

**MS 3147/3/525**  
**SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS**  
**THOMAS TELFORD – MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS**  
**1795—1832**

INTRODUCTION

Letters from Thomas Telford, from 1795 to 1832. The letters mainly concern pumping engines for canals, water works and docks, including the Ellesmere Canal, the Caledonian Canal, Glasgow Water Works, Holyhead docks and St. Katharine's Dock.

This bundle is an artificial one. The letters were gathered together by Henry Hazleton in the 1890s, and many show signs of having been displayed in wall cases and mounted in guard books. The letters appear to have been mainly removed from the now missing post-1798 Drawing Office correspondence, as most of the docketts are by John Southern. The bundle also contains several sheets of calculations by Southern, a letter from Watt to Southern, and a letter from John Telford of 23 March 1806.

1. Letter. Thomas Telford (Shrewsbury) to James Watt [?] [Soho]. 25 Apr. 1795.  
*Docketed by John Southern.*  
*Docketed "For Ellesmere Canal Co."*
2. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to James Watt (Soho). 13 May 1800.  
*Docketed "Will call and see the little engine at work."*
3. Letter. Thomas Telford (Chester) to James Watt (Birmingham). 17 Aug. 1800.  
*Docketed "Wanting estimate."*
4. Letter. Thomas Telford (Inverness) to James Watt (Heathfield). 9 Aug. 1804.  
*The outside of the letter is directed to Boulton & Watt, Soho. Docketed by John Southern.*  
*Docketed "Caledonian Canal – T. Telford. Orders 2 steam engines."*
5. Letter. Thomas Telford (Inverness) to Thomas Southern [sic] (Soho). 25 Aug. 1804.  
*Docketed "Caledonian Canal – Mr. Telford. Orders a 3<sup>rd</sup> engine. The large and small one first wanted. No peculiarities in the situation of them."*
6. Letter. Thomas Telford (Fort William) to John Southern (Soho). 24 Sep. 1804.  
*Docketed "Proposes 20 horse engine to be at the Western end. Directs how to be sent."*
7. Letter. Thomas Telford (Edinburgh) to John Southern (Soho). 4 Oct. 1804.  
*The outside of the letter is directed to Boulton Watt & Co. Docketed by M. R. Boulton.*  
*Docketed "Drawings to be addressed to him at Shrewsbury. Engines to be completed with all possible expedition."*
8. Letter. Thomas Telford (Shrewsbury) to John Southern (Soho). 21 Jan. 1805.  
*Docketed "Wishes to know when the Caledonian [Canal engines will be ready]."*
9. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 30 Mar. 1805.  
*Docketed "Has ordered his bankers at Shrewsbury to remit for the amount of the Caledonian engines. Requests a receipt. Orders duplicate boilers and apparatus."*

10. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to John Southern (Soho). 6 Feb. 1805.  
*Mis-docketed as John Telford. Docketed by ?*  
*Docketed "Is pleased to learn that the engines are in such a state of forwardness. Will be ready to pay for them when delivered. Will let us know how high the injection is to be raised and wishes us to furnish the pipes. Will give directions about forwarding the engines."*
11. Letter. Thomas Telford (Salopian Coffee House, Charing Cross, London) to John Southern (Soho). 25 Feb. 1805.  
*Docketed "Orders pipes for the cold water pumps of the 3 engines – Caledonian Canal. Duplicate boilers advisable. Destination of the engines."*
12. Letter. Thomas Telford (Shrewsbury) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 17 Mar. 1805.  
*Docketed "Proposes passing through Birmingham. Requests to have the account sent in and will direct his bankers to remit for it."*
13. Letter. Thomas Telford (Liverpool) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 10 Apr. 1805.  
*Docketed "Wishes to have stamped receipt forwarded to him at Inverness. Vessel with the 36 inch Caledonian engine has been sunk in the canal. Wishes a man to be sent to examine it and to proceed from thence in the same ship to Fort William."*
14. Letter. Thomas Telford (Fort William) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 25 Apr. 1805.  
*Docketed "Ours with drawings and receipt come to hand. Will delay commencing the engine houses until the arrival of our man. Directions for forwarding the engines to Hull. John Telford manager at Fort William."*
15. Letter. Thomas Telford (Whitchurch) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 19 May 1805.  
*Docketed "Wishes the engines No. 1 and 3 to be insured. The vessel with No. 2 has not yet sailed from Chester. Thinks the expense of examining etc. the goods should be paid by Worthington & Co."*
16. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 3 Jun. 1805.  
*Docketed "Orders for forwarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> boiler etc. for the Caledonian Canal. Desires the account may be sent to him at Shrewsbury."*
17. Letter. Thomas Telford (Shrewsbury) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 10 Jun. 1805.  
*Docketed "Proposes remitting for the boilers etc. on their arrival at Inverness. The two engines with George Taylor and an assistant are arrived at Inverness. Taylor to proceed to Fort William as the engines at Inverness will not soon be wanted."*
18. Letter. Thomas Telford (Shrewsbury) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 9 Jul. 1805.  
*Docketed "Remittance for 2<sup>nd</sup> boilers and apparatus of Caledonian Canal engine. Part of steam case of the 48 inch engine broken. George Taylor is putting up the engine at Fort William."*
19. Letter. John Telford (Corpach, Fort William) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 Mar. 1806.  
*Docketed "George Taylor has completed the first engine, except the pumps, for which the well is not ready. Waits our instructions about returning home."*
20. Letter. Thomas Telford (Shrewsbury) to James Watt [Heathfield]. 25 Mar. 1806.  
*Docketed by John Southern.*  
*Docketed "Glasgow Water Works."*
21. Draft of letter. John Southern [Soho] to James Watt [Heathfield]. 30 Mar. 1806.  
*Titled "Glasgow Water Works." Calculations, queries etc.*

22. Calculations. John Southern – Computations on Glasgow Water Works. — Apr. 1806. 2 sheets.  
*Docketed by James Watt.*
23. Letter. Thomas Telford (Chester) to James Watt (Heathfield). 5 Apr. 1806.  
*Mis-dated by Telford as 1805.*  
*Docketed “Glasgow Water Works.”*
24. Letter. Thomas Telford (Fort William) to James Watt (Heathfield). 1 May 1806.  
*Docketed by John Southern.*  
*Docketed “Glasgow Water Works.”*
25. Letter. James Watt (Heathfield) to John Southern [Soho]. “Saturday” [10 May 1806].  
*Docketed “Glasgow Water Works.”*
26. Letter. Thomas Telford (Glasgow) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 May 1806. 2 sheets.  
*Docketed by John Southern.*  
*Docketed “Glasgow Water Works.”*
27. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 12 Jun. 1806.  
*Docketed by John Southern.*  
*Docketed “Glasgow Water Works.”*
28. Memorandum. Glasgow Water Works. 17 Jun. 1806.  
*In John Southern’s hand. Calculations, notes etc.*
29. Memorandum. Glasgow Water Works. 18 Jun. 1806.  
*In John Southern’s hand. Calculations, notes etc.*  
*Docketed “Memorandums.”*
30. Letter. Thomas Telford (Ellesmere) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 26 Jun. 1806.  
*Docketed by John Southern.*  
*Docketed “Desires us to proceed without waiting for him, his movements being uncertain.”*
31. Letter. Thomas Telford (Ludlow) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 2 Jul. 1806.  
*Docketed “Going to attend the House of Lords on the subject of the Glasgow Water Works. Wishes to know the result of our consideration of that subject.”*
32. Letter. Thomas Telford (Salopian Coffee House, Charing Cross, London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 7 Jul. 1806.  
*Docketed “Anxious to have the benefit of Mr. Watt’s advice but states the necessity of being furnished with our calculations without delay. Opposition to the bill of the Glasgow Water Works from the coal owners on the Clyde. Wants to know the dimensions of an engine proper for raising 1500 Scotch pints per minute and double that quantity – with every dispatch.”*
33. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Jul. 1806.  
*Docketed “The opposition to the bill of the Glasgow Water Works withdrawn. Wants our estimates with all dispatch.”*
34. Letter. Thomas Telford (Carlisle) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Jul. 1806.  
*Docketed “Urgently pressing to have our estimates forwarded and addressed to him, Post Office, Carlisle.”*

