



Guide to the John Backhouse Papers, 1740-1956

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Summary

Collection Title:

John Backhouse papers, 1740-1956

Creator:

Backhouse, John, 1784-1845

Abstract:

Merchant and British Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Business and personal correspondence of the Backhouse family, principally of John Backhouse. Material for the 18th and early 19th centuries reflects the family's mercantile operations, including efforts to collect pre-Revolutionary debts in America. Other papers relate to Backhouse's career as Commissioner and Receiver General of the Excise Office and Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, his service as private secretary to George Canning, his service with the diplomatic corps, his art collection, and his mercantile associates in Amsterdam and Hamburg. Other subjects include the Board of Control under Canning, and the British consulates at Canton and Amoy. Family correspondence contains numerous references to the Foreign Office and to relations with Circassia, France, Greece, Russia, Turkey, and the United States. Letters and diaries of Backhouse's son, George, and his wife include references to the slave trade and describe their life in Havana while he was commissary judge there. There are also thirteen Cabinet circulars (1835-1837) from the British Foreign Office and marked for return to either Backhouse or Strangways. These abstracts of intelligence were based on confidential reports received from the British ambassadors in Paris, Berlin, Lisbon, Madrid, Constantinople, and Petersburg, and relate chiefly to French, Russian, and Spanish politics.

Extent:

12 Linear Feet (30 boxes; 1 oversize folder)
4,480 Items

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00062

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1vs33>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], John Backhouse Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

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Background

Scope and Content

Business and personal correspondence of the Backhouse family, principally of John Backhouse. Material for the 18th and early 19th centuries reflects the family's mercantile operations, including efforts to collect pre-Revolutionary debts in America. Other papers relate to Backhouse's career as Commissioner and Receiver General of the Excise Office and Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, his service as private secretary to George Canning, his service with the diplomatic corps, his art collection, and his mercantile associates in Amsterdam and Hamburg. Other subjects include the Board of Control under Canning, and the British consulates at Canton and Amoy. Family correspondence contains numerous references to the Foreign Office and to relations with Circassia, France, Greece, Russia, Turkey, and the United States. Letters and diaries of Backhouse's son, George, and his wife include references to the slave trade and describe their life in Havana while he was commissary judge there.

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Biographical/Historical

Merchant and British Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The John Backhouse Papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 1968.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library Staff

Encoded by Abraham Lee, January 2010

Accessions were merged into one collection, described in this finding aid.

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Names and Subjects

- Merchants -- Great Britain -- Correspondence
- Slave trade -- Cuba
- Great Britain -- Foreign relations -- 19th century
- Great Britain -- Politics and government -- 19th century
- Great Britain -- Commerce -- United States
- Canning, George, 1770-1827
- Backhouse, George Canning
- Backhouse, John, 1784-1845

Collection Inventory

Papers, 1740-1813	Box 1
Papers, 1814-1820	Box 2
Papers, 1821-1822	Box 3
Papers, 1822 Aug.-1825	Box 4
Papers, 1826-1827 Aug.	Box 5
Papers, 1827 Sept.-1830	Box 6
Papers, 1831-1833 July	Box 7
Papers, 1833 Aug.-1835 June	Box 8
Papers, 1835 July-1837 March	Box 9
Papers, 1837 April-1838 May	Box 10
Papers, 1838 June-1839	Box 11
Papers, 1840-1841	Box 12
Papers, 1842-1843	Box 13
Papers, 1844	Box 14
Papers, 1845-1846	Box 15
Papers, 1847-1852 Aug.	Box 16
Papers, 1852 Sept.-1855 Sept.	Box 17
Papers, 1855 Oct.-1864	Box 18
Papers, 1865-1875	Box 19
Papers, 1876-1877 Oct.	Box 20
Papers, 1877 Nov.-1899	Box 21
Papers, 1900-1942	Box 22

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Papers, Undated	Box 23
Journal of Ellen Backhouse	Box 24
Miscellany: Genealogy	Box 24
Miscellany: Valentines	Box 24
Wax Seals	Box 24
Miscellaneous Papers	Box 24
Newspapers, printed material	Box 25
Clippings & Pipe Office Roll	Box 26
Volumes	Box 27
Photographs	Box 28
Collection of Autographs, cards, invitations, etc.	Box 29
Papers, Oversize	Oversize-folder 1
