Descriptive Summary

Title: Benjamin Adams and Thomas Adams collection

Dates: 1781-1807

Collection Number: mssHM 83630-83688

Creator OR Collector: Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick

Extent: 65 items in one box

Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, California 91108

Phone: (626) 405-2191

Email: reference@huntington.org

URL: http://www.huntington.org

Abstract: A collection dealing with the Jamaican financial interests of Benjamin Adams and Thomas Adams; the collection consists of correspondence, statements of bills and accounts, estate dealings and promissory notes.

Language of Material: The records are in English.

Access

Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Benjamin Adams and Thomas Adams collection, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information

Purchased from Jeff Weber Rare Books, April 2018.

Biographical Note

Benjamin Adams was an English businessman; he died in 1792. Thomas Adams was a solicitor, an agent for the Duke of Northumberland, and the owner of Eshott Hall (Alnwick, Northumberland).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content

The majority of the material in the collection concerns the financial interests of Benjamin Adams and Thomas Adams in Jamaica. Benjamin Adams was owed a significant sum by Jamaican landowner George Noble. Upon Noble's death (ca. 1790), Adams entered into proceedings via attorneys James Corne Pownall and David Duncomb to recover his debt. The process was severely complicated by the revelation that the cane plantation overseen by Noble, known as the Lottery Estate in Trelawney, Jamaica, was not actually owned by him. After Benjamin Adams' death in 1792, the affair was taken up by the executor of his will, his brother Thomas Adams. The collection consists of autograph letters and copies, statements of bills and accounts, estate dealings and promissory notes; included is correspondence with, among others, William Cruden, William Morton Pitt and David Ross.

Personal Names

Adams, Benjamin, -1792

Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick

Subjects

Administration of estates -- Jamaica -- History -- 18th century

Administration of estates -- Jamaica -- History -- 19th century>

Debt -- Great Britain -- 18th century

Debt -- Great Britain -- 19th century

Lawyers -- England
**Geographic Areas**  
Great Britain -- Commerce -- Jamaica  
Jamaica -- Commerce -- Great Britain  
Jamaica -- History -- 18th century  
Jamaica -- History -- 19th century

**Genre**  
Accounts -- 18th century  
Accounts -- 19th century  
Documents -- 18th century  
Documents -- 19th century  
Financial records -- 18th century  
Financial records -- 19th century  
Letters (correspondence) -- 18th century  
Letters (correspondence) -- 19th century  
Manuscripts -- 18th century  
Manuscripts -- 19th century  
Receipts (financial records) -- 18th century  
Receipts (financial records) -- 19th century

**Added Entries**  
Cruden, William  
Pitt, W.M. (William Morton), 1754 or 1755-1836  
Ross, David, approximately 1716-1777 or 1778

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**Box 1 Corresopndence, Documents and Manuscripts, 1781-1807**

HM 83630  
**Smith, [--?--]. Receipt : a demand to pay Benjamin Adams sixty three pounds (1781, Mar. 30)**  
London, Eng. (1 p.)

HM 83631  
**Alcock, Joseph. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1785, Apr. 26)**  
Treasury Chambers, London, Eng. (2 p.)

HM 83632  
**Wegg, [? R. ]. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1785, Apr. 27)**  
(1 p.)

HM 83633  
**Lee, Robert Cooper. Receipts : three receipts received of Benjamin Adams, each for one hundred pounds (1789, Jan. 24 - Oct. 14)**  
(3 p.)

HM 83634  
**[A. & P. St Zench & Nephew]. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1791, Dec. 16)**  
Bordeaux, France. (2 p.)

HM 83635  
**Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1791, Dec. 24)**  
Aberdeen, Scot. (4 p.)

HM 83636  
**Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1791, Dec. 31)**  
Aberdeen, Scot. (2 p.)
HM 83637  Simpson, James. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 ([approximately 1791])
(2 p.)

HM 83638  Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Jan. 14)
Aberdeen, Scot. (2 p.)

HM 83639  Bishop, Charles. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Jan. 21)

HM 83640  Bishop, Charles. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Jan. 23)
Doctors' Commons, London, Eng. (3 p.). Subject: La Marianne.

HM 83641  Bishop, Charles. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Jan. 24)

HM 83642  Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Jan. 28)
Aberdeen, Scot. (3 p.)

HM 83643  Bishop, Charles. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Feb. 10)
Doctors' Commons, London, Eng. (2 p.). Subject: La Marianne.

HM 83644  Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Feb. 11)
Aberdeen, Scot. (2 p.)

HM 83645  Bishop, Charles. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Feb. 18)
Doctors' Commons, London, Eng. (2 p.). Subject: La Marianne.

HM 83646  Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Feb. 25)
Aberdeen, Scot. (2 p.)

HM 83647  Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Mar. 10)
Aberdeen, Scot. (2 p.)

HM 83648  Cruden, William. Letter to Benjamin Adams, -1792 (1792, Apr. 6)
Aberdeen, Scot. (2 p.)

HM 83649  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Arthur [Strother?] (1792, Oct. 31)
Lime Street, London, Eng. (1 p.). Draft letter. Followed by additional draft letters to: David Duncomb; Andrew Rainsford; Charles Watson; James Lockier; Hercules Ross; the whole: 4 p.

HM 83650  [Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick]. Note to David Duncomb (1792, Nov. 7)
(2 p.). Note: draft of a postscript; written on a scrap of paper with the name Mr. Tate.

HM 83651  [Hanbury, J---- P----]. Letter to Thomas Adams, of Alnwick (1792, Dec. 16)
Kingston, Jamaica. (2 p.). Marked: Copy.