35. Letter. Thomas Telford (Glasgow) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 22 Jul. 1806.  
*Docketed "Receipt of our letter and estimates. Requests our opinion as to the mains, stop cocks etc."*
36. Wrapper of letter. Thomas Telford (Glasgow) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 25 Jul. 1806.  
*The actual letter is missing. The wrapper bears the docket.*  
*Docketed "Sketch of the proposed distribution of the reservoirs adjoining the river and situation of the engine house. Orders two single engines. Desirous of having the water raised to a greater height by them than originally intended. Urges the completion of our drawings."*
37. Letter. Thomas Telford (Glasgow) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 4 Aug. 1806.  
*Docketed "Orders the engines of the increased size. Desirous of knowing when they will be finished and delivered."*
38. Letter. Thomas Telford (Edinburgh) to Boulton Watt & Co.(Soho). 5 Jan. 1807.  
*Docketed by John Southern.*
39. Letter. Thomas Telford (Salopian Coffee House, Charing Cross, London) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 30 Jun. 1807.  
*Requests copy of an account forwarded in 1805, against the Caledonian Canal."*
40. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 7 May 1810.  
*Docketed "Desires a person to be sent to Fort William to set the engine to work. Desires to know the arrangement intended to be made for that pump etc."*
41. Letter. Thomas Telford (Ellsemere Canal Office, Shrewsbury) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 25 Jan. 1815.  
*Docketed "Wants drawings of the Caledonian Canal 48 inch 8 foot stroke engine, which they are about to erect themselves."*
42. Letter. Thomas Telford (Ellsemere Canal Office, Shrewsbury) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 30 Jan. 1815.  
*Docketed "Receipt of drawings of Caledonian Canal 48 inch 8 foot stroke engine."*
43. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to James Watt Jr. [Aston Hall]. 17 Oct. 1826.  
*Docketed "Proposes to call on Thursday respecting an engine for the St. Katherine's Dock."*
44. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to James Watt Jr. [Aston Hall]. 7 Nov. 1827.  
*Docketed "Wishes the Holyhead dock engine insured. Will pay as soon as Mr. Brown of Holyhead certifies their arrival and conformity to invoice."*
45. Letter. Thomas Telford (London) to James Watt Jr. [Aston Hall]. 14 Nov. 1827.  
*Docketed "The 6 horse engine and pumps arrived at Holyhead. The carriage and freight to be charged in our account and sent to Mr. Brown at Holyhead."*
46. Letter. Thomas Telford (24 Abingdon St., London) to James Watt Jr. [London]. 20 Feb. 1829.  
*Docketed "Appointment to inspect Mr. Brown's accounts of men's time etc. and to look at the engines."*

47. Letter. Thomas Telford (24 Abingdon St., London) to James Watt Jr. [London]. 23 Feb. 1829.  
*Docketed "Wishes me to look over his report upon our letter and account in the affair of St. Katherine's Dock."*
48. Letter. Thomas Telford [London] to Boulton Watt & Co. [London?]. 10 Jan. 1832.  
*Written by an amanuensis?*  
*Docketed "At Aston 21 Jan. Wants estimates of sundry rotative engines to replace the water mills on rivers intended to be applied to the supply of water to the Metropolis. Also expenses of erection, consumption of coal and cost of repairs."*
49. Letter. J. Elliot (—) to Thomas Telford [?] (—). Not dated.  
*Concerning an agreement he made with Boulton & Watt about an invention of his which turned out not to work.*
50. Bundle label.  
*In Henry Hazleton's hand. Marked "Letters by Thomas Telford. Also one at the end of the Parcel by John Telford."*

**MS 3147/3/526**  
**SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS**  
**TITLED AND PRIVATE GENTLEMEN**  
**1775—1817**

INTRODUCTION

Letters from "titled and private gentlemen," from 1775 to 1817. The correspondents include titled gentry, government ministers and overseas scientists, aristocrats and ambassadors. The letters concern engine enquiries, trade, and matters such as Boulton & Watt's acquisition of a passport to go to France.

