"Traduzione libera dell'ode Inglese di Mr. Merry"	n.d.

POEMS (continued)

Parsons, William		
b. 2, f. 49	"A British youth to an Italian dame"	1785 Jul
b. 2, f. 50	"Elegy on a girl of the Town meeting with a Gentleman who resembled her seducer"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 51	"Epistle from Naples to Bernie Greatheed Esq. at Rome"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 52	"Life's journey half was o'er, when far away"	n.d.
	Corrected. Translation of Dante's <i>Inferno</i> , Canto I, lines 1-33	n.d.
b. 2, f. 53	"Of different sex the human kind was made"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 54	"On the Bishop of Rochester's Late Speech"	1796 Jan 3
b. 2, f. 55	"Prologue to the Tragedy of Don Manuel"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 56	"The bell struck one--no longer whirled along"	n.d.
Sandford, ----		
b. 2, f. 57	"Written in a Hermitage"	n.d.
Schoenberg, H.		
b. 2, f. 58	"Dianora" In French. Signed: "H. Schoenberg à Mr. Greatheed."	n.d.
Sheridan, Mrs.		
b. 2, f. 59	"Eliza to Pollio"	n.d.
[Thurlow, Edward Hovell-Thurlow]		
b. 2, f. 60	"Sweet echo, vocal nymph, whose mimic tongue" Annotated "Ld. Chancellor Thurlow to Miss Lynch," but probably the work of his son, the second Baron Thurlow.	n.d.
Williams, Henry		
b. 2, f. 61	"The Reader to the Author of the Old Maids"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 61	"Verses on My Sister Sally Williams"	n.d.
Unidentified Authors		
b. 2, f. 62	"Ah, si vous pouvier comprendre..."	n.d.
b. 2, f. 63	"The Barber's Nuptials: A Song"	[1790s?]
b. 2, f. 64	"Breathe soft, ye winds!..."	n.d.
b. 2, f. 65	"Charade"	
b. 2, f. 66	"Chansons de B-"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 67	"Comparison of Woman to the Moon"	n.d.

POEMS > Unidentified Authors (continued)

b. 2, f. 68	"La danse"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 69	"Ditirambo sul Caffè" Also contains "Grotto di Proserpina" and "Italia, Italia"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 70	"Epigram"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 71	"Epigram on Dr. Charles Burney"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 72	"Epilogue Spoken by Mrs. Siddons in the Character of Lady Townly" With: "In the first dawns of dramatic Art"	n.d. n.d.
b. 2, f. 73	"Epitaph"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 74	"Extracted from a Newspaper called the Courier" Annotated "Porson versus Loughborough"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 75	"A Favorite Song"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 76	"Inscription for a Seat at Guy's Cliff"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 77	"A Letter from ---- to ----"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 78	"Lines written during a long confinement" Also includes three additional short poems	n.d.
b. 2, f. 79	"My first is quite hideous.." A rhyming riddle	n.d.
b. 2, f. 80	"The New House that Jack Built"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 81	"Nihil agere animus non potest"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 82	"Oh Greatheed, Great and 'Good as George of Green, '...'"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 83	"On a House of Office" Political satire directed at Parliament.	[ca 1795?]
b. 2, f. 84	"On the discovery of the bodies of Henry 8th and Charles 1st"	[1813]
b. 2, f. 85	"On the Duchess of Leeds Marrying Lord Portmore a Week after the Duke's Death"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 86	"La Priere Universelle; Traduite de Pope"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 87	"The Royal Vision" Satire on the character and policies of the Prince Regent (later George IV).	[ca. 1811]
b. 2, f. 88	"Sacred to the Memory of Westfaling" Two different drafts of an epitaph	n.d.
b. 2, f. 89	"Sent with a Pocket Mirror to a Lady by her Husband"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 90	"Smite with debility my trembling frame..."	n.d.

POEMS > Unidentified Authors (continued)

b. 2, f. 91	"Sonetto di Leonardo da Vinci, Pittore"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 92	"Twas in Heaven pronounc'd, and 'twas muttered in Hell" Annotated "Sent us by Lady Davy"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 93	"The Warrior said (and who'll gainsay?)..."	n.d.
b. 2, f. 94	"With wind and tide..." Annotated "Porson"	n.d.
b. 2, f. 95	"The youth is tall to whom I inscribe my verse" Annotated: "Written on Peregrine Greatheed Esqr. in the time of his life after his Father's death."	n.d.
b. 3, f. 96	Unidentified and fragments	n.d.
PROSE		
b. 3, f. 97	"An Authentic narrative of the Russian expedition against the Turks by sea and land"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 98	"At the great Jews Synagogue in St. James's Dukes Place" Account of the prayers offered for The Prince of Wales on 12 Nov 1788	1788 Nov
b. 3, f. 99	"Description of the Battle of the Bridge at Pisa, May 12th, 1785"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 100	"Extract of a Sermon Preached by Robert Fleming...1701" Contains a prophecy that the French Monarchy "will consume in its own flame" at the beginning of the nineteenth century.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 101	"A Letter of Similes" Accompanied by several versions of such letters, word lists and a glossary.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 102	Letter examples Includes copies of "An Original letter for a Scarlet Cardinal;"	
b. 3, f. 103	Prayers for various occasions	n.d.
b. 3, f. 104	"Sir Charles Mordaunt's Account... of an Avalanche"	1818
b. 3, f. 105	"To Prevent Miscarriage"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 106-107	Miscellaneous lists and historical notes	n.d.

