

MS 3147/32

MATERIAL ADDED BY BIRMINGHAM LIBRARY

1772—1977

LIST

Original Letters of James Watt

1. Letter from Watt to Mr. Hodgetts or John Buchanan at Soho Manufactory, Oct. 1784.
[Gift from a private individual, 1956]
2. Letter from Watt at Birmingham to Charles Taylor, Manufacturer, of Manchester, 14 Oct. 1788.
[Private bequest, 1931.]
3. Letter from Watt at Birmingham to Lord Islay Campbell, Lord High Advocate for Scotland, 19 Apr. 1789.
4. Letter from Watt at Heathfield to Vizard & Sons of Dursley, 3 May 1802.
[Sent by the Librarian, Gloucester, 1919.]
5. Letter from Watt at Heathfield to John Furnell Tuffen at Clifton, 17 Jan. 1816.

Printed Patent Specifications

6. Printed patent specifications – Watt's specification of 1769 (1855 reprint), Watt's extension of 1775 (1857 reprint), Watt's specification of 1781 (1855 reprint) and Watt's specification of 1782 (1855 reprint) – sewn together.
[Removed from the Library's collection.]

Photographs and Drawings

7. Photograph of an advertisement for the Soho Plate Co. (late Matthew Boulton & Plate Co.) of circa 1830; photograph of part of Breda's portrait of Matthew Boulton.
8. Engravings of engines of the *Great Eastern*, 1856, 1857, 1860, published as supplements to *The Artizan*; photographs of the Lima Mint, 1870s (8 items).*
[On permanent loan from Oak House Museum.]
- 8A. Coloured drawing of George Atkinson & Co.'s steam engine at their chemical works, 66 Aldersgate Street, London E. C. (formerly John Maud's, now in the National Museum of Science & Industry).

For further details of items marked with an asterisk (*) see the separate List of Contents in the Archives Searchroom. To order the documents on this page, use the number in **bold**, with the prefix **MS 3147/32/**

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[Gift of a private individual, 1958]

9. Engraving of James Watt, photographs of The Watt Room, photograph of George Tangye [?], photographs of busts of Boulton and Watt and Murdock, Watt's garrett workshop, staff of Soho Foundry collected by Samuel Timmins (16 items).
[Given to the Library by Samuel Timmins]
10. Photographs of documents relating to William Murdock lent to the Gas Exhibition in Birmingham, Sep.—Oct. 1923 (14 items).
[Photographs taken by the Gas Department, Feb. 1924, and given to the Library.]
11. Photographs of Soho House and its interior, not dated [20th century].
12. Photograph of the monument to William Buckle, not dated.
13. Photographs of a statue and portraits of Watt, Watt's garret workshop, engraving of Soho Manufactory, the five Tangye brothers (6 items).
[Gift of a private individual, 1960.]
14. Part of a diagram of a railway locomotive, not dated.
15. Photograph of a letter by William Murdock dated 1 Jan. 1806.
16. Photograph of the agreement between Boulton & Watt and Barclay & Perkins for an engine, 1 Apr. 1786.
17. Plans of Soho Foundry by J. R. Immer, not dated [20th century] (2 items).

Correspondence, Papers, Transcripts, Facsimiles and Research Notes

18. Correspondence, papers, printed items, notes etc. collected by Samuel Timmins relating to the history of the firm, products of James Watt & Co., William Murdock, sale of The Watt Room, etc., 1874—1895 (45 items).
[Given to the Library by Samuel Timmins.]
19. Facsimile of a letter from Richard Arkwright to Matthew Boulton, 2 Mar. 1772.
[Gift of a private individual, 1921.]
20. Facsimiles of four letters of James Watt: to Bailie James Gemmil of Greenock, dated Glasgow, 9 Dec. 1773; to James McGrigor of Glasgow, dated Birmingham, 30 Oct. 1784; to Andrew Anderson of Greenock, dated Heathfield, 12 Jan. 1816; to James Watt of Crawfordsdyke, dated Heathfield, 13 Jan. 1816; with a published transcript of the letter to McGrigor, dated Apr. 1934 (5 items).
[Letters printed by Schenk & McFarlane, Lithographers, Edinburgh]
21. Correspondence with Celia B. Noble about the Brunelle letters, Aug. 1938, with photostats of the letters (1 file).
22. Soho Foundry Papers [transcripts etc.] collected by W. K. V. Gale, 1946—1948 (1 file).

