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Lewis Walpole Library

Guide to the Monson Family Invoices

LWL MSS 13



by Sandra Markham

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Lewis Walpole Library
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CALL NUMBER: LWL MSS 13

TITLE: Monson Family Invoices

DATES: 1730–1834

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script)

SUMMARY: The collection holds more than 170 invoices and receipts issued to members of the wealthy and aristocratic Monson family of London and Lincolnshire, between the years 1730 and 1834.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.013>

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.013>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Samuel Gedge, April 2014.

Conditions Governing Access

This material is available for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Monson Family Invoices 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

Monson Family Invoices. The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University.

Monson Family

The Monson family were settled in Lincolnshire from the fourteenth century, and by the eighteenth century they also had a home on Albemarle Street in London. The papers in the collection relate to five generations of the family: John Monson (c. 1693–1748), the first Baron Monson, and his wife Margaret Watson (1696–1752); their eldest son John (1727–1774) and his wife Theodosia Maddison (1725–1821); their son John Monson (1753–1806) and his wife Elizabeth Capel (1755–1834); their son John George Monson (1785–1809) and his wife Sarah Savile (1786–1852); and their son Frederick John Monson (1809–1841). As the invoices and receipts are made out only to Lord Monson or Lady Monson, their life dates may assist in identifying the shopper in question.

Scope and Contents

The collection holds more than 170 invoices and receipts issued to members of the wealthy and aristocratic Monson family of London and Lincolnshire, between the years 1730 and 1834. The documents are engraved, printed, and manuscript invoices, many with illustrated billheads, that are often accompanied by manuscript receipts for payments received by the vendors. They are organized by four categories: Food and beverages; Clothing and accessories; Household expenses; and Other Expenditures. The latter group includes music lessons, transportation (primarily by sedan chair), charitable contributions made to St. George's Hospital in London, and other goods and services. Most of the vendors and purveyors were located in London and are noted at the folder level in the collection finding aid; several of the merchants were women such as Hannah Glasse (1708-1770), in particular those selling clothing, headwear, and textiles. A folder of household receipts document the expenses of a ball held by Lord and Lady Monson at their London home on June 22, 1807.

Collection Contents

Invoices and Receipts, 1730–1834

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Series I is organized into five subseries: Food and beverages; Clothing and accessories; Household expenses; Other Expenditures; and Receipts.

Food and beverages

b. 1, f. 1	<p>Beverages</p> <p>A dozen invoices and receipts record the family's purchases of wine, cider, various waters (Bristol, Pyrmont, Lavender) and seltzer from the purveyors Rene Baudowin, Patt Broders, Thomas Davis, Francis Stowells, Bartholomew Valle and Brother, and John Lambe. Also present is one engraved trade card for asses milk sold by William Guest in Knightsbridge.</p>	1737–1788
b. 1, f. 2	<p>Bottles and corks</p> <p>Three invoices, two for corks from Wheldon & Cuthurst and Benjamin Ingram, and one for bottles from The Royal Northumberland Bottle Warehouse; all vendors were in London.</p>	1743–1801
b. 1, f. 3	<p>Cheese, meat, and other foods</p> <p>Nine invoices for cheese, fruits, and other articles of food purchased from purveyors including Bartholomew Valle and Brother, Dance & Co. Orange Merchants, and John Hyde & Co. Most of the invoices are printed checklists of shop offerings, with items received written on the verso.</p>	1767–1815
b. 1, f. 4	<p>Poultry</p> <p>Nine engraved invoices dating from 1775 to 1784 from Stephen Wright and S. Wright & N. Dupree, Poulterers to their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland; their billheads featuring a Royal Warrant were engraved by Marly. Also present is a single manuscript receipt dated 1807 from Edward Barr, who had sent poultry to the Monsons in London.</p>	1775–1807

Clothing and accessories

b. 1, f. 5	<p>Clothing</p> <p>Thirteen invoices, most engraved illustrated billheads, from shops covering a wide assortment of clothing and accessory items for adults and children. Shops include Elizabeth Hebert & Co.; Gubbins and Guest (baby clothing); Robert Blunt; Isaac Wright; and the stay makers Mrs Schram, Bricart & Girardet and James Gayleard. Of note are three 1754 invoices from Hannah Glasse (1708-1770), Habit Maker to the Princess of Wales. Also of note is one invoice from the Masquerade Warehouse of J. Thresher from which Lady Monson purchased a domino and two silk masks in 1808. Most of the invoices in the folder are addressed to the ladies Monson.</p>	1746–1813
b. 1, f. 6	<p>Headwear</p> <p>Eight receipts and invoices for hats, caps, and bonnets for family members. One engraved illustrated tradecard is present for Peter (Pierre) Le Quainter, in both English and French and featuring his golden ball and star trade sign, and for Elizabeth Dyer, whose offerings range from Leghorn and Bermuda hats to painted floorcloths.</p>	1730–1794