HM 83652  Tate, William. Letter to Thomas Adams, of Alnwick (1793, Feb. 12)
London, Eng. (2 p.)

HM 83653  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Mr. ----- Jacks (1793, June)
(2 p.). Marked: Copy.
Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to David Duncomb (1793, July 2)

Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to J---- P---- Hanbury (1793, July 2)

[Unknown author]. Benjamin Adams Esqr In Account Current with Bright & Duncomb, and Duncomb & Savage... (1793, July 20)
Kingston, Jamaica. (2 p.). Also enclosed: another copy of the Account (2 p.)

Tate, William. Statement of a Bill of Exchange remitting by D Duncomb of Kingston Jamaica to Thomas Adams... (1794, May 15)
London, Eng. (2 p.). Note: endorsement includes a 1795 date.

[Hurst, John]. Letter to Thomas Adams, of Alnwick (1795, July 15)
(2 p.). Written in third person.

[Shoolbred, John]. Letter to Thomas Adams, of Alnwick (1795, July 17)
(2 p.). Written in third person.

[Duncomb, David]. Letter to Thomas Adams, of Alnwick (1796, Oct. 31)
Kingston, Jamaica. (2 p.). Note: a copy in the hand of Thomas Adams; the original sent to William Tate, Mar. 15, 1797.

Pitt, W.M. (William Morton), 1754 or 1755-1836. Letter to Charles Wren (1798, Jan. 12)
Salisbury, Eng. (4 p.)

Pitt, W.M. (William Morton), 1754 or 1755-1836. Letter to Charles Wren (1798, Feb. 23)
Kingston House, near Dorchester, Eng. (2 p.)

Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to David Ross, approximately 1716-1777 or 1778 (1799, July 26)
Alnwick, Northumb., Eng. (1 p.). Draft letter. Followed by additional draft letters to: Andrew Rainsford ; Duncan & Savage.

Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Duncomb & Pownall (Firm) (1799, July)
(2 p.). Draft letter.

Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Mr. ----- Godwin (1800, July 14)
Lime Street, London, Eng. (1 p.). Draft letter. Followed by additional draft letters & an account to: David Ross ; Duncomb & Pownall (Firm) ; copy of David Ross, approx. 1716..., account with the estate of B. Adams, 1796-1800 ; the whole: 4 p.

Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to David Ross, approximately 1716-1777 or 1778 (1801, Aug. 14)

[Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick]. David Ross Esqr his account current with the Estate of B Adams...& with Messrs. La Chiapella, Proffit & Ross (1801, Aug. 31)
(2 p.)
HM 83668  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to George Profitt (1802, Apr. 10)
(3 p.). Marked: Copy.

HM 83669  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Duncomb & Pownall (Firm) (1803, Dec. 16)
Alnwick, Northumb., Eng. (1 p.). Draft letter. Followed by additional draft letter to:
Duncomb & Pownall (Firm).

HM 83670  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Patrick Ballantine (1804, Aug. 25)
Alnwick, Northumb., Eng. (2 p.). Draft letter; followed by a second draft.

HM 83671  [Unknown author]. At a high Court of Chancery held at the Town of Saint Iago de la Vega...Lennox v. Ballantine (1805, Jan.)
(2 p.). Marked: Copy; signed by William Ramsay.

HM 83672  Paterson & McBayne. Letter to James Corne Pownall (1805, Feb. 9)
Kingston, Jamaica. (3 p.). Also enclosed: fair copy (3 p.)

HM 83673  Duncomb & Pownall (Firm). Letter to Thomas Adams, of Alnwick (1805, Feb. 23)
Kingston, Jamaica. (4 p.)

HM 83674  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Patrick Doughall (1805, Apr. 29)

HM 83675  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to William Tate (1805, Apr. 29)
Alnwick, Northumb., Eng. (1 p.). Draft letter. Followed by additional draft letter to: William Tate.

HM 83676  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Andrew Herriott (1805, May 8)

HM 83677  Duncomb & Pownall (Firm). Thomas Adams Esqr in Account Current... (1805, June 27)
Kingston, Jamaica. (2 p.). Attached to Account: A.N.S. by Paterson & McBayne (1 p.)

HM 83678  Duncomb & Pownall (Firm). Letter to Thomas Adams, of Alnwick (1805, June 27)
Kingston, Jamaica. (2 p.). Marked: Copy.

HM 83679  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Fergusson & Co. (Firm) (1805, July 4)

HM 83680  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to William Tate (1805, Aug. 24)

HM 83681  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Remarks at Harowgate : Minits abt...Duncan & Savage in Noble's Affairs (1805, Sep. 7)
(2 p.)

HM 83682  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Minits of Duncomb & Pownalls Accounts relative to George Noble... (1805, Nov. 14)
(3 p.)
HM 83683  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Minits of Benjamin Adams' foreign Debts due to his Estate (1805, Dec. 19)
           (5 p.)

HM 83684  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Duncan & Pownall (Firm) (1805, Dec. 19)
           Alnwick, Northumb., Eng. (3 p.). Draft letter; endorsement is dated 1806.

HM 83685  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Duncan & Pownall (Firm) (1805, Dec. 28)

HM 83686  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to Duncan & Pownall (Firm) (1806, Jan.) 9)
           Alnwick, Northumb., Eng. (2 p.). Draft letter. Also enclosed: a second draft letter (2 p.). Note: these are two additional drafts of the letter dated Dec. 28, 1805, with slight differences.

HM 83687  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. David Ross Esquire personal representatives account current with the estate of Benj. Adams... (1806, Sep.)
           (2 p.)

HM 83688  Adams, Thomas, of Alnwick. Letter to James Corne Pownall (1807, Sep. 10)