Series III: Printed Material, 1741-1824

16 Folders

Printed Material is organized into four subseries: Artwork, Newspaper Clippings, Playbills, and Other Printed Material.

ARTWORK

b. 3, f. 108	Castle scene	n.d.
b. 3, f. 109	"Ebony and Ivory: or, Chacun a son goût" Satirical engraving, colored, annotated: "Dedicated with permission to the Honble. Mrs. C. Percy."	1824 May 1

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Poems

b. 3, f. 110	"The Butterfly's Ball, and the Grasshopper's Feast"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 111	"Fate of Sparta: Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs. Siddons"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 112	"London: A Late Epistle on Mr. C----d"	n.d.
b. 3, f. 113	"Ode on the Late Loan, Humbly Addressed to the Right Hon. W.-- Pitt..."	n.d.

Reviews of "The Regent"

b. 3, f. 114	Annotated clippings See also: Oversize, Box 4, folders 125-132	1788 Mar-Apr
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Other Clippings

	"A Chronological Account of the Principal Events in the Life of Napoleon" Stored in: Oversize, Box 4, folder 133	1814 Jul
	"Extract from the "Northampton Journal" Stored in: Oversize, Box 4, folder 134	n.d.
	<i>The Morning Chronicle</i> Stored in: Oversize, bsd, folder 137	1802 Mar 19
b. 3, f. 115	"Table of Population, Cities of London and Westminster"	n.d.
	"Whig Club" Stored in: Oversize, Box 4, folder 135	n.d.
	<i>The Word</i> Stored in: Oversize, bsd, folder 138 Includes a review of "The Regent"	1788 Apr 2

PLAYBILLS

English and Irish

b. 3, f. 116	"The Fair Penitent" and "The Agreeable Surprise" (Dromana Theatre)	n.d.
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PLAYBILLS > English and Irish (continued)

b. 3, f. 117	"Provok'd Husband; Or, a Journey to London" and "The Beggar's Opera (Contracted)" (Dromana Theatre)	n.d.
b. 3, f. 118	"Venice Preserv'd" and "Rosina" (Dromana Theatre) 2 copies.	n.d.
b. 3, f. 119	Announcement of "King Richard the Third" (Goodman's Fields Theatre) Annotated: "The Playbill announcing Garrick's first performance"	1741 Oct 19
German		
b. 3, f. 120	"Das Gastrecht"	1800 Mar 27
b. 3, f. 121	"Heimburg und Maria"	n.y. Dec 28
b. 3, f. 122	"Johanna von Montfaucon"	1799 Dec 12
b. 3, f. 123	"Der Ring"	1800 Jan 14
OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL		
	"Avertissement" for the magician Philadelphus Philadelphia Stored in: Oversize, Box 4, folder 136	1777 Jan 13
	"Neues Honnoverisches Magazin," uncut sheet Stored in: Oversize, bsd, folder 139	1794 Nov 17

Oversize, n.d.

b. 4, f. 124	"Alonzo the Brave, and the Fair Imogene"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 125-32	Reviews of "The Regent"	1788 Mar-Apr
b. 4, f. 133	"A Chronological Account of the ...Life of Napoleon"	1814 Jul
b. 4, f. 134	"Extract from the "Northampton Journal"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 135	"Whig Club"	n.d.
b. 4, f. 136	"Avertissement"	1777 Jan 13
b. bsd, folder 137	"The Morning Chronicle"	1802 Mar 19
b. bsd, folder 138	"The Word"	1788 Apr 2
b. bsd, folder 139	"Neues Honnoverisches Magazin"	1794 Nov 17

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.

Preferred Titles

*Regent, a tragedy, as it is acted at the Theatre
Royal in Drury-Lane*

Subjects

English drama -- 18th century

Occupations

Dramatists, English -- 18th century

Names

Greatheed, Bertie, 1759-1826
King, Thomas, 1730-1805
Merry, Robert, 1755-1798
Parsons, William, active 1785-1807