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[Given to the Library by W. K. V. Gale.]

- 23. Copies of Soho Foundry Letters made by W. K. V. Gale, 1946—1948 (1 file).
[Given to the Library by W. K. V. Gale.]
- 24. Notes on the Soho meteorological records submitted in response to a letter in *The Times*, 15 Mar. 1955 (3 items).
- 25. Correspondence, notes etc. on information on Gowland & Clark's engine of 1795 for North Riding of Yorkshire Archives, Feb.—Mar. 1963 (8 items).
- 26. Typed extract from Dr. Langford's *Staffordshire and Warwickshire*, not dated.
- 27. Notes, photographs and plan of John Wilkinson's New Willey furnace, not dated (1 file).

Articles, Pamphlets, Cuttings etc.

- 28. *Supplement to the Description of a Pneumatic Apparatus for preparing Factitious Airs; containing a Description of a Simplified Apparatus, and of a Portable Apparatus*, James Watt, 1796
[Removed from the Library's collection.]
- 29. "Romance in Hard Metal: An Interview with Mr. George Tangye," in *The Cornish Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 5, Nov. 1898.
- 30. *Catalogue of the Mechanical Engineering Collection in the Science Division of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington*, Part I, 1907.
- 31. A Letter, to a Member of Parliament, from Mr. William Murdock, in vindication of his character and claims; in reply to a recent publication by the Committee for conducting through Parliament a Bill for Incorporating a Gas-Light & Coke Company, 1809 – reprint, 1907 (2 copies).
- 32. "Our Picture Gallery No. 182 – Matthew Boulton," in *The Handsworth Magazine*, Vol. XVI, No. 183, Sep. 1909.
- 33. "On the inventions of James Watt, and his models preserved at Handsworth and South Kensington," E. A. Copwer, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, not dated [1910s?] (2 copies).
- 34. "James Watt Souvenir: The Inventor of the Steam Engine Indicator," pamphlet published by Crosby & Co., circa 1910.
- 35. "The Centenary of the Launch of Bell's *Comet*: Glasgow & The Celebrations," supplement to *The Illustrated London News*, 7 Sep. 1912.
- 36. "Some unpublished letters of James Watt," H. W. Dickinson, excerpt from the *Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers*, Oct. 1915.

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37. "Visit to the Boulton-Watt Collection," in *King Edward's Grammar School Camp Hill School Chronicle*, No. 67, Jan. 1916.
38. Catalogue of the sale of the contents of Heathfield Hall, 23 and 24 Nov. 1920.
39. "The Railway Centenary," in *Smith's Dock Monthly*, Vol. VI, No. 58, Jul. 1925.
40. "The *Comet* disaster – One Hundredth Anniversary," cutting from *The Glasgow Herald*, 21 Oct. 1925 (reprint of article from the *Glasgow Courier*, 22 Oct. 1825).
41. *A Short History of Lighting from the Earliest Times*, Edwin Laurence, not dated.
42. "James Watt and the engine – a matter of seven principles," cutting from the *Glasgow Herald*, 26 Apr. 1969, with letter from the author and leaflet describing the model Newcomen engine in the Hunterian Museum (3 items).
43. Cuttings concerning photographs of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, ? and Jul. 1977 (2 items).
44. Photocopies of cuttings on Boulton, Watt, Murdock etc.

