Collection of Jonathan Swift materials: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Collection of Jonathan Swift materials

Dates (inclusive): 1698-1881

Bulk dates: 1720-1745

Collection Number: mssHM 1599, etc.

Additional Collection Numbers: mssHM 1599, mssHM 14326-14390, mssHM 22660; mssHM 24016-HM 24018; mssHM 27942-HM 27943; mssHM 31303; mssHM 51865

Creator: Swift, Jonathan, 1667-1745.

Extent: 74 items in 1 box and 1 volume

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Abstract: This collection contains 74 pieces related to Anglo-Irish writer, satirist and cleric Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), chiefly representing his later life in Ireland from the 1720s to the late 1730s. Documents include manuscripts in Swift’s hand, or contemporary copies, as well as letters and verse to and from Swift and his friends, and documents endorsed by Swift or once in his possession.

Language: English.

Note:
Finding aid last updated on November 20, 2015.

Access

Items are available with curatorial approval. Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation


Provenance

Most of the items described in this finding aid were purchased by Henry E. Huntington from William K. Bixby in 1918. Additional acquisitions include:

- HM 1599, HM 14381-14390, HM 24016, and HM 24018, purchased by Henry E. Huntington from Charles Sessler, April and August 1925.
- HM 22660, purchased by Henry E. Huntington from E. Dwight Church, March 31, 1916 (Lot 1130, Anderson Galleries, New York City).
- HM 27943, purchased from Christie’s, December 18, 1964 (Lot 85).

Specific provenance information is written on the item folder.

Custodial History

Many of these manuscripts were originally owned by Theophilus Swift (1746-1815), who inherited them upon the death of his father, Deane Swift (1707-1783) of Goodrich, Hereford, who was a cousin, editor, and biographer of Jonathan Swift. Some of these items had previously belonged to Martha Swift Harrison Whiteway (died 1768), Jonathan Swift’s cousin, and Theophilus Swift’s grandmother. Following Theophilus Swift’s death in 1815, the manuscripts came into the possession of London merchant James Smith; they were later purchased by Frederick Locker (later Frederick Locker-Lampson) for his...
Rowfant Library in July 1877 from Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge. The Rowfant Library was purchased by New York collector Eilhu Dwight Church in 1895, who moved the collection to the United States and in the early 1900s began selling portions of it. Around 1905-1908, William J. Bixby purchased most of the manuscripts originally held by Theophilus Swift, and then sold them to Henry E. Huntington in 1918, in a sale arranged by dealer George D. Smith. Mayhew, George P. Rage or Raillery: The Swift Manuscripts at the Huntington Library (Huntington Library, 1967) contains a detailed description of the provenance of the collection.

Biographical Note
Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) was an Anglo-Irish writer, satirist, and cleric known for his satirical works including Gulliver's Travels (1726) and A Modest Proposal (1729). Swift was born in Dublin, Ireland, on November 30, 1667. He received a BA from Trinity College, Dublin, in 1686, an MA from Hart Hall, Oxford, in 1692, and a Doctorate of Divinity from Trinity College in 1702. Swift was ordained as a priest in the Established Church of Ireland in 1695. In the early 1700s, Swift was frequently in London, England, and was an active political writer and Tory propagandist. Following the fall of the Tory government, Swift returned to Ireland and became Dean of St. Patrick's Church in Dublin, serving from 1713 until his death. Swift died on October 19, 1745.

Scope and Content
This collection contains 74 pieces related to Anglo-Irish writer and cleric Jonathan Swift, chiefly representing his later life in Ireland from the 1720s to the late 1730s. Documents include manuscripts in Swift's hand, or contemporary copies, as well as letters to and from Swift and his friends, and documents endorsed by Swift or once in his possession.

Twenty-seven of the manuscripts are in Swift's hand, with additional pieces endorsed, annotated by, or addressed to him. The holographs include unique versions of four of Swift's poems composed by him in Ireland between 1719 and 1734 (HM 14336, HM 14335, HM 14339, and HM 14338, fol. 12b), as well as two copies in contemporary hands of Swift's poems (HM 14340 and HM 14345).

