

# Guide to the William Fergusson Papers

MS 1287



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr.

July 1985

Yale University Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1287

**CREATOR:** Fergusson, William, 1773-1846

**TITLE:** William Fergusson papers

**DATES:** 1808-1814

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of letters and other materials which document the military career of William Fergusson, a British physician. The papers detail Fergusson's experiences in Portugal, during the Peninsular War, and include material relating to the administration of military hospitals. Typescripts of several items are included in the papers.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1287>

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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.1287>.

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

Transferred from the Yale University Medical Historical Library, 1980.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The entire collection is available on microfilm. Patrons must use HM 275 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Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain.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

William Fergusson Papers (MS 1287). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

Entire collection is also available on microfilm (594 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM275.

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## Biographical / Historical

William Fergusson was born in Ayre, England on June 19, 1773. He attended medical classes in Edinburgh, Scotland, and practiced in London hospitals. Fergusson became assistant-surgeon in the army and saw duty in Holland, the West Indies, the Baltic, the Iberian Peninsula, and the expedition against Guadaloupe in 1815. He retired from the service in 1817, and practiced in Edinburgh until 1821, when he moved to Windsor. Fergusson was disabled by paralysis in 1843 and he died in January 1846. He published medical papers on syphilis, malaria fevers, and malaria.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of the correspondence and related papers of William Fergusson, a British physician who served as inspector-general of military hospitals during the early 1800s. The material documents his military experiences in Portugal, in the service of the British Army from 1804-1812, and includes a small quantity of items from 1813-1831. The papers are arranged in chronological order, with typescripts of most items filed with the originals.

Correspondence includes letters from medical and military figures, reports of hospital statistics regarding the care and treatment of sick and wounded soldiers, and exchanges relating to the charges of professional misconduct filed against Fergusson. As inspector-general of military hospitals Fergusson oversaw the administration of medical operations, including staffing and personnel matters, supply and equipment needs, and financial considerations. Included among the correspondents are: Robert Arbuthnot, Andrew Halliday, and Adam Neale.

The William Fergusson Papers were collected by Harvey W. Cushing. The papers were transferred from the Historical Medical Library in 1981.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in chronological order.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 10reel  
1U      Correspondence and papers

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b. 1, f. 11reel 1U      Miscellanea

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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**

Medicine -- History  
Military hospitals  
Peninsular War, 1807-1814

### **Names**

Arbuthnot, Robert, Sir, 1773-1853  
Fergusson, William, 1773-1846  
Halliday, Andrew, Sir, 1781-1839  
Neale, Adam, -1832

### **Corporate Body**

Great Britain. Army