

Oliver Goldsmith papers

RBD.GOLDSMITH

Finding aid prepared by Garrett Boos.

Last updated on November 20, 2013.

Free Library of Philadelphia, Rare Book Department

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Summary Information

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| Repository | Free Library of Philadelphia: Rare Book Department |
| Creator | Elkins, William McIntire, 1882-1947 |
| Title | Oliver Goldsmith papers |
| Call number | RBD.GOLDSMITH |
| Date [inclusive] | 1758-1798 |
| Extent | 2.11 linear feet |
| Language | English |
| Abstract | This collection is comprised of letters and other documents to and from Oliver Goldsmith. The first series has letters and documents from members in his literary circle as well as documents related to Oliver Goldsmith's works. The second series is composed of contracts between Oliver Goldsmith and John Newbery. |

Cite as:

[Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Oliver Goldsmith papers, 1758-1797, Free Library of Philadelphia, Rare Book Department.

Biography/History

Oliver Goldsmith was an Anglo-Irish author best known for his novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* (1766) and his play *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773). He was most likely born in Pallas, Ireland between 1728 and 1731. He attended Trinity College and studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and the University of Leyden. From 1754 to 1756 he traveled through Europe and may have obtained a medical degree. It is known that he failed the examination at the College of Surgeons. In 1756 he moved to London and practiced unsuccessfully as a physician. From 1757 he began writing, editing, and proof-reading for various magazines. These magazines included *British Magazine*, *Bee*, and *Lady's Magazine*. From 1760 to 1761 he became a proof-reader and preface-writer for the publisher John Newberry. Newberry is credited with popularizing children's literature, and the Newberry Medal was named in his honor. One of Goldsmith's better known contributions to Newberry's magazines was the "Chinese Letters" for *Public Ledger*. In 1762 he founded the Samuel Johnson's literary club known as The Club, with several other writers. Oliver Goldsmith died from a kidney infection on April 4, 1774.

Bibliography:

International Dictionary of Theatre. Gale, vol. 2.

Scope and Contents

This collection is comprised of letters and other documents to and from Oliver Goldsmith. The first series has letters and documents from members of "The Club" as well as documents related to Oliver Goldsmith's works. The second series is composed of contracts between Oliver Goldsmith and John Newberry. Of particular interest are Newberry's financial accounts with Oliver Goldsmith and accounts kept by Goldsmith's landlady Elizabeth Fleming on Oliver Goldsmith's living arrangements.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged into two series: 1. Goldsmith and 2. Goldsmith-Newberry papers. Materials are arranged in alphabetical order by author, and then by chronological order.

Administrative Information

Free Library of Philadelphia, Rare Book Department
Finding aid prepared by Garrett Boos.

Sponsor

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open to researchers by appointment. Please contact the Curator for information on access.

Use Restrictions

The right of access to material does not imply the right of publication. Permission for reprinting, reproduction, or extensive quotation from the rare books, manuscripts, prints, or drawings must be obtained through written application, stating the use to be made of the material. The reader bears the responsibility for any possible infringement of copyright laws in the publication of such material. A reproduction fee will be charged if the material is to be reproduced in a commercial publication.

Some of the materials in this collection may be too fragile for use without the Curator's supervision.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift of William McIntire Elkins.

Processing Information note

This finding aid was entered into AT by Garrett Boos from legacy data compiled by the Rare Book Department. Each item was examined and description enhanced and standardized where necessary.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

British Library: GOLDSMITH-PERCY PAPERS, Add. 42515.

Controlled Access Headings

Form/Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Manuscripts

Personal Name(s)

- Burney, Charles, 1726-1814
- Carr, John, 1723-1807
- Colman, George, 1732-1794
- Cumberland, Richard, 1631-1718
- Dodsley, James, 1724-1797
- Garrick, David, 1717-1779
- Garrick, Eva Marie Violetti, 1724-1822
- Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774
- Griffin, William, 1766-1830
- Johnson, Samuel, 1709-1784
- Langton, Bennet, 1737-1801
- Malone, Edmond, 1741-1812
- Newbery, John, 1713-1767
- Nourse, John, 1762?-1790
- Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811
- Reynolds, Joshua, Sir, 1723-1792
- Wingrave, Francis

Subject(s)

- Authors

Collection Inventory

Goldsmith, 1758-1798.