The correspondence includes 11 letters from Swift to London Alderman John Barber, dated 1732-1733. Additional correspondents, chiefly represented by one to three letters, include Swift's cousin Martha Swift Harrison Whiteway and John Boyle, 5th Earl of Orrery & of Cork. Notably, the collection includes Swift's 1723 "A Letter to a Young Lady on Her Marriage" (HM 1559), containing 18-pages of advice and commentary by Swift about women and marriage.

Among the manuscripts, there are poems shared between Swift and his friends, with verse penned by Moore Booker, Irish member of Parliament George Rochfort, Patrick Delany, classical scholar Thomas Sheridan, Reverend William Dunkin, and John Boyle, 5th Earl of Cork and Orrery.

In addition, there are a few other manuscripts relating to Deane Swift and some 19th century letters related to use of the Theophilus Swift Papers.

• Broadside by Jonathan Swift and others (143198-143259)
• Aitken, George A. To the Editor of Literature about Swift's Journal to Stella. January 11, 1902 (mssHM 31458)
• Coghill, Marmaduke. To Edward Southwell, 1728 (mssHM 28672 and mssHM 28678)
• Pope, Alexander. To Samuel Gerrard, 1740 May 17 (mssHM 6930)
• Swift, Jonathan. The works of J. S, D.D, D.S.P.D. in four volumes (81494). Volume II contains contemporary manuscript copies of poems from two works: six passages omitted from On Poetry: A Rhapsody (1733) and of "A Letter to a Lady" (1735, i.e. Epistle to a Lady).

Arrangement
The collection consists of 1 box of materials arranged in 2 series:

• Manuscripts
• Correspondence

With one additional piece of correspondence housed separately as a bound volume: Swift, Jonathan. [A Letter to a Young Lady on Her Marriage]. 1722/3, February 11 (HM 1599). HM 1599 is listed at the end of this finding aid.

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

Subjects
Authors, Irish -- 18th century -- Archives.
Swift, Jonathan, 1667-1745 -- Archives.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- Ireland -- 18th century.
Poems -- Ireland -- 18th century.
Songs -- Ireland -- 18th century.

Contributors
Barber, John, 1675-1740, correspondent.
Booker, Moore, 1686 or 1687-
Delany, Patrick, 1685 or 1686-1768.
Locker-Lampson, Frederick, 1821-1895, former owner.
Orrery, John Boyle, Earl of, 1707-1762.
Pope, Alexander, 1688-1744.
Rochfort, George.
Sheridan, Thomas, 1687-1738.
Swift, Deane, 1707-1783.
Swift, Theophilus, 1746-1815, former owner.
Whiteway, Martha (Swift) Harrison, -1768.

Box 1  Boxed material

Manuscripts
Arrangement
Items arranged alphabetically by author, and then alphabetically by title. Unidentified authors are listed at the end.

HM 14352. [Booker, Moore]. An Elegiac poem on ye Death of ye Rt honble Mary Ponsonby late Countess of Drogheda ... [approximately 1736].
   Physical Description: Ms. 5 p.
   Poem in 120 lines. Endorsed: "By Mr. Booker."

HM 14353. [Booker, Moore]. A Tale. [approximately 1736?].
   Physical Description: Ms. 3 p.
   Poem in 90 lines. Endorsed: "Verses by Mr. Booker. Various Hands" (last two words crossed out).

HM 14354. [Boyle, John, 5th Earl of Orrery & of Cork]. To Mr. Pope [poem]. [1733].
   Physical Description: Ms. 1 p.
   Poem in 8 lines, complimenting Alexander Pope on his epitaph on John Gay. Endorsed by Jonathan Swift: "... on Mr. Pope's Epitaph on Gay."

HM 14358. [Calder, John]. [Annotations relative to Jonathan Swift's Character of the Earl of Wharton. [1786].
   Physical Description: Ms. 3 p.

Physical Description: Ms. 3 p.
Poem in 66 lines.

HM 14360. [Davys, Catherine (Maccarty), Viscountess Mountcashell]. Docter Ratliff's prescription for a noissey in the head & deffness proceeding from a cold moyst humor in the head. [1733 November 8].

Physical Description: Ms. 1 p.
Endorsed by Swift: “A. Novr 8th 1733. Dr. Ratcliffs Receit for Deafness, sent by my Lady Montcashel.”

HM 14361. Dawncy. A Farewell to the Audience written by Mas[ter] Dawncy. [approximately 1735?].