The James Watt Centenary, 1919
[Material collected by the Library]

45. Printed letter from the Centenary Committee to businesses advertising the centenary celebrations and announcing their intention to fund a Watt Chair of Research, with printed sheet describing the planned celebrations, 1919 (5 items).
46. "Preliminary Announcement – James Watt, Centenary Commemoration, Birmingham, September 16th, 17th and 18th, 1919."
47. "James Watt Centenary Commemoration – Souvenir Guide Book of Special Exhibit in the Art Gallery, Birmingham," 16-20 Sep. 1919.
48. Souvenir Programme and Time Table of the James Watt Centenary Celebrations, 16-21 Sep. 1919 (3 copies).
49. Printed circular advertising the procession, 20 Sep. 1919.
50. "James Watt Centenary 1919."
51. Set of Watt Centenary souvenir postcards, 1919 (8 items).
52. Bundle of admission cards, tickets etc. for various events during the Watt Centenary, Sep. 1919 (16 items).

Miscellaneous

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- 53.** Photostat of the cover of *The Literary World*, 30 Nov. 1839, with illustration of statue of Thomas Telford in Westminster Abbey.
- 54.** Poster advertising "Hospital Saturday," 21 Jun. 1919 (used as a wrapper).
- 55.** Postcards of Heathfield, the Watt Garrett, and a model of Murdock's locomotive (3 items).

Copies of Material relating to Boulton & Watt in other Repositories

- 56.** Photographic copy of a letter from Joseph Fry to James Watt about Jonathan Hornblower's engine, 29 Apr. 1783.
[Given by Cadbury Bros. Ltd., 30 Mar. 1944.]
- 57.** Photostat copies of letters from Arago to James Watt Jr., Nov. 1839 (originals lent to Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in 1956) and letters from James Watt to Jean De Luc, 1783 and 1807 (originals in Yale University Library).
- 58.** Photostat copies of letters to William Buckle, 1824 (originals in King's College London) and letter from J. H. Mitchell of South Carolina to Matthew Boulton, 1787.
- 59.** Photocopy of agreement between Boulton & Watt and John and Thomas Sparrow for an engine for Cockshead Colliery, 1 Jun. 1793 (original in the Library of Keele University).

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OLD REFERENCES

Original Letters of James Watt

1. Letter from Watt to Mr. Hodgetts or John Buchanan at Soho Manufactory, Oct. 1784. [B&W Parcel D/1]
2. Letter from Watt at Birmingham to Charles Taylor, Manufacturer, of Manchester, 14 Oct. 1788. [B&W Parcel D/1]
3. Letter from Watt at Birmingham to Lord Islay Campbell, Lord High Advocate for Scotland, 19 Apr. 1789. [B&W Parcel D/1]
4. Letter from Watt at Heathfield to Vizard & Sons of Dursley, 3 May 1802. [B&W Parcel D/1]
5. Letter from Watt at Heathfield to John Furnell Tuffen at Clifton, 17 Jan. 1816. [B&W Parcel A/62]

Printed Patent Specifications

6. Printed patent specifications – Watt's specification of 1769 (1855 reprint), Watt's extension of 1775 (1857 reprint), Watt's specification of 1781 (1855 reprint) and Watt's specification of 1782 (1855 reprint) – sewn together; removed from the Library's collection. [B&W Box 51/1, 6, 13, 14, 15]

Photographs and Drawings

7. Photograph of an advertisement for the Soho Plate Co. (late Matthew Boulton & Plate Co.) of circa 1830; photograph of part of Breda's portrait of Matthew Boulton. [B&W Parcel III/67]
8. Engravings of engines of the *Great Eastern*, 1856, 8157, 1860, published as supplements to *The Artizan*; photographs of the Lima Mint, 1870s. [B&W Pf. 1382]
- 8A. Coloured drawing of George Atkinson's steam engine, formerly John Maud's. [B&W Pf. 153]
9. Engraving of James Watt, photographs of The Watt Room, photograph of George Tangye [?], photographs of busts of Boulton and Watt and Murdock, Watt's garrett workshop, staff of Soho Foundry collected by Samuel Timmins. [B&W Box 24/47]
10. Photographs of documents relating to William Murdock lent to the Gas Exhibition in Birmingham, Sep.—Oct. 1923, taken by the Birmingham Gas Department, Feb. 1924. [B&W Parcel III/91-102]
11. Photographs of Soho House and its interior, not dated. [B&W Box 50/28, 30, 31]

