Finding Aid for the Sir Thomas Phillipps Collection on Publishing and Bookselling 1749-1835

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Sir Thomas Phillipps Collection on Publishing and Bookselling, 1749-1835

Collection number: MS.2004.006

Collector: Phillipps, Thomas, Sir, 1792-1872

Extent: 1 box (2.5 linear inches)

Repository: William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Los Angeles, California 90018


Physical location: Clark Library

Language of Material: Collection materials in English, with some French

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation


Acquisition Information

Originally from the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps, some letters collected here still bear his manuscript numbers. Later, part of the H.P. Kraus inventory auctioned at Sotheby's New York, December 5, 2003, lot 519.

Purchased by the Clark Library in 2003.

Processing History

Processed by Rebecca Fenning, September 2009.

Biographical Note

Sir Thomas Phillipps was a book and manuscript collector from young adulthood, who amassed the largest manuscript collection of the 19th century. He was born in 1792, the illegitimate son of a textile manufacturer, and began collecting while a student at Rugby and later at Oxford. Though he inherited a substantial estate upon his father's death, his bibliomania and "vello-mania" (his obsession with manuscripts on vellum) resulted in his being nearly perpetually in debt. After Phillipps' death in 1872, his library was left to his youngest daughter and her family. Beginning in 1885, they began to disperse the collection at a series of sales that only ended in 1977, when New York dealers H.P. Kraus purchased the remainder.

Scope and Content

Letters related to publishing and bookselling from the collection of legendary collector Sir Thomas Phillipps. The 34 items in this collection date from approximately 1749 to 1835, and contain letters from a wide variety of booksellers, printers, authors, readers, clergymen, foreign dignitaries and antiquaries. Many letters concern ordering books from printers and booksellers, while other letters concern payments due to authors and discussions of books. Some letters bear Phillipps' manuscript catalog numbers. Many also still bear seals and postmarks.

Arrangement

Letters are arranged in the original order in which they arrived at the Clark Library. It is unclear whether this arrangement was imposed by Sotheby's, Kraus or even Phillipps.

Related Material

Additional correspondence from booksellers Cadell & Davies and other contemporaries in the William Roscoe Collection, (MS.2008.023).

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Subjects
Cadell & Davies
H.P. Kraus (Firm)
Hurst, Robinson, and Co.
Lackington, Allen and Co.
R. and J. Dodsley
Ashby, George, 1724-1808
Bacon, Richard Mackenzie, ca. 1775-1844
Bathurst, Charles
Bosanquet, George
Boyde, John, 1719-1804
Buchanan, Claudius, 1766-1815
Buckinghamshire, John Hobart, Earl of, 1722-1793
Cadell, Thomas, 1773-1836
Conybeare, J. J. (John Josias), 1779-1824
Fenn, John, 1739-1794
Florian, J. B. (Jolly B.)
Gaskin, George, 1751-1829
Lackington, George, 1768-1844
Lackington, James, 1746-1815
Laird, James, d. 1840
Lambert, Aylmer Bourke, 1761-1842
Leroy de Barde, Alexandre-Isidore, 1777-1828
Lovechild, Mrs., 1743-1813
Mordente, John Emmanuel
Noble, Mark, 1754-1827
Northumberland, Hugh Percy, Duke of, 1742-1817
Nourse, J. (John), d. 1780
Planquais, Thomas
Stockdale, John, 1749-1814
Stuart de Rothesay, Charles Stuart, Baron, 1779-1845
Tucker, Josiah, 1712-1799
Wimpffen, Alexandre-Stanislas, baron de
Wrangham, Francis, 1769-1842
Booksellers and bookselling--England--18th century
Booksellers and bookselling--England--19th century
Publishers and publishing--England--18th century
Publishers and publishing--England--19th century
Genres and Forms
Letters--England--18th century
Letters--England--19th century

Box 1, Folder 1

Letters to John Stockdale, 1787-1806
Physical Description: 3 items
Scope and Content Note
Box 1, Folder 2  Letters to Cadell and Davies, 1797-1835  
Physical Description: 4 items  
Scope and Content Note  
1 letter from Claudius Buchanan, 6 Dec. 1811; 1 letter from Alexandre-Stanislas, Baron de Wimpffen, 23 May 1797; 1 letter from Charles Bathurst, 23 Feb. 1797; 1 letter from James Laird, 16 Sept. 1835.

Box 1, Folder 3  Letter from Josiah Tucker to R. & J. Dodsley, 1763  
Physical Description: 1 item  
Scope and Content Note  
Letter from Josiah Tucker, Dean of Gloucester to "Doddersley" [sic]. Small hole in the center of letter, with some loss of text.

Box 1, Folder 4  Letters to W. Booth, bookseller, from the Duke of Northumberland, 1808, undated  
Physical Description: 4 items  
Scope and Content Note  
3 letters from the Duke of Northumberland to W. Booth, Duke Street, Portland Place, ca. 1800; 1 portrait engraving of the Duke, 1808.

Box 1, Folder 5  Letters to John Nourse, 1749-1777, undated  
Physical Description: 6 letters  
Scope and Content Note  
1 letter in French from M. Lostau, 10 July 1749; 1 letter in French from M. Palomba, 23 July 1777; from M. Montpellier, 27 March 1765; 1 letter in French from Th. Tyrrell, 25 Jan. 1766; 1 letter in French from M. Bourdillon, 9 Feb. 1749; 1 letter in English from Mr. Demorande, ca. 1770s. Several letters are docketed by Nourse or someone in his office.

Box 1, Folder 6  Letters to James and George Lackington, 1806-1814, undated  
Physical Description: 4 items  
Scope and Content Note  
1 letter from the Chevalier de Barde, undated; 1 letter from Bianchi (?), 4 March 1814; 1 letter from Thomas Planquais, 4 July 1808; 1 letter from John Emmanuel Mordente, 14 March 1806.

Box 1, Folder 7  Letter from Francis Wrangham to printer Mr. Smeeton, undated  
Physical Description: 1 item

Box 1, Folder 8  Letters to and from Lady Eleanor Fenn and Sir John Fenn, 1791-1792, undated  
Physical Description: 4 letters  
Scope and Content Note  
2 letters from Eleanor Fenn to Richard M. Bacon, bookseller in Norwich, 18--?; 1 letter from a Mr. Johnson to Lady Fenn, 6 Dec. 1792; 1 letter from John Hobart, Earl of Buckingham to Sir John Fenn, 10 Oct. 1791 with annotations by Sir Fenn.

Box 1, Folder 9  Letters to John Boydell, and Hurst, Robinson & Co., 1801, 1821, undated  
Physical Description: 4 letters  
Scope and Content Note  
1 letter from General-Brigadier Hansson to John Boydell, 29 May 1801; 2 letters from A. Bourke Lambert to Hurst, Robinson & Co., August 1821; 1 letter to J.O. Robinson from James Lambert, undated.

Box 1, Folder 10  Letter from George Bosanquet to Sir Charles Stuart, 6 May 1824  
Physical Description: 1 item
Box 1, Folder 11  
**Letter from George Ashby to Rev. Mills, Bury St. Edmunds, 5 July 1791**  
Physical Description: 1 item

Box 1, Folder 12  
**Letters to Rev. Dr. Gaskin, 1807-1811**  
Physical Description: 2 items  
Scope and Content Note  
1 letter from the Swedish Church in London, 21 July 1811; 1 letter from John Josiah Conybeare, 6 Oct. 1807;