

Guide to the John Taylor Letters

OSBORN C357



by Beinecke Staff

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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CALL NUMBER: OSBORN C357

CREATOR: Taylor, John, 1704-1766

TITLE: John Taylor Letters

DATES: 1726-1728

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.04 linear feet (1 volume)

LANGUAGE: In English.

SUMMARY: Manuscript, in a single hand, of 11 letters by John Taylor to various friends during his years at Cambridge University.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.c357>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.c357>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

For information on the source of acquisition, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The John Taylor Letters is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

John Taylor, Letters. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing list or card set. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained; the volume may contain additional unlisted material.

Biographical / Historical

John Taylor (1704-1766), English classical scholar.

Scope and Contents

Manuscript, in a single hand, of 11 letters by John Taylor to various friends during his years at Cambridge University.

The letters, dated between 1726 and 1728, are primarily jocular in tone, as in a comment to William Salisbury about his study of Greek: "I am willing to believe, with the Saints, that Greek is a very Heathenish language, & that the very characters savour mightily of Antichrist or the Pope of Rome. But whether the Fatigue of studying Greek is answerable to the Fatigue of having nothing to do, I appeal to a Jury of Dutch Lexicographers."

Other recipients include Samuel Pegge, Edward Rynaston, John Holcombe, James Drake, and Robert Cholmeley.

The collection also includes a letter to himself, in which he writes, "I am heartily sorry for the very great mischief you have brought upon yourself in desiring to establish a correspondence with me."

General

Binding: Middle Hill boards.

General

Phillipps MS 15975 & 16644.

Collection Contents

b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to Robert Cholmeley (b.1703) Salop 4 p.; 19 x 15 cm. Literary topics and personalities, including remarks about Edmund Curl, a printer (1675-1747) and William Pattison (1706-1727). 357/2	1727 January 5
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to Robert Cholmeley (b.1703) Salop 4 p.; 21 x 16 Pokes fun at Cholmeley's prospective stay in London. 357/11	1726 September 3
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to James Drake (b. 1703) Cambridge 2 p.; 22 x 17 cm. Humorous letter to a friend after an "intermission of our epistolary correspondence." 357/1	1728 September 17
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to John Holcombe (b. 1704) Salop 3 p.; 21 x 16 cm. Literary subjects; belittles his own creative accomplishments and recalls his former complaints about the "sad dearth of wit...in these uncouth regions"; he corrects himself and writes about the "remarkable" manners and polish of the area. 357/7	1727 October 30
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to John Holcombe (b. 1704) 3 p.; 21 x 16 cm. Chides his friend for not answering his letters; admits he misses Cambridge and his college friends; tells of his dislike of Salop and the disagreeable nature of his neighbors. 357/9	Undated
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to Samuel Pegge (1704-1796) Salop 3 p.; 20 x 15 cm. Friendly letter concerns antiquarian topics and regrets about a lost note. 357/4	1727 December 6

b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to William Rothery (b. 1705) Salop 3 p.; 21 x 16 cm. Chides friend for not returning his letter; comments on literary topics and criticizes Edmund Curll (1675-1747), a printer, and William Pattison (1706-1727). 357/5	1727 February 10
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to Edward Rynaston Salop 2 p.; 21 x 16 cm. Thanks Rynaston for his letter and inquires as to why William Rothery (b.1705) has not written. 357/10	1726 July 30
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to William Salisbury (1706-1796) Salop 1 p.; 21 x 16 cm. Discusses his passion for Greek, poetry, and women. 357/6	1727 January 20
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to William Salisbury (1706-1796) Salop 1 p.; 21 x 16 cm. 357/8	1727 December 6
b.1	Autograph letter (draft) to himself Salop 3 p.; 21 x 16 Discusses the challenges of corresponding with himself and begins: "I am heartily sorry for yr very great mischief you have brought upon yr self in desiring to establish a correspondence wth me - Why, I am afraid you don't know me..." 357/3	1727 December 4

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Intellectual life -- 18th century
Great Britain -- Social life and customs -- 18th century
Shropshire (England)

Occupations

Classicists -- Great Britain -- 18th century

Subjects

Classicists -- Great Britain

Names

Cholmeley, Robert, 1703-
Drake, James, fl. 1734
Pegge, Samuel, 1733-1800
Taylor, John, 1704-1766

Corporate Bodies

St. John's College (University of Cambridge)
University of Cambridge -- Students