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Source List of documents relating to Sierra Leone

The Sierra Leone Colony

MS 3219/4/94/29

Letter. Henry Smeathman (London) to James Watt (—). 21 Jun. 1786.

[He encloses a plan [not present] concerning his attempt to open a new trade with Africa by establishing a colony of poor Black people in Sierra Leone].

' A more important pursuit engages my attention at present, an attempt to open a new and beneficial system of commerce with Africa. Enclosed is a Plan, of which I request your acceptance, also two, one of which I request you will do me the honour to present to Mr Southern and the other to Dr. Priestl[e]y.

I purpose to take with me Draughtsmen and Assistants to collect and make observations and experiments in Natural History, Philosophy, Chemistry etc. I am a mere Tyro in everything, and therefore wish for necessary instruction. To obtain it I have drawn up various hints and queries, rather with a view to get philosophical Gentlemen to direct my enquiries, and propose experiments, than to offer information

That being the intention I could wish to submit them to your judgement and shall send them without further apology, if I receive any encouragement from Mr Boulton, who I hear is in Town. I shall with great pleasure make any experiment in my power which may conduce to promote science.

You will observe my plan of settlement, that Blacks and Persons of Colour, have a most favourable opportunity, through the benevolence of Government of enjoying great advantages, & the Public will be relieved from a great burthen for the greater part of those unfortunate persons come to the Parish. If I could have the same bounty with whites, for it amounts to £14 — each person, it would be possible to engage ten thousand in a month. Upward of 340 have entered voluntarily to go with me. Many of the Black Men have white wives and the Black Women white husbands, and there are among them all kinds of useful tradesmen.

I sail the third week in the next month.

.....Henry Smeathman.'

See **Black Poor & White Philanthropists; London's Blacks and the foundation of the Sierra Leone Settlement, 1786 - 1791, Stephen J. Braidwood. (1994)**

No reply from James Watt has been found.

B&W/S/4

Copy of 'Plan of a Settlement to be made near Sierra Leona on the Grain Coast of Africa', by Smeathman, Henry, 1786. (Copy taken c. 1980)

MS 3782/3/69 Soho Mint Packing Book 20 Mar. 1792-8 May 1793. (1 vol.)

French 5-sol pieces, casks 510-932.

French 2-sol pieces, casks 181-575.

Mr. Wilkinson's halfpence, casks 1-7.

Anglesey pence, casks 1-7.

Sierra Leone pence, casks 1-27.
Leeds halfpence, casks 1-14.
Sierra Leone one-cent pieces, casks 1-42.
Bermuda copper pieces, casks 1-7.
Medals.

MS 3782/12/68/43

Copy letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to Charlotte Matthews [London]. 7 May 1793.

Dear Madam,

Having receiv'd a letter from Mr. Townend of York (the active partner in the Yorkshire Copper Co.) which pricks me to the quick, as it presses me for a payment, that was only due the 3d instant, and in a manner that is too unhandsome for me to bear, I therefore find my self under the necessity of flying to you for a temporary relief. I say temporary because I have a demand on the Sierra Leone Co. for about 1500£ for coin, and upon Mr. Bowser for 2000 guineas for copper, which I hope to receive, or at least as much as will pay my draught on you, before due.

If Mr. Hurd had paid me what he owes, or if I could sell 20 ton of copper I now have here, I should not be pinched; but there is neither money nor trade at Birmingham at this juncture. Hence necessity has obliged me to draw upon you for £2271 3s. 2d. payable to George Townend, Esqr., at six weeks after date, and dated the 3d instant. This being paid, I have the satisfaction of saying that I do not owe a single guinea for copper or brass or any other metal, but have much owing to me for those materials.

I cannot promise to provide you with cash for the discharge of the above, but I have no doubt of providing you with good paper, and hope you'll be able to do the rest.

I rather think it will be June before we shall meet, unless we are sooner call'd by our Albion friends. We are all tolerable well and in as good spirits as the times will allow. Adieu. I remain ever yours,

M. Boulton

[*Edited transcript.*]

MS 3782/12/51/161

Printed letter. Sierra Leone Co. (—) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 25 Oct. 1806.

Matthew Robinson Boulton produced coinage for use in Sierra Leone in 1814, which commemorated the abolition of the slave trade in 1807:

MS 3782/8/50/82

Copy letter. Zaccheus Walker Jr. (Soho) to Z. Macauley (London). 5 Nov. 1814.

"With invoice and charges of the Sierra Leone coin."

MS 3782/13/51/100.

Letter. Zaccheus Walker Jr. (Soho) to Matthew Robinson Boulton (—). 24 Nov. 1814.

Enclosing a letter from Mr Pidgeon, and advert'g to Mr P's remarks on the Sierra Leone coin.

MS 3782/8/50/99 Copy letter. Zaccheus Walker Jr. (Soho) to Matthew Robinson Boulton (London). 24 Nov. 1814.

"Relative to Pidgeon's remarks on Matthew Boulton's head."

Soho, 24th: Novem^r: 1814.

Dear Sir,

Herewith you have a Letter from M^r: Pidgeon to me, containing various remarks on the Sierra-Leone-Coin, & requesting an Order for £5—These remarks wear the appearance of having been incited more by the disappointment experienced on the obliteration of his name, (which stood at full length) than from any well founded grounds of objection to the money itself, which, in the opinion of M^r Busch, & every one employed in the Mint, is as good, if not better, than any other which has been hitherto executed.—This Coin could not, of course, be struck from the original Die engraved by him, (for fear of cracking & spoiling,) but was struck from Dies procured by taking a Punch from his original Matrix, & which have not been subsequently touched up by M^r: Phillp, who only inserted better Letters.—To enable you to form a just comparison betwixt the money struck & his Engraving, I have accompanied his Sulphur-Impression with a bronzed specimen struck from the Dies used in striking the Money, the whole of which was got up with equal care under Busch's immediate inspection.—In replying to M^r: Pidgeon's L^r: I have merely informed him, that his L^{re}: & specimen have been sent up to you, & that M^r: Mosley will furnish him, on application, with the £5 requested.—There still remains a Balance in his favour of £37..10/-.—I am,

D^r: Sir, truly & respectfully Yours

Z Walker

M R Boulton Esq:

MS 3173

Records of the Birmingham Ladies Negro's Friend Society for the Relief of Negro Slaves, 1825-1919. There were links with Sierra Leone. Again see online catalogue.

MS 1623. Records of Birmingham Mint

MS 1623/1/6/7/2/h

Coin Inspection certificates: Contains coin inspection certificates signed and stamped by the Royal Mint passing completed coins for issue and examining sample coins. The certificates are for coins produced by The Mint, Birmingham, Ltd. for the following countries: Nigeria, Hong Kong, Sierra Leone, Malaya and British Borneo and East Africa. 02 January 1964 - 02 September 1964

MS 1623/1/10/1/12

File: '1857 Tender for supplying 'Rod of Honour' Sierra Leone', March 1857

MS 2192

Various photographs and ephemeral items in MS 2192 Collection of Vanley Burke, Photographer. The catalogue can be seen via the online Birmingham Archives and Heritage catalogue at the Library of Birmingham website (in the E-Library section) (1980s -)

FT. September 2013