

# Guide to the Sir Joseph Banks Papers

MS 58



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

February 1985

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
mssa.assist@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**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>

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## 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](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### Preferred Citation

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

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### 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.

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### 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.

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## 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.

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## 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).

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## Arrangement

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

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## 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	1768-1820
	<p>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).</p>	
	<p>Oversized correspondence  <a href="#">See: box 16, folder 271</a></p>	

**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	



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## 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 Wivelenhofen, 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. Elkinter at Woburn Park, 1794, 1796 Bound volume of correspondence and accounts of travel in Africa, America, China, Europe and Java, 1768-1820

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## 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  
Fydell, 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  
Winchilsea, 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)