Physical Description: Ms. 2 p.
Poem in 36 lines.

HM 14362. [Delany, Patrick?]. Peg Ratcliff the Hostess's Invitation to Dean Swift. Written with a design to be spoken by her on his arrival at Glasnevin, Doctor Delany having Complimented him with a House there. [approximately 1735].

Physical Description: Ms. 1 p.
Poem in 24 lines.

HM 14363. [Dunkin, William]. [...] of the Furniture belonging to [...]s Room in T[rinity] C[ollege] D[ublin]. In imitation of Dr. Swift's [...] written in ye year 1725. [1733 October 30].

Physical Description: Ms. 2 p.
Poem in 38 lines. Endorsed by Swift: "Oct. 30th 1733. By Mr. D--n."

HM 14364. [Dunkin, William ?]. A full and true Vindication of Sir Thom[as] P[redergast] from the many scandalous Libels lately written against him, with the Resolutions of the House. By a Member of the House of Commons. [1736.]

Physical Description: Ms. 7 p.

HM 14328. [Johnson, Esther?]. Stella to the Dean on his Birthday. 1722 November 30.

Physical Description: Ms. 3 p.
Poem in 58 lines.

HM 14366. [Karl XII, King of Sweden]. Effigies Corporis & Animi Caroli XII Sueciae Regis, a Polono Nobili descripta. [approximately 1709].

Physical Description:
Account of the King of Sweden in Latin, with poem in 10 lines on the recto of the last leaf: "Supra Stragem Regis Sueciae ad Pultavam." Endorsed by Swift: "Account of the K. of Sweden about An. 1709."

HM 14368. [Rochfort, George]. Musa Clonshoghiana. 1717 January 1.

Physical Description: 1 p. Address on verso of second leaf.
Bellcampe [Ireland]. Poem in 15 lines, addressed to Swift. Endorsed twice by Swift: "G. Rochfort Verses."
HM 14333 (a + b). Scott, Sir Walter, 1st Bart. [Note in preface to his 2d edition of the *Works of J. Swift*, acknowledging the use of certain papers of Swift then in the possession of James Smith]. 1824.

Physical Description: Ms. 2 p.
In the handwriting of James Smith; endorsed by Smith at Bideford, 1824 September 2. With a late 19th-century copy (4 pp.) of the same note with further quotations from the second edition in the hand of Frederick Locker-Lampson.

HM 14371. [Sheridan, Thomas ?]. *English Blunders*. [approximately 1733?-approximately 1761].

Physical Description: Ms. 2 p.

HM 14335. Sheridan, Thomas. *The five Ladies Answer to the Beau With the Wig and Wings at his head*. [1728?]

Physical Description: Ms. 2 p.
Poem in 7 stanzas of 4 lines each. Followed by Swift in 4 stanzas of 4 lines each, “The Beau’s reply to the five Ladies Answer” (A.Ms. 1 p.). Endorsed twice by Swift: “Sher[iden] Jan. 5 Ladies answer to the Beau” and “Sheridans answer to the Beau, and the Beau’s reply.”

HM 14370. [Sheridan, Thomas ?]. *Punch to the Ladies his Petition*. [1724?].

Physical Description: Ms. 4 p.
Poem in 107 lines. Endorsed: “Punch’s Petition to the Ladies.” Attributed to Sheridan by Sir Walter Scott.

HM 14336. Sheridan, Thomas. *To [Jonathan Swift]*. [approximately 1735?]

Physical Description: A.Ms.S. 1 p.
Letter written in verse in 13 lines, with a P.S. in 3 lines. Followed by a reply in 34 lines of verse by Swift to Sheridan, dated December 15th (A.Ms. 1 p.) Endorsed thrice by Swift: “Verses Sher[ida]n”; “Some times Sher[id]n & I”; and “Sherid[a]n & I.”


Physical Description: Ms. 3 p.
Poem in 68 lines. Endorsed: “A new Year’s Gift for the Dean of St. Patrick’s given him at Quilcah, 1723/4.”

HM 14338. [Swift, Jonathan]. *Anglo Angli* [approximately 1734].

Physical Description: A.Mss. 27 p. (14 leaves, 16mo. & 1 leaf, 8vo.)

