Black family papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Black (Family).
Manuscripts Department
The Huntington Library
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May 2, 2017
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Black family papers

Dates (inclusive): 1738-1832

Collection Number: HM 49125-49227

Creator: Black (Family)

Extent: 103 items in 2 boxes

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

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Abstract: The Black family papers contains primarily correspondence between John and Margaret Black and their numerous children and grandchildren. The correspondence deals with family affairs: trade and mercantile interests in Bordeaux, Cadiz, and London as well as familial matters in the period between 1738 and 1837. The papers contain very little of Joseph Black’s scientific work.

Language: English.

Note:

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]. Black family papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

Biographical Note
John Black (1681-1767), native of Belfast of Scottish descent, was a successful wine merchant in Bordeaux, France. In 1716 he married Margaret Gordon, daughter of Robert Gordon, another Scottish wine merchant there. The couple had twelve children, among whom Joseph Black (1728-1799), Edinburgh chemist and physician, was the most famous. Other sons went to trade or related fields. Alexander joined his uncle, Robert Black, in Cadiz, where John Black’s brother Charles was British consul. Following Robert Black’s death (1761), Alexander Black moved to London and established commercial glassworks. James Black was engaged in the sugar-refining industry. John Black retired and moved to the family home in Blamont, Co. Antrim in Ireland, and died there eight years later.

Scope and Content
Chiefly the correspondence between John Black (1681-1767) and his wife Margaret (Gordon) Black and their children and grandchildren concerning family affairs. Includes topics on the family’s various trade and mercantile interests in Bordeaux, Cadiz and London as well as personal family topics. The most famous member of the family, Joseph Black (1728-1799), is represented by his personal life only, with only cursory material on his scientific work. The collection also includes biographical notes on the various members of the Black family as well as several prints and photographs.

The Huntington local manuscripts catalog distinguishes individuals with the same name by the addition of the letters "(a)-(z)". Several individuals in the Black family papers are so distinguished in the finding aid. The individuals are:

- Alexander Black (b) 1729-1813. Businessman in Cadiz and London.
- Alexander Black (c) Active 1813. Son of James Black (c) and nephew of Alexander Black (b)
- George Black (a) 1725-1800. Son of John Black (b)
• George Black (b) Active 1804. Son of George Black (a)
• James Black (c) 1733- Son of John Black (b). Businessman
• John Black (b) 1681-1767. Irish businessman of Scottish descent in Bordeaux, France
• John Black (c) 1717-1782. Son of John Black (b)
• Joseph Black (b) 1728-1799. Scottish chemist
• Robert Black (a) Active 1738-1747. British businessman in Cadiz, Spain.
• Robert Black (b) 1721-1791. Son of John Black (b) and nephew of Robert (a)

Arrangement
Chronological arrangement

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Black, John, 1681-1767 -- Archives.
Black, Joseph, 1728-1799 -- Archives.
Black, Joseph, 1728-1799 -- Family.
Merchants -- Great Britain -- 18th century -- Archives.
Scots -- France -- Bordeaux Region (Acquitaine) -- 18th century -- Archives.
Wine industry -- France -- Bordeaux Region (Acquitaine) -- Archives.
Europe -- Commerce -- History -- 18th century -- Sources.
Europe -- History -- 18th century -- Sources.
Cádiz (Spain) -- Commerce -- 18th century.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- 18th century.
Family papers -- Great Britain -- 18th century.

Additional names
Black, John, 1681-1767.
Black, Joseph, 1728-1799.
Black, Alexander, 1729-1813
Black, Alexander, active 1813
Black, George, 1725-1800
Black, George, active 1804
Black, James, 1733-
Black, John, 1717-1782
Black, Margaret Gordon
Black, Robert, active 1738-1747
Black, Robert, 1721-1791

Box 1

1738-1764
Physical Description: 55 items

Folder 1

1738, July 11. Black, John (b) to Robert Black (a) HM 49164
Physical Description: 1 p.
Cork, Ireland