The arrangement and contents of this bundle must be considered as extremely speculative. The only record of its existence is a note in the List of the Contents of the Watt Room. Matthew Robinson Boulton kept a similar portfolio, "Familiarum Epistolæ et Selectæ." The original bundle was dismantled, probably by Henry Hazleton, and many of the letters show signs of having been displayed in wall cases or mounted in guard books. Letters which seem to have come from this bundle were found in three locations in the Library's system – Box 1/12, Box 34/1 and Box 35/1. The letters have been brought together, along with a few other letters that appear to belong with them. However, it should be borne in mind that many of these letters, particularly those concerning engines, may have been removed from the General Incoming Correspondence series or the Special Correspondents and Subjects bundles.

1. Letter (in French). Le Duc d'Arinburg (London) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 10 Apr. 1782.
2. Letter. Lord of Balcarres (Birmingham) to James Watt (Soho). 29 Aug. 1809.  
*Lord Balcarres is making enquiries into the iron trade. Can James Watt give him any advice or put him in contact with anyone in the works near Ironbridge.*
3. Letter. Lord Balcarres [Birmingham] to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 29 Aug. [1809].  
*Wishes to call on James Watt Jr.*

4. Letter. Sir Joseph Banks (Soho Square, London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Nov. 1784.
5. Letter. Sir Joseph Banks (Soho Square, London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 Jul. 1798.  
*Recommending Baron de Lenthe, son of the new Hanoverian minister in London.*
6. Letter. Sir Joseph Banks (Spring Grove) to James Watt Jr. (Norfolk Hotel, London). 7 Sep. 1817.  
*The address and docket are on a separate wrapper.*  
*Docketed "Upon the success of the Caledonia steam boat."*
7. Letter. Sir Joseph Banks (Soho Square, London) to James Watt Jr. [London]. 18 Sep. 1817.  
*Docketed "Regrets being unable to accompany us in the Caledonia on account of the state of his health and his journey into Lincolnshire."*
8. Letter. Sir Francis Bassett (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 30 Jan. 1783.  
*Sees the Birmingham Canal Co. case in the same light as Matthew Boulton, and offers every assistance. However he fears there is a "powerful combination" against the company.*
9. Letter. Lord Berwick (Attingham, Shifnal) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 21 Aug. 1809.  
*Docketed "Enclosing a note from a gentleman in Sardinia enquiring about the application of steam engines to mechanical purposes and wishing to have models made of them etc."*
- 10a. Letter. Alexander Black (Morden) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 4 Feb. 1779.  
*Docketed by Henry Hazleton "Brother of Dr. Black."*
  - b. Printed circular. Advertisement of Black offering his services for managing land.  
*Illustrated with engravings of cows by Black.*
10. Letter. Alexander Black (11 Upper Thames St., London) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 27 Feb. 1780.
12. Letter. Alexander Black (Albion Place, London) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 30 Jan. 1784.  
*Introducing Monsieur Givry, a French artillery officer.*
13. Letter. James Black (London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 27 Oct. 1780.  
*Docketed "By Mr. Miller." [Introducing James Miller.]*
14. Letter. Dr. Joseph Black (Edinburgh) to James Watt (Heathfield). 22 Mar. 1799.  
*Mr. Hutton [Edington Smeaton Hutton?] will soon join Watt at Birmingham. He has been working in a merchant's counting house in London.*
15. Letter. Lord Carysfort (Elton Hall) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 2 Jul. 1793.  
*Enquiring about an engine for the grounds of his house.*
16. Letter. Lord Cathcart (Shaw Park) to James Watt [?] [Birmingham]. 6 Oct. 1775.  
*Docketed as 26 Oct.*
17. Letter. Lord Cathcart (Grosvenor Place, London) to James Watt (Soho). 22 Nov. 1775.  
*Can James Watt send three sets of regulators to Carron. He has returned the drawings. Hopes to see James Watt in London.*