HM 14339. [Swift, Jonathan]. *An Answer To a late scandalous Poem, wherein the Author most audaciously presumes to compare a Cloud to a Woman. By Dennis Nephelee, chief Cap of Howth*. [1732].

Physical Description: A.Ms. 10 p.
Poem (early draft) in 180 lines. Endorsed by Swift: “Answer to Clouds. Quy Shall it go. Lin 180 Mine but of no use”
HM 14340. [Swift, Jonathan]. An Answer to the Ballyspellin Ballad. [1728].
Physical Description: Ms. 3 p.
Not autograph. In 15 Stanzas of 6 lines each.

HM 14341. [Swift, Jonathan]. A Consult. and other Latin Angl. [A Consultation and other Lantin Angli]. [approximately 1734?].
Physical Description: A.Mss. 8 p.
Part of Polite Conversation (1738). Also contains a portion of "A Consult of Four Physicians about a Lord that was dying" and Anglo-Latin jottings for Thomas Sheridan.

HM 14342. [Swift, Jonathan]. A Dialogue in Hyberian Stile between A and B. [1733?].
Physical Description: A.Ms. 2 p.
A specimen of Irishisms, intended for Thomas Sheridan.

HM 14343. [Swift, Jonathan]. Irish Eloquence [1733].
Physical Description: A.Ms. 2 p.
A specimen of the provincial dialect of Ireland, intended for Thomas Sheridan.

Physical Description: A.Ms. 2 p.
Removed from A Tale of a Tub (RB 106600) in 1986.

HM 14344. [Swift, Jonathan]. Men Famous for Their Learning, Wit, or great Employments or Quality of My Acquaintance Who are Dead, [and] Men of Distinction and My Friends Who are yet Alive. 1728/29 February 19.
Physical Description: A.Ms. 3 p.

HM 14380. [Swift, Jonathan?]. [Notes referring to the History of the Four Last Years of the Queen?]. [approximately 1712].
Physical Description: A.Ms. 1 p.
Notes for vol. IV of History of the Four Last Years of the Queen.

HM 14345. [Swift, Jonathan]. On Bishop Rundle. [1734/35 February ?].
Physical Description: Ms. 2 leaves 8vo.
Poem in 66 lines, in the handwriting of Deane Swift.

HM 27943. [Swift, Jonathan]. Prefermnts of Ireland. [1713, December].
Physical Description: A.Ms. 1 p.
A list of Swift's suggested appointments to bishoprics, etc.

Physical Description: A.Ms. 3 p.
The headings for a pamphlet which was apparently never written, with, on the verso, a draft of proposals for establishing a fellowship at Trinity College, Dublin, part of Swift's will.
HM 14347. **Swift, Jonathan. To Mrs. Martha Whiteway [directions to Martha [(Swift) Harrison] Whiteway in the event of Swift's death.] 1737 April 22.**

**Physical Description:** A.Ms.S. 3 p.

Directions to be followed in the event of Swift's death. With seal. Witnessed by Anne (Brent) Ridgeway and Alexander Broncers (?). Endorsed by Swift: "For Mrs. Whiteway to read and keep when finished. Codicill. Apr. 16, 1737."

HM 27942. **Swift, Jonathan. "Your mouldring walls are mending still" [with other verse]. 1724-1725**

**Physical Description:** Ms. 8 p.

Swift is the attributed author of an untitled poem on the last page beginning "Written by Dean Swift in Chester 1725 / Your mouldring walls are mending still..." Also contains eight other ballads and poems associated with Swift, dated 1724 ("A Dialogue between the old Gent that looks over Lincoln and the old Gent on ye new Church in Bloomsbury"); "An Epistle from Jack Sheppard to the E-l of M-----d"; "When York to Heave lifts one solemn Eye..."; "A New Ballad occasioned by a late Edict of the Pope for taxing & limiting the publick stews at Rome, Tune, You fair Ladies."; "Upon the Death of Mrs. Bowes who dyed in ten weeks after she was married."

HM 14348. **Vanhomrigh, Esther. Last will and testament. 1723 May 1.**

**Physical Description:** Contemporary copy. 3 p.


HM 14374. **[Unknown author] The Faithfull Few. An Ode Inscribed to all Lovers of their Country. 1734**

**Physical Description:** Ms. 7 p.

Poem of 12 stanzas in a contemporary hand. Endorsed by Swift: "Scotch [?]".