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12. Photograph of the monument to William Buckle, not dated. [**B&W Box 26/40**]
13. Photographs of a statue and portraits of Watt, Watt's garret workshop, engraving of Soho Manufactory, the five Tangye brothers. [**B&W Box 53/3**]
14. Part of a diagram of a railway locomotive, not dated. [**B&W Pf. 742**]
15. Photograph of a letter by William Murdock dated 1 Jan. 1806. [**B&W Box 30**]
16. Photograph of the agreement between Boulton & Watt and Barclay & Perkins for an engine, 1 Apr. 1786. [**B&W Miscellaneous Drawings**]
17. Plans of Soho Foundry by J. R. Immer, not dated [20th century]. [**B&W Miscellaneous Drawings**]

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18. Correspondence, papers, printed items, notes etc. collected by Samuel Timmins relating to the history of the firm, products of James Watt & Co., William Murdock, sale of The Watt Room, etc., 1874—1895. [**B&W Box 24/42, 43, Box 25/16/20, Box 26/1/17, Box 26/28, Box 30/-**]
19. Facsimile of a letter from Richard Arkwright to Matthew Boulton, 2 Mar. 1772, presented to the Library in 1921. [**B&W Parcel A/78**]
20. Facsimiles of four letters of James Watt: to Bailie James Gemmil of Greenock, dated Glasgow, 9 Dec. 1773; to James McGrigor of Glasgow, dated Birmingham, 30 Oct. 1784; to Andrew Anderson of Greenock, dated Heathfield, 12 Jan. 1816; to James Watt of Crawfordsdyke, dated Heathfield, 13 Jan. 1816; with a published transcript of the letter to McGrigor, dated Apr. 1934. [**B&W Parcel D/1**]
21. Correspondence with Celia B. Noble about the Brunelle letters, Aug. 1938, with photostats of the letters. [**B&W Box 26/18/1-11**]
22. Soho Foundry Papers [transcripts etc.] collected by W. K. V. Gale, 1946—1948. [**B&W Box 53/4**]
23. Copies of Soho Foundry Letters made by W. K. V. Gale, 1946—1948. [**B&W Box 53/5**]
24. Correspondence, notes etc. on information on Gowland & Clark's engine of 1795 for North Riding of Yorkshire Archives, Feb.—Mar. 1963. [**B&W Box 6/7/114**]
25. Notes on the Soho meteorological records submitted in response to a letter in *The Times*, 15 Mar. 1955. [**B&W Box 15/8a-c**]
26. Typed extract from Dr. Langford's *Staffordshire and Warwickshire*, not dated. [**B&W Box 26/39**]

27. Notes, photographs and plan of John Wilkinson's New Willey furnace, not dated.
[B&W Pf. 695]

Articles, Pamphlets, Cuttings etc.

28. *Supplement to the Description of a Pneumatic Apparatus for preparing Factitious Airs; containing a Description of a Simplified Apparatus, and of a Portable Apparatus*, James Watt, 1796, removed from the Library's collection. **[B&W Parcel III/2a]**
29. "Romance in Hard Metal: An Interview with Mr. George Tangye," in *The Cornish Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 5, Nov. 1898. **[B&W Parcel II/2]**
30. *Catalogue of the Mechanical Engineering Collection in the Science Division of the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington*, Part I, 1907. **[B&W Parcel II/3]**
31. A Letter, to a Member of Parliament, from Mr. William Murdock, in vindication of his character and claims; in reply to a recent publication by the Committee for conducting through Parliament a Bill for Incorporating a Gas-Light & Coke Company, 1809 – reprint, 1907 **[B&W Box 30/26/1, 2]**
32. "Our Picture Gallery No. 182 – Matthew Boulton," in *The Handsworth Magazine*, Vol. XVI, No. 183, Sep. 1909. **[B&W Parcel III/18]**
33. "On the inventions of James Watt, and his models preserved at Handsworth and South Kensington," E. A. Copwer, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, not dated [1910s?]. **[B&W Box 26/38/1, 2]**
34. "James Watt Souvenir: The Inventor of the Steam Engine Indicator," pamphlet published by Crosby & Co., circa 1910. **[B&W Parcel III/20]**
35. "The Centenary of the Launch of Bell's *Comet*: Glasgow & The Celebrations," supplement to *The Illustrated London News*, 7 Sep. 1912. **[B&W Steam Boat Box 72]**
36. "Some unpublished letters of James Watt," H. W. Dickinson, excerpt from the *Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers*, Oct. 1915. **[B&W Parcel III/29]**
37. "Visit to the Boulton-Watt Collection," in *King Edward's Grammar School Camp Hill School Chronicle*, No. 67, Jan. 1916. **[B&W Parcel III/30]**
38. Catalogue of the sale of the contents of Heathfield Hall, 23 and 24 Nov. 1920. **[B&W Parcel III/31]**
39. *A Short History of Lighting from the Earliest Times*, Edwin Laurence, not dated. **[B&W Parcel III/32]**
40. "The Railway Centenary," in *Smith's Dock Monthly*, Vol. VI, No. 58, Jul. 1925. **[B&W Parcel II/30]**

