

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the James Marshall Osborn Research Files

OSB MSS 333



Sarah Lerner

October 2022

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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<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-1973

BULK DATES: 1932-1973

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 26.34 linear feet (35 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, 1932-1973. 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>

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.

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 Osborn, 1976.

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.

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.

Preferred Citation

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

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.

Separated Materials

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

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.

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, 1932-1973. 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."

Arrangement

Organized into six series: I. Lecture and Class Notes, 1932-1940. II. Research Files and Other Papers, 1933-1973. 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, 1933-1973

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

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 <i>1 Film Reel (16mm)</i>	before 1935 July
b. 25	Tour to the Hebrides, Film II <i>1 Film Reel (16mm)</i>	before 1935 July
b. 25	Williamsburg, VA; Baby living room of NYC <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