**Physical Description:** Ms. 4 p.

Poem in 12 stanzas.

HM 14376. **[Unknown author] "In vain d[ea]r Chloe you suggest..." [approximately 1735?]**

**Physical Description:** Ms. 1 p.

Song in 5 stanzas in an unidentified hand.

HM 14367. **[Unknown author] [Inscription and two verses on Lady Rochford's birthday]. [approximately 1745?].**

**Physical Description:**

Inscription to Lucy, Countess of Rochford in Latin, and 2 verses in English.

HM 14377. **[Unknown author] "Not half so Charming seem'd the Queen of Love..." [approximately 1735?]**

**Physical Description:** Ms. 2 p.

Song in 7 stanzas in an unidentified hand.
HM 14378. [Unknown author] On seeing some Verses of Lord Landsowne's subscribed John Hind. [1735 June].
Physical Description:
Contains Swift's endorsement: "Verses every one good but the last best. R Jun-1735"

HM 14379. [Unknown author] Sir *** Speech upon the Sea [...] To the Tune of the Abbot of Canterbury. 1739
Physical Description: Ms. 3 p.
Ballad in 10 stanzas of 4 lines each. In the handwriting of Deane Swift.

Correspondence
Arrangement
Items arranged alphabetically by author and then by recipient and date.

Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.
London.

Physical Description: A.L.S. 4 p.
Duke Street, Westminster, [London] The first portion of the letter, occupying 1 1/2 p., is in the hand of Orrery; the remainder in the hand of Pope. Each portion is signed by the writer.

Physical Description: A.L.S. 3 p.
[Caledon] [Ireland].

Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.
Caledon [Ireland].

Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.
Marson [Ireland].

Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.
Hill Side, Notting Hill Square [London]. Concerning the use of the Theophilus Swift Papers

HM 14365. Garbet, -----.. Note to Mr. & Mrs. Swift. [approximately 1775].
Physical Description: A.N.S. 1 p.
Note presenting his compliments, particularly to Miss Swift, to him he returns the latter part of her "ingenious MS."
   Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.
   Edinburgh [Scotland].

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.
   Passionate letter from a female admirer, using a fictitious name, begging Swift to publish a reply in Faulkner's Journal.

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.
   96 Piccadilly [London]. Concerning the use of the Theophilus Swift Papers

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.
   Abbotsford Melrose [Scotland]. Concerning the use of the Theophilus Swift Papers

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.
   Edin[burgh] [Scotland]. Concerning the use of the Theophilus Swift Papers

HM 14334. Smith, James. Note to Sir Walter Scott, 1st Bart. 1820 April 5.
   Physical Description: A.N.S. 1 p.
   Note accompanying a parcel of papers of Jonathan Swift, being lent to Scott for use in his 2nd edition of Swift's works.

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.
   Dublin [Ireland].

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.
   Dublin [Ireland].

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 1 p.
   Dublin [Ireland].

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 3 p.

   Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.
   Dublin [Ireland].
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection of Jonathan Swift materials: Finding Aid</th>
<th>mssHM 1599, etc. mssHM 1599, mssHM 14326-14390, mssHM 22660; mssHM 24016-HM 24018; mssHM 27942-HM 27943; mssHM 31303; mssHM 51865</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HM 14372. Swift, Jonathan. Letter to Deane Swift. 1735 October 10.</strong></td>
<td>Physical Description: A.L.S. (?) 1 p. fol. Dublin [Ireland]. Not in Swift's hand. The authorship of this letter is not certain, although it has been universally attributed to Swift. See also HM 31303, another version of the same letter, dated January 18, 1793.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HM 14350. Whiteway, Martha (Swift) Harrison. To [one of the executors of Jonathan Swift]. 1745 October 22.</strong></td>
<td>Physical Description: A.L.S. 2 p.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Loose volume

HM 1599. **Swift, Jonathan. [A Letter to a Young Lady on Her Marriage]. 1722/3, February 11.**

Physical Description: A.Ms. S. 18 p.Mounted in a volume.

Deanry House, [Dublin, Ireland]. The addressee was probably Mrs. John Rochfort (Deborah Staunton Rochfort).