Call-Number

Boswell, James. Autograph letter signed to the Reverend Thomas Percy. London, 1 page, May 6. Goldsmith

General note

Transcription laid in.

Bunbury, Catherine Horneck. Copy of a letter to Oliver Goldsmith, in verse, 2 pages, undated. Goldsmith

General note

Copy in an unidentified hand.

Burke, Edmund. Autograph letter signed to David Garrick. Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1 page, undated. Goldsmith

General note

With seal.

Cumberland, Richard, 1631-1718. Autograph letter signed to George Colman. Wells Somersetshire, 3 pages, 1787 July 10. Goldsmith

General note

Date from postmark.

Garrick, David, 1717-1779. Autograph letter signed to John Carr. London, 2 pages, 1773 April 17. Goldsmith

General note

With seal.

Garrick, David, 1717-1779. Autograph letter signed to an unidentified recipient, 1 page, undated. Goldsmith

Garrick, David, 1717-1779. Autograph manuscripts signed of several poems on Oliver Goldsmith: "An Extempore Epitaph", "Another", "Upon Dr. Goldsmith's Characteristical Cookery" and "Jupiter & Mercury". London, 2 pages, undated. Goldsmith

General note

Sometimes called "Garrick's Famous Epitaphs on Oliver Goldsmith". Bound as a volume. Portrait of Garrick and related documents bound in. Bookplate of A. Edward Newton. Housed separately.

Garrick, Eva Marie Violetti. Autograph letter signed to an unidentified recipient. Hampton Middlesex, 1 page, July 31. Goldsmith

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph letter signed to Jane Lawder. Temple Exchange Coffee house, near Temple Bar, London, 3 pages, 1758 August 15. Goldsmith

General note

Printed transcription laid in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph manuscript signed of "The Captivity: An Oratorio". London, 18 pages, 1764. Goldsmith

General note

Seventeen page manuscript, and one page Autograph document signed. Receipt to Mr. Dodsley "for an oratorio", October 31st 1764. Bound as a volume. Bookplate of John Murray III.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph note signed to John Dodesley (James Dodsley). Gray's Inn London, 1 page, 1764 March 10. Goldsmith

General note

Inserted in Goldsmith's *An Inquiry Into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe* (London, 1759), copy 2.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Receipt for payment by James Dodsley, for writing his *History of England*. London, 1 page, 1764 August 08. Goldsmith

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph letter signed to Sir Joshua Reynolds. Paris, 3 pages, 1770 July 29. Goldsmith

General note

With seal.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Document signed. Contract with William Griffin for the *History of Animated Nature*. London, 1 page, 1772 June 27. Goldsmith

General note

With the seal and two signatures of Goldsmith. Signed twice by George Corral, witness. Autograph document signed. Receipt for sale of this assignment by William. Griffin to John Nourse, signed by Griffin, June 30, 1772, on verso. Signed by Francis Wingrave, witness.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Copy of a letter to Catherine Horneck Bunbury, largely in verse. Possibly London, 8 pages, undated. Goldsmith

General note

Possibly in the hand of Bennet Langton.

Johnson, Samuel, 1649-1703. Autograph letter signed to possibly David Garrick. London, 1 page, May 25. Goldsmith

General note

Autograph letter signed from G. Birkbeck Hill, Oxford, Jan. 14, 1889, identifying the recipient, laid in.

Langton, Bennet, 1737-1801. Autograph letter signed to Charles Burney. Headington, Oxfordshire, 3 pages, July 27. Goldsmith

General note

With seal. Small piece missing with loss of text.

Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811. Autograph letter signed to an unidentified publisher. Dublin, 2 pages, 1798 July 16. Goldsmith

General note

Signed "Thos: Dromore". Possibly to J. Swan.

Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811. Autograph letter signed to Edmond Malone. Dromore House Dromore, Down, Northern Ireland, 3 pages, 1803 October 5. Goldsmith

General note

Signed "Thos: Dromore". With seal.

Goldsmith-Newberry papers

Reynolds, Joshua, Sir, 1723-1792. Autograph letter to Thomas Percy. Leicesterfields, London, 1 page, 1768 April 02. Goldsmith

General note

Autograph note in unidentified hand, supplying year. With seal.

Reynolds, Joshua, Sir, 1723-1792. Autograph letter signed to an unidentified recipient. London, 3 pages, 1784 October 26. Goldsmith

Reynolds, Joshua, Sir, 1723-1792. Autograph letter signed to Thomas Percy. Leicesterfields, London, 1 page, March 1. Goldsmith

Reynolds, Joshua, Sir, 1723-1792. Autograph letter signed to the Reverend Thomas Percy. Leicesterfields, London, 1 page, March 3. Goldsmith

General note

With seal.

Goldsmith-Newberry papers, 1761-1767.

Call-Number

Fleming, Elizabeth. Autograph document. Statement of money paid Elizabeth Fleming by John Newbery on account of Oliver Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1763 February. Goldsmith-Newberry Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Fleming, Elizabeth. Autograph document. Memorandum of account with Oliver Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1763 August 14.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Fleming, Elizabeth. Autograph document signed. Statement of Oliver Goldsmith's account paid by John Newbery. London, 1 page, 1763 December 9.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Fleming, Elizabeth. Autograph document. Bill for board, extras, washing and mending to Oliver Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1763 December 25.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Signed by Goldsmith. Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph letter signed to John Newbery. London, 1 page, 1762.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Receipt for payment by John Newbery for abridgment of Plutarc's *Lives*. London, 1 page, 1762 March 5.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Receipt for payment by John Newbery for *The Cock-Lane Ghost*. London, 1 page, 1762 March 5.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Receipt for payment by John Newbery for the manuscript of *Chinese Letters "The Citizen of the World"*. London, 1 page, 1762 March 5.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Promissory note to John Newbery. London, 1 page, 1763 October 11.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Receipt for payment by John Newbery. London, 1 page, 1763 October 11.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Receipts for payment by John Newbery for *A Preface to the History of the World*, *The History of England*, *Translations of the Life of Christ*, and *The Lives of the Fathers*. London, 1 page, 1763 October 11.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Receipt for payment by John Newbery. London, 1 page, 1763 December 17.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Statement of account with John Newbery for *The Traveler* and other literary work. London, 1 page, 1766 June 7.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph document signed. Promissory note to John Newbery. London, 1 page, 1767 July 7.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Goldsmith, Oliver, 1730?-1774. Autograph letter signed to John Newbery relating to Plutarch's *Lives*. London, 1 page, undated.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Newbery, John, 1713-1767. Autograph document signed. Statement of account with Oliver Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1761 October 14.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Newbery, John, 1713-1767. Autograph manuscript signed. Memorandum listing books sent to Oliver Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1762 November 25.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Newbery, John, 1713-1767. Autograph manuscripts signed of eleven memoranda concerning Oliver Goldsmith's accounts. London, 11 slips of paper; size varies, 1764 July 7.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

One memorandum on verso of an autograph letter signed from J. Barr to Mr. Newbery, March 28th 1767, with Barr's seal. bound as a volume.

Newbery, John, 1713-1767. Autograph document. Memorandum of account with Oliver Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1764 October 29.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Newbery, John, 1713-1767. Autograph manuscript signed. Memorandum listing books sent to Oliver Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1765 September 11.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Newbery, John, 1713-1767. Autograph document signed. Memorandum of account with Oliver. Goldsmith. London, 1 page, 1766 October 11.

Goldsmith-
Newberry
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.

Newbery, John, 1713-1767. Autograph document. Memorandum of account with Oliver Goldsmith mentioning *The Traveler: A Poem, essays, etc.*. London, 2 pages, undated.

Goldsmith-
Newbery
Papers

General note

Bound as a volume. Transcription bound in.