18. Invoice. Regulators, boxes etc. bought by Lord Cathcart. Apr. 1776.  
*Docketed "Copy transmitted to Mr. Campbell of Ashfield, Greenock to procure payment, Mar. 1777."*
19. Letter (in French). Count Cavalli [Venice] to Matthew Boulton [Birmingham]. 31 Aug. 1780.  
*Not dated – date taken from the docket.*  
*Docketed "Received and answered by James Watt 16 Oct. 1780."*
20. Letter (in French). Count Cavalli (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 21 Oct. 1780.  
*Docketed "About fire engines."*
21. Letter (in French). Count Cavalli (Venice) to Matthew Boulton (Birmingham). 23 May 1788.  
*Forwarded to James Watt at Harper's Hill.*
22. Letter (in French). Count Cavalli (Venice) to Boulton & Watt (at Mr. Woodmason's, Leadenhall St., London). 22 Aug. 1788.  
*Forwarded to Birmingham.*  
*Docketed "Answered."*
23. Letter. The Marquis of Circello (7 Mansfield St., Cavendish Square, London) to Matthew Boulton (Birmingham). 1 Aug. 1794.  
*Docketed "Answered. Order given out to Mr. Horton 2 Aug. 1794."*
24. Letter. Sir John Clerk (Penicuik) to James Watt [Soho]. 25 May 1786.  
*David Hutchinson of the Iron Mill near Dalkeith has invented a hinged draught excluder. He does not wish to patent it. Do Boulton & Watt wish to buy the right or can they advise him?*
25. Letter. Sir William Codrington (Davies St., London) to Matthew Boulton (Birmingham). 4 May 1779.
26. Letter. Lord Dacre [?] (Hot Wells, Bristol) to James Watt (Heathfield). 10 Oct. 1794.  
*Docketed "Order for an apparatus [pneumatic apparatus]."*
27. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 28 Jun. —.  
*Docketed "About a mill for Mr. Gillespie."*
28. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 6 Aug. 1784.  
*Passed to James Watt.*
29. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to James Watt (Birmingham). 9 Aug. 1784. 2 sheets.  
*A transcript has been written between the lines.*
30. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to James Watt (Soho). 16 Aug. 1784.
- 31a. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to James Watt [?] [Soho]. 4 Sep. 1784.  
*Enclosing (b) below.*  
*Docketed "With drawing of steam engine."*
  - b. Sketch. Proposed engine for raising water by steam.
32. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 7 Feb. 1785.

33. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Westminster [?]) to James Watt (Soho). 2 Apr. 1785.
34. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Oxenford Castle) to James Watt [?] [Birmingham]. 14 Sep. 1787.  
*Docketed "By Mr. Howieson."*
35. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (35 Great Pulteney St., London) to Boulton & Watt [Birmingham]. 25 Mar. 1788.
36. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (35 Great Pulteney St., London) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 26 Mar. 1788.
37. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (35 Great Pulteney St., London) to Boulton & Watt [?] [Birmingham]. 5 Jun. 1788. Letter incomplete.
38. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 24 Aug. 1788.
39. Letter. Sir John Dalrymple (Edinburgh) to James Watt (Birmingham). 29 Nov. 1799.  
*Docketed "Offer of a scheme for bleaching and washing by means of P\_\_."*
40. Draft of letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to Lord Dartmouth [London]. Circa Apr. 1779?
41. Draft of letter. Boulton & Watt [Soho] to Lord Dartmouth [London]. Circa Apr. 1779?  
*Respecting the proper way to apply for a passport to France. They will only export finished engines and are not trying to deprive England of manufacturing work. Attempt of German barons to steal their invention.*
42. Letter. Lord Dartmouth [London] to James Watt or Matthew Boulton [Soho]. 6 Apr. 1779.  
*He cannot say whether the passport application will be successful. The proper method is to present a memorial to the King in Council. If he is sent a copy, he will talk it over with the Lord President and other council members. His thoughts on France's support for America.*
43. Letter. Erasmus Darwin [Derby] to James Watt (Birmingham). 18 Nov. 1788.  
*Not dated – date taken from the docket.*
44. Letter. Erasmus Darwin (Derby) to James Watt (Birmingham). 19 Jan. 1790.
45. Letter. Baron G. Hamilton (Dublin) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 7 Oct. 1787.
46. Letter. Sir Walden Hanmer (Sympson Place, near Fenny Stratford) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Nov. 1781.
47. Letter. Lord King (Ockham) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). Not dated [circa 20 Aug. 1788].  
*Postmarked 20 Aug. 1788.*
48. Letter. P. Levêque (Nantes) to James Watt (Birmingham). 20 Mar. 1795. 2 sheets.
49. Letter. Robert Livingstone (Clermont, New York State) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 4 Nov. 1798. 2 sheets.
50. Transcript of letter. James Watt [Birmingham] to Lord Loughborough (—). 8 Jun. 1785.  
*In James Watt's hand.*
51. Letter. Sir Herbert Mackworth (Gnoll Castle) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 3 Jan. 1786.



