

David Nisbett letters and journal

Ms. Coll. 1122

Finding aid prepared by Donna Brandolisio.

Last updated on November 30, 2015.

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

November 2015

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Nisbett, David, 1775-1865
Title	David Nisbett letters and journal
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1122
Date [inclusive]	1794-1799
Extent	1 volume
Language	English
Abstract	A volume containing the transcriptions of letters and of journal entries spanning from 1794 to 1799 by British surgeon and soldier David Nisbett.

Cite as:

David Nisbett letters and journal, 1794-1799, Ms. Coll. 1122, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Scope and Contents

Leather bound volume containing the transcriptions of letters and of journal entries spanning from 1794 to

1799 by British surgeon and soldier David Nisbett. The prominent years in volume are from 1798 to 1799. The letters and journal entries were probably transcribed by Nisbett's mother at Kew Cottage in Surrey, England. Nisbett mentions the cottage and his sisters. The pages in the volume are numbered 1 to 262. Nisbett served as a surgeon in the medical battalion of British East India Company. He has provided some observations of his voyage from England to India, but does not mention the ship name. Nisbett wrote of his bungalow in Cawnpore (Kanpur) and social aspects of living with other soldiers. He mentioned the wives of fellow soldiers and noted tales of children being carried off by wolves and tigers. Nisbett gave information of living conditions describing in detail how the bungalows were cooled by a frame of fabric and the use of water. Nisbett mentioned he had servants and the cost of keeping them. The Nabob, an account of the succession to throne of Oudh, and Nawab Wazir Ali Kahn are included in the volume. He wrote of his travels by boat, camel, and horse along with dogs from Kanpur to Chunar, Allahabad, and Lucknow. Nisbett discussed sleeping in tents, the jungle, architecture, and buying cloth from merchants. Several pages in the volume are devoted to General Claude Martin (1735-1800) and his castle at Lucknow where Nisbett dined with the General. Nisbett also wrote to his mother of meeting and dining with Sir James Craig. Nisbett noted little of his posts as surgeon, but does write of transporting the sick and wounded. The end of the volume follows the pursuit of Vizier Ali of Oudh from April to May 1799. The spine of the volume is stamped India journal D. Nisbett.

Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

Sold by Bristow & Garland Booksellers (Hampshire, United Kingdom), 2015.

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Manuscripts, English--18th century
- Transcriptions

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Allahabad (India)--Description and travel--18th century
- India--History--British occupation, 1765-1947--Sources
- Kanpur (India)--Description and travel--18th century
- Lucknow (India)--Description and travel--18th century
- Lucknow (India)--Social life and customs--18th century

SUBJECT(S)

- Soldiers' writings, English--18th century

Collection Inventory

	Volume
David Nisbett letters and journal, 1794-1799. 1 volume.	1