Folder 2

1738, July 12. Black, Margaret (Gordon) to Brother [Robert Black] (a) HM 49189
Physical Description: 1 p.
Bordeaux, France
Folder 3  1738, July 26. Black, Margaret (Gordon) to Brother [Robert Black] (a) HM 49190  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 4  1738. October 4. Black, Margaret (Gordon) to Brother Robert Black (a) HM 49191  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 5  1738, November 16. Black, Margaret (Gordon) to Brother [Robert Black] (a) HM 49192  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 6  1739, February 7. Black, John (b) to Robert Black (a) HM 49165  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 7  1739, August 11. Black, Charles to John Black (b) HM 49130  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
London

Folder 8  1744, August 22. Black, John (c) to Robert Black (a) HM 49177  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 9  1744, October 3. Black, John (b) to Robert Black (a) HM 49166  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 10  1746, February 12. Black, John (b) to Robert Black (a) HM 49167  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 11  1746, March 7. Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b) HM 49150  
Physical Description: 1 p.  

Folder 12  1747, July 4. Black, John (b) to Robert Black (a) HM 49168  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 13  1748, September 21. Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b) HM 49151  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 14  1750, March 18. Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b) HM 49152  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France

Folder 15  1750, November 7. Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b) HM 49153  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Bordeaux, France
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<td>Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b)</td>
<td>Bordeaux, France</td>
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<td>1751, June 19</td>
<td>Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b)</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>1761, August 1.</td>
<td>Burnett, Isabella [[(Black)]] to Sandy [i.e., Alexander Black?] (b)</td>
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<td>1761, October 5.</td>
<td>Simon, Isaac to [Alexander Black] (b)</td>
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<td>[approximately early 1762?]</td>
<td>Burnett, Isabella (Black)]] to Brother [i.e., Alexander Black] (b)</td>
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<td>Black, Thomas (a) to Alexander Black (b)</td>
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<td>Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b)</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>1763, November.</td>
<td>[Black, Alexander] (b) to [John Black] (b)</td>
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<td>Black, Robert (b) to Alexander, Black (b)</td>
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<td>Simon, Isaac to Alexander Black (b)</td>
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<td>Simon, Isaac to Alexander Black (b)</td>
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1764, December 8. Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b)  HM 49161
   Physical Description: 2 p.
   Belfast

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1765-1832  
Physical Description: 48 items

Folder 1  
1765, February 13. Black, Robert (b) to Alexander Black (b)  HM 49207
   Physical Description: 3 p.
   Douglas, Isle of Man

Folder 2  
1767, July 30. Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b) and James Black (c)  HM 49162
   Physical Description: 1 p.
   Belfast

Folder 3  
1767, September 28. Black, John (b) to Alexander Black (b) and James Black (c)  HM 49163
   Physical Description: 1 p.
   Belfast

Folder 4  
1768, June 9. Articles of Agreement . . . Relative to a marriage now intended between John Decluzeau and Esther Black.  HM 49227
   Physical Description: 3 p.
   Dublin

Folder 5  
1768, September 29. Black, Robert (b) and others to Alexander Black (b) and James Black (c)  HM 49209
   Physical Description: 4 p.
   Belfast

Folder 6  
1768, October 25. Black, Robert (b) to Alexander Black (b)  HM 49208
   Physical Description: 4 p.
   Castlehill, North Ireland

Folder 7  
1769, January 23. Turnly, Francis (a) to Alexander Black (b) and James Black (c)  HM 49222
   Physical Description: 1 p.
   Newton Ards, County Down, North Ireland

Folder 8  
1771, April 9. Black, George (a) to Alexander Black (b) and James Black (c)  HM 49135
   Physical Description: 1 p.
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Folder 9  
1782, September 10. Black, Alexander (b) to "Brother".  HM 49126
   Physical Description: 2 p.
   Albion Place (London)