52. Letter. Sir Herbert Mackworth (London) to Matthew Boulton [?] [Soho]. 30 Mar. 1786.
53. Letter. Sir Herbert Mackworth (Gnoll Castle) to Matthew Boulton [?] [Soho]. 18 Apr. 1786.
54. Letter. Sir Herbert Mackworth (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 3 May 1786.
55. Letter. Sir Herbert Mackworth (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 12 Sep. 1788.  
*Docketed "Ordering engine for the Plate Glass Company."*
56. Letter. Lord Penrhyn (Winnington) to James Watt [Soho]. 30 Jan. 1787.  
*Mis-docketed as 1786.*
57. Letter. Lord Penrhyn (Winnington) to James Watt [Soho]. 3 Feb. 1787.  
*Arrangements to meet in Birmingham.*
58. Letter. Lord Penrhyn (Grosvenor Square, London) to James Watt [Soho]. 13 Feb. 1787.
59. Letter. Lord Penrhyn (Penrhyn) to James Watt (Birmingham). 3 Jul. 1802.  
*Many salt manufactories in the Northwich area want to adopt James Watt's smokeless fireplace. Can someone be sent to Northwich to inspect the various works?*
60. Letter. Dr. Thomas Percival (Manchester) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 9 Oct. 1786.
61. Letter. Moussin Pouschkin (London) to James Watt (Soho). 10 Jun. 1775.  
*Introducing Mr. De Karsakoff. Can Watt explain his steam engine to him and introduce him to Matthew Boulton.*
- 62a. Letter. Count Reden (Berlin) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Feb. 1791.  
*Kept with (b) below.*
- b. Calculations. Engine for the Royal China Manufactory, Berlin. 1791.
63. Letter. John Robison (Edinburgh) to James Watt (Heathfield). 19 Nov. 1796.  
*Docketed "Mentioning that he will send his remarks upon Mr. Watt's invention."*
64. Letter. John Robison [London] to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 27 Dec. 1796.  
*Not dated – date taken from the docket.*  
*Docketed "With advertisement for the newspapers respecting the trial with Maberley."*
- 65a. Letter. John Robison (Edinburgh) to James Watt (Heathfield). 22 Feb. 1797.  
*Enclosing (b) below.*  
*Docketed "Account of his expenses. Mr. Greenfield's receipt for the sum paid him."*
- b. Receipt. William Greenfield (Edinburgh College). 26 Feb. 1797.  
*Receipt for money received from John Robison for teaching Robison's Natural Philosophy classes while Robison was subpoenaed for the case against Hornblower.*
66. Letter. George Saunders (252 Oxford Street, London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 30 Mar. 1797.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Method of tracing segments by intersecting lines.

