

George Poyntz Ricketts letter book

Ms. Codex 1860

Finding aid prepared by Donna Brandolisio.

Last updated on May 09, 2019.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

October 2017

Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	3
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	4
Controlled Access Headings.....	5
Collection Inventory.....	6

Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Ricketts, George Poyntz, 1774-1815
Title	George Poyntz Ricketts letter book
Call number	Ms. Codex 1860
Date [inclusive]	1803-1815
Extent	1 volume
Language	English
Abstract	An oversize letter book containing the expense accounts, and outgoing letters of George Poyntz Ricketts who worked in India for the East India Company. The letters in the volume span the years from 1803 to 1815.

Cite as:

George Poyntz Ricketts letter book, 1803-1815, Ms. Codex 1860, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Born in Nursling, Hampshire, England the eldest son of five children to George Poyntz Ricketts, who was governor of Barbados, and Sophia Watts. Ricketts was a civil servant with the East India Company from 1790 to 1815. He began working in India as an assistant to the secretary of the Secret Department in 1791. Beginning in 1792 he worked as a collector in different regions including Tirhut and Bihar, India. In 1807 Ricketts served as judge and magistrate of the Zillah Court in Mirzapur. In 1810 he served as collector of customs and head of the custom house at Benares and Mirzapur. Ricketts married Sophia Sarah Jane Pierce in Kolkata on February 23, 1800. They had eight children.

Scope and Contents

This brown leather volume contains the expense accounts, and outgoing letters of George Poyntz Ricketts spanning the years from 1803 to 1815. The first eleven pages comprise bills and expenses for supplies and a longboat. Following the accounts is a recipe for an Indian dish. The remainder of the volume comprises Rickett's letters to several officials of East India Company including chairman Henry Thomas Colebrooke. He also corresponded with Governor-Generals of India Marquis Wellesley and Lord Minto. The letters in the volume contain various subjects including the business affairs, finance, and trade of the East India Company. Rickett's also wrote of his position at the company, promotions, health, family, and travel. In 1807 Ricketts traveled to Colombo where he recorded a seven-page deposition given by Mahomed Gane who once served Robert Barry of the Malay Corps. Gane witnessed the massacre of British troops in the first war of Kandy in 1803. In the deposition Gane provided a detailed account of the violence he witnessed including the death of Lieutenant Blackiney by Malayan Prince Sanguylo. A brief index follows the letters. Several pages at the end of the volume are blank.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

October 2017

Finding aid prepared by Donna Brandolisio.

Access Restrictions

This codex is available for research.

Use Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may exist. For most library holdings, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania do not hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the requester to seek permission from the holder of the copyright to reproduce material from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books

and Manuscripts.

Source of Acquisition

Sold by The Wayfarer's Bookshop (North Vancouver, B.C.), 2017.

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Codices (bound manuscripts)
- Correspondence
- Depositions
- Letter books
- Manuscripts, English--19th century

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Kandy (Sri Lanka)--History--Sources

SUBJECT(S)

- East India Company--19th century--History--Sources

Collection Inventory

	Volume
George Poyntz Ricketts letter book, 1803-1815.	1