Folder 10  
1785, January 3. Black, James (c) to Matthew Black.  HM 49142
   Physical Description: 2 p.
   London?
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<td>Black, Joseph (b) to Alexander Black (b) [facsimile]</td>
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<td>Black, Joseph (b) to &quot;Brother&quot; Alexander Black (b)</td>
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<td>1788, January 14.</td>
<td>Black, Joseph (b) to &quot;Brother&quot; Alexander Black (b) or James Black (c)</td>
<td>HM 49185</td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 p. Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1788, February 23.</td>
<td>Black, Joseph (b) to &quot;Brother&quot; Alexander Black (b) or James Black (c)</td>
<td>HM 49186</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 p. Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>1788, July 9.</td>
<td>Black, Joseph (b) to &quot;Brother&quot; Alexander Black (b)</td>
<td>HM 49180</td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 p. Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>1789, July 11.</td>
<td>Black, Joseph (b) to &quot;Brother&quot; Alexander Black (b) or James Black (c)</td>
<td>HM 49187</td>
<td>Physical Description: 1 p. Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1789, July 18. Black, Joseph (b) to "Brother" Alexander Black (b) or James Black (c)  
HM 49188  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Edinburgh

1791, February 20. Black, Joseph (b) to "Brother" Alexander Black (b) HM 49181  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
Edinburgh

1791, March 11. Black, Joseph (b) to James Black (c) HM 49184  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Edinburgh

1791, July 31. Black, Joseph (b) to "Brother" Alexander Black (b) HM 49182  
Physical Description: 2 p.  
Edinburgh

1792, October 22. Black, Alexander (b) to Bernardo del Campo y Perez de la Serna, marques del Campo. HM 49127  
Physical Description: 2 p.  
Albion Place (London)  
Includes fragment of the printed "Memorial, [etc.] regarding a debt due by the Crown of Spain to Alexander Black..." 1783.

1793, October 21. Black, Joseph (b) to Alexander Black (b) HM 49183  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Edinburgh

1800, March 6. Turnly, John to Alexander Black? (b) HM 49226  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Belfast

1804, March 28. Black, George (b) to James Black (c) HM 49139  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Dublin

1805, April 17. Black, James (c) to Matthew Black. HM 49147  
Physical Description: 2 p.

1807, October 12. Black, James (c) to Matthew Black. HM 49148  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
London

1808, May 30. Black, Thomas (b) to "My Dear Uncle". HM 49213  
Physical Description: 4 p.  
Prince of Wales Island (Pinang, Malaysia)

1808, October 27. Black, James (c) to Matthew Black. HM 49149  
Physical Description: 2 p.  
St. George's (London)
Folder 35  
1808, October 17. Black, James (c) to George Black (b)  HM 49141  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
London, St. George's, Surry Road

Folder 36  
1809, August 30. Black, Matthew to George Black? (b)  HM 49195  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Dublin

Folder 37  
1809, September 10. Black, George (b) to Alexander Black (b)  HM 49136  
Physical Description: 4 p.  
Stranmillis (Belfast)

Folder 38  
1811, July. Black, George (b) to Alexander Black (b)  HM 49137  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
Stranmillis (Belfast)

Folder 39  
1812, March 24. Black, Matthew to Alexander Black (b)  HM 49194  
Physical Description: 2 p.  
Dublin

Folder 40  
1812, October 18. Black, George (b) to Alexander Black (b)  HM 49138  
Physical Description: 4 p.  
Stranmillis (Belfast)

Folder 41  
1813, August 6. Black, Alexander (c) to Matthew Black.  HM 49129  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
London

Folder 42  
1814, February 11. Black, Noah Robert to Alexander Black (c)  HM 49197  
Physical Description: 2 p.  
Newton (Wakefield, Yorkshire)

Folder 43  
1814, April 30. Black Marie Des Coste to Alexander Black (c)  HM 49193  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Newton near Wakefield (Yorkshire, England)

Folder 44  
1815, March 9. Black, Matthew to Marie del Coste Black.  HM 49196  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Dublin

Folder 45  
1815, August 23. Black, Noah Robert to Alexander Black (c)  HM 49198  
Physical Description: 3 p.  
Newton near Wakefield (Yorkshire, England)

Folder 46  
1816, April 15. Black, Alexander (c) to "Brother".  HM 49128  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
London

Folder 47  
1823, February 20. Black, Noah Robert to Matthew Black.  HM 49199  
Physical Description: 1 p.  
Wakefield (Yorkshire)
Folder 48

1832, April 16. Cawood, I to Noah Robert Black. HM 49216

Physical Description: 4 p.

Dublin