67. Letter. Lord Sheffield (Sheffield Place, London) to James Watt or Matthew Boulton [Soho]. 9 Aug. 1785.  
*Introducing Sir Godfrey Webster.*
68. Letter. Sir John Sinclair (Whitehall) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 23 Mar. 1795.  
*Docketed "Expense of pounding limestone."*
69. Letter. Sir John Sinclair (Whitehall) to Matthew Boulton [Soho]. 12 Apr. 1798.  
*Docketed "Requests to furnish him with a drawing of an engine applied to a corn mill. Wishes information upon ram patent."*
- 70a. Letter. Lord Somerville (Weymouth) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. Circa 14 Sep. 1797.  
*Enclosing (b) below. Marked "Received 15 Sep. 1797."*
- b. Memorandum. Queries by Messrs. Boulton & Watt. By Charles Fozard (Somerville House). 5 Sep. 1797.  
*Answers to Boulton & Watt's queries about Lord Somerville's proposed engine.*
71. Letter. The Marquis of Stafford (Bath) to Matthew Boulton [Soho]. 5 May 1798.  
*Feels that the government must approve Boulton's proposed plan. Is sending it to London "for his Majesty's approbation".*
72. Letter. The Marquis of Stafford (Bath) to Matthew Boulton [Soho]. 12 May 1798.  
*Forwarded to Charlotte Matthews in London. On the same sheet:*  
Letter. William Cheshire (Soho) to Charlotte Matthews (13 London St.). 15 May 1798.  
*Docketed "Transmitting extracts from Mr. Dundas' letter approving of our proposals for an armed association."*
73. Letter. Earl Stanhope (Chevening House, near Sevenoaks) to Matthew Boulton [Soho]. 23 Oct. 1789.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Table. Powers etc. of Fire Engines of different sizes, supposing the same to be made upon Mr. Boulton's construction. [*Blank table for Boulton to copy and fill in.*]  
List of queries about the steam engine.  
*Docketed "About engines."*
74. Letter. Dr. F. Swediaur (Paris) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane). 4 Apr. 1791.  
*Docketed "Dr. Schwediar."*
75. Letter. Le Comte de Thiville [?] (78 Picadilly, London) to James Watt (Soho). 27 Jul. 1800.
76. Letter. Major-General B. Thompson (Munich) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 28 May 1798.  
*Docketed "Introducing George Reichenbach."*
77. Transcript of letter. James Watt (Birmingham) to Lord Thurlow (—). 30 Jun. 1785. 2 sheets.  
*Docketed by Henry Hazleton "Watt's intended letter for Lord Thurlow, praying his Lordship to endeavour to stop the excess of exportation of English cast iron and manganese. Very interesting information."*
78. Letter. John Timaeus (Luneburg Royal College) to James Watt (Soho). 26 Aug. 1797.  
*Docketed "Enquires how his translation has succeeded."*

**MS 3147/3/527**  
**SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS**  
**MATTHEW WASBROUGH**  
**1778—1779**

INTRODUCTION

Letters from Matthew Wasbrough, from 1778 and 1779. Wasbrough, a Bristol brass founder and clock-maker, invented a rotative motion for engines based on a pawl and ratchet motion. He had protracted negotiations with Boulton & Watt about using his motion on their engines. Boulton & Watt also ordered copper education pipes for some of their Cornish engines from him.

1. Letter. Matthew Wasbrough (Bristol) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 25 Jul. 1778.
2. Letter. Matthew Wasbrough (Bristol) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Jan. 1779.
3. Letter. Matthew Wasbrough (Bristol) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Feb. 1779.
4. Letter. Matthew Wasbrough (Bristol) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 3 Apr. 1779.
5. Letter. Matthew Wasbrough (Bristol) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 6 May 1779.
6. Letter. Matthew Wasbrough (Bristol) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 May 1779.  
*Docketed "Advising that education pipe for Wheel Chance was ready."*
7. Letter. Matthew Wasbrough (Bristol) to James Watt (Chacewater). 6 Nov. 1779.

**MS 3147/3/528**  
**SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS**  
**JOSIAH WEDGWOOD**  
**1781—1792**

INTRODUCTION

Letters from Josiah Wedgwood, from 1781 to 1792. The letters mainly concern business matters, such as steam engines, flint mills, shares in Cornish mines, and the like. The bundle also includes letters signed by Wedgwood's sons John, Thomas and Josiah Jr., by his London agent Thomas Byerley, and by Peter Swift, Wedgwood's cashier. Several of Wedgwood's letters are in the hands of an amanuensis.

How Wedgwood's letters were originally kept is unclear. The List of Contents of the Watt Room notes the presence of "three packets of Wedgwood and Wedgwood & Byerley," while Hazleton's scrapbook notes separate bundles of letters from Wedgwood and Wedgwood & Byerley. However by the time the collection was listed by the Library the letters were in two indistinct bundles covering 1781 to 1842 (Box 36/25) and 1800 to 1825 (Box 36/26). It was clear that letters from the various General Incoming Correspondence series had been added to the original contents of the Wedgwood bundles – indeed it is possible that the Wedgwood bundles were entirely created by Hazleton in the 1890s from items removed from the General Correspondence. The only letters that could be replaced

with certainty were those from the 1829 to 1843 series, and these will now be found in 3/455, General Incoming Correspondence dealt with in the Drawing Office 1829-1843, W.