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41. "The *Comet* disaster – One Hundredth Anniversary," cutting from *The Glasgow Herald*, 21 Oct. 1925. [B&W Steam Boat Box 72]
42. "James Watt and the engine – a matter of seven principles," cutting from the *Glasgow Herald*, 26 Apr. 1969, with letter from the author and leaflet describing the model Newcomen engine in the Hunterian Museum. [B&W Parcel III/125/1-3]
43. Cuttings concerning photographs of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, ? and Jul. 1977.
44. Photocopies of cuttings on Boulton, Watt, Murdock etc. [B&W Parcel III/103-123]

The James Watt Centenary, 1919

45. Printed letter from the Centenary Committee to businesses advertising the centenary celebrations and announcing their intention to fund a Watt Chair of Research, with printed sheet describing the planned celebrations, 1919. [B&W Parcel III/62-66]
46. "Preliminary Announcement – James Watt, Centenary Commemoration, Birmingham, Setptember 16th, 17th and 18th, 1919." [B&W Parcel III/35a]
47. "James Watt Centenary Commemoration – Souvenir Guide Book of Special Exhibit in the Art Gallery, Birmingham," 16-20 Sep. 1919. [B&W Parcel III/36]
48. Souvenir Programme and Time Table of the James Watt Centenary Celebrations, 16-21 Sep. 1919. [B&W Parcel III/33-35]
49. Printed circular advertising the procession, 20 Sep. 1919. [B&W Parcel III/61]
50. "James Watt Centenary 1919." [B&W Parcel III/37]
51. Set of Watt Centenary souvenir postcards, 1919. [B&W Parcel III/54-60]
52. Bundle of admission cards, tickets etc. for various events during the Watt Centenary. [B&W Parcel III/38-53]

Miscellaneous

53. Photostat of the cover of *The Literary World*, 30 Nov. 1839, with illustration of statue of Thomas Telford in Westminster Abbey. [B&W Box 34/19]
54. Poster advertising "Hospital Saturday," 21 Jun. 1919. [B&W Misc. Drawings]
55. Postcards of Heathfield, the Watt Garrett, and a model of Murdock's locomotive. [B&W Box 26/41/1-3]

Copies of Material relating to Boulton & Watt in other Repositories

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- 56. Photographic copy of a letter from Joseph Fry to James Watt about Jonathan Hornblower's engine, 29 Apr. 1783, sent by Cadbury Bros. Ltd., 30 Mar. 1944. [**B&W Box 2/11/34**]

- 57. Photostat copies of letters from Arago to James Watt Jr., Nov. 1839 (originals lent to Birmingham Museum & Art Galley in 1956) and letters from James Watt to Jean De Luc, 1783 and 1807 (originals in Yale University Library). [**B&W Parcel B/17**]

- 58. Photostat copies of letters to William Buckle, 1824 (originals in King's College London) and letter from J. H. Mitchell of South Carolina to Matthew Boulton, 1787. [**B&W Box 34/17**]

- 59. Photocopy of agreement between Boulton & Watt and John and Thomas Sparrow for an engine for Cockshead Colliery, 1 Jun. 1793 (original in the Library of Keele University). [**B&W Box 27/71**]