Clothing and accessories (continued)

b. 1, f. 7	Parasols Two engraved invoices and one manuscript receipt from James Wakeman, umbrella and parasol manufacturer.	1823
b. 1, f. 8	Shoes Two engraved invoices from Henry Otley and Jonathan Andrews in London.	1776, 1782
Household expenses		
b. 1, f. 9	Ball expenses The largest group of documents in the collection are the twenty-five invoices and receipts from a ball that Lord and Lady Monson held in their London home on the evening of June 22, 1807. Two manuscript account slips at the front of the folder list categories of disbursements for musicians, porters, waiters, flowers, cooks, and ornaments. The single engraved invoice is from the Calton Cut & Plain Glass Manufactory which offered for rent chairs, tables, and "every other necessary article for Routs and Balls." From that firm the Monsons procured, among other items, 96 feet of tables, 206 feet of benches, and 4 dozen chairs in addition to tableware including 14 dozen decanters, 20 dozen wines and 20 dozen goblets. Receipts are also present for food including ham, poultry, fruits, and spices, for confectionary and baking services, and for "Chalking the Floors of Two Rooms for Ball." Nearly all of the papers are noted on their versos "for the Ball" or "for the Ball night."	1807
b. 1, f. 10	Carpets An invoice and receipt from carpet manufacturer Thomas Norris, and a receipt from William Barton.	1794-1801
b. 1, f. 11	Coal and hay One engraved invoice from London (Edward Wood & Co.) and one manuscript receipt from Lincolnshire.	1769, 1813
b. 1, f. 12	Fire insurance One engraved and illustrated certificate of insurance from the Sun Fire-Office in London to John George Monson (1785-1809), the 4th Baron Monson, covering his home in Burton, Lincolnshire, and the household goods, wearing apparel, prints, books, and plate therein.	1807 February 11
b. 1, f. 13	Furnishings Two engraved invoices, one for wallpaper and borders from Bromwich, Isherwood & Bradley, and one for a chair and upholstery from Charles Smith & Co.; both firms were in London.	1781, 1796
b. 1, f. 14	Metalwork Eleven engraved invoices and manuscript receipts for objects including ice moulds, cutlery, lamps, and flower baskets purchased, as well as for repairs and services hired. Vendors include Thomas Chamberlain, Argand & Elgar, William Boutel, Thomas Swain, Thornhill & Morley, and G. Wood Iron Founder, Smith, & Furnishing Ironmonger. The illustrated bill heads feature images of tools of their trade, and their products such as flower baskets, fencing, a fire grate, a door lock, and a bell.	1760-1823

Household expenses (continued)

b. 1, f. 15	Rat catching One manuscript receipt paid by Lord Monson, guardian of Lewis Monson (later Lewis Watson, Baron Sondes) for the services of Daniel Hooks and Partners, for "catching of wratts about Lees Court"; Lewis Monson (1728-1795) was the second son of John Monson and Lady Margaret Watson.	1746
b. 1, f. 16	Taxes Six printed receipts covering taxes for water, windows, land, and sewage in London.	1778-1794
b. 1, f. 17	Textiles Nineteen engraved invoices and manuscript receipts for yard goods, trim, lace, buttons, upholstery fabric, and tablecloth, from London mercers and silk weavers. The firms include James Brown, Paul Desbrosses & Son, Daniel Vial, Tresilian's & Ashburner, Vale's, Powell & Hall, James Savage, Dyde & Scribe, Pritchard & Dudding, Mary Oliver, E. Bunting, Shoolbred, Cook & Company, and Van Commer, Chavany Paul & Niccolls. Some of the receipts are for cleaning, starching, and reglazing items including blankets and old quilts. Also present is one printed invoice from E.S. & R. G. Francis in Lincoln.	1737-1834
Other Expenditures		
b. 1, f. 18	Apothecary	1794 May 16
b. 1, f. 19	Artists supplies One invoice for stretched canvases, colors, and frames from Henry Brookes, London.	1794
b. 1, f. 20	Fishing A single engraved illustrated invoice from John Higginbotham, fishing tackle manufacturer on the Strand.	1801
b. 1, f. 21	Music and dancing Nine receipts and invoices for music books and scores, instrument strings, music and dancing lessons, and for the use or hire of instruments. The receipts include one for four unrelated books acquired from the publisher J. Debrett.	1793-1803
b. 1, f. 22	St. George's Hospital Seven engraved invoices for donations "for the relief of the Lame, Sick & needy" in the hospital from both Lord and Landy Monson.	1738-1762
b. 1, f. 23	Subscription to the Racing Calendar for 1807	1808 July 7
b. 1, f. 24	Transportation Eight invoices and receipts, primarily manuscripts, for various transportation expenses. Of note are two accounts of Lady Monson's travel by sedan chair in May and June 1805	1801-1807
b. 1, f. 25	Wharfage and sufferance	undated
b. 1, f. 26	Receipts Fifteen manuscript receipts, many of which were formerly attached to invoices likely in the folders above.	1741-1812, 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

Balls (Parties) -- Great Britain
Clothing and dress -- Great Britain
Fashion -- Great Britain
Grocers -- Great Britain
Merchants -- Great Britain
Sedan chairs -- Great Britain
Textile fabrics -- Great Britain
Women merchants -- Great Britain

Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Social life and customs

Genres / Formats

Billheads
Engravings (prints) -- Great Britain -- 18th century
Ephemera
Financial records
Invoices
Receipts (financial records) -- Great Britain -- 18th century
Trade cards

Names

Glasse, Hannah, 1708-1770
Monson, Frederick John Monson, Baron, 1809-1841
Monson, John Monson, Baron, 1693-1748

Families

Munson family

Corporate Bodies

St. George's Hospital (London, England)
Sun-Fire-Office