The Wedgwood letters are now arranged in two bundles. This first bundle contains letters written by or on behalf of Josiah. The second bundle covers the years 1794 to 1828, and contains business correspondence from the partnerships of Josiah Wedgwood Son & Byerley and Josiah Wedgwood & Byerley and from Josiah's sons after his death in January 1795.

1. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 25 Mar. 1781.
2. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Greek St., London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 8 Apr. 1782.
3. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood per Peter Swift (Etruria) to Matthew Boulton & James Watt [Soho]. 8 Dec. 1782.  
*Docketed "Answered per Mr. Watt."*
4. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 30 Jan. 1784.  
*This letter has been removed from a display case or guard book.*  
*Docketed "About emigration and Polgooth agreement."*
5. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 8 Feb. 1784.  
*Docketed "About Polgooth agreement."*
6. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 13 Jan. 1785.  
*Docketed "About Bond's engine."*
7. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Matlock) to James Watt (Birmingham). 17 Sep. 1785.  
*This letter has been removed from a display case or guard book.*  
*Docketed "Cornish Metal Co. subscription."*
8. Letter. John Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 18 Sep. 1785.
9. Letter. Thomas Byerley for Josiah Wedgwood (London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 19 Sep. 1785.  
*Docketed "With note of hand at 12 [?] date payable at Drummond's, value £400, being Mr. Wedgwood's first payment of 10 per cent. Remittance Mr. Matthews Sep. 21."*
10. Letter. Peter Swift (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 22 Oct. 1785.  
*Docketed as Josiah Wedgwood.*  
*Docketed "With £400 bill for Cornish Metal Co."*
11. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 14 Nov. 1785.
12. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 20 Mar. 1787.  
*This letter has been removed from a display case or guard book.*
13. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood [Etruria] to James Watt (Birmingham). 17 May 1787.
14. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 20 Jun. 1787.
15. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 12 Jul. 1787.  
*Docketed as 4 Jul.*

16. Letter. Thomas Byerley (London) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 1 Aug. 1787.  
*Docketed as Josiah Wedgwood.*
17. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 9 Aug. 1787.  
*Letter passed to Matthew Boulton. On the same sheet:*  
Transcript of letter. Josiah Wedgwood [London] to Thomas Vivian (Truro). 20 Jul. 1787.  
Transcript of letter. Thomas Vivian (Truro) to Josiah Wedgwood. 2 Aug. 1797.  
*Docketed "Copy of Mr. Vivian's letter."*
18. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 25 Aug. 1787.  
*On the same sheet:*  
Letter. Josiah Wedgwood Jr. to James Watt. 25 Aug. 1787.
19. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt (Birmingham). 17 Oct. 1787.
20. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt [Birmingham]. 21 Oct. 1787.
21. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt [London]. 30 Oct. 1787.
22. Letter. Josiah Wedgwood Jr. for Josiah Wedgwood (Etruria) to James Watt [London]. 30 Oct. 1789.  
*Docketed as Josiah Wedgwood.*  
*Docketed "About transfer of share in Polgooth."*
23. Letter. Thomas Wedgwood [Etruria] to James Watt [Birmingham]. 24 Dec. 1792.  
*Date taken from the docket. Docketed as Mr. Wedgwood.*  
*The top half of the letter has been cut away. For the top half, see MBP (Matthew Boulton General Correspondence).*
- 24a. Memorandum. Steam Engine – for the power of ten horses, to perform the following operations.  
*Kept with (b) and (c) below.*  
*Re an engine for grinding flint. Docketed "Wedgwood Esq. 1792—1793."*
- b. Memorandum & calculations. Mr. Wedgwood's Flint Mill. Not dated.  
*In James Watt's hand.*
- c. Memorandum. Notes on Mr. Spode's engine and flint mill, Trentham Flint Mill etc. Not dated.  
*In Matthew Boulton's hand.*