

William Jones (1745-1818) Collection

Reference code:
GB 462 WJ

Dates of material:
c. 1767-1803

Level of Description:
Fonds

Extent:
10 boxes

Deposited in:
**Oxford University
Museum of Natural History
Archives and Library
Parks Road,
Oxford, OX1 3PW
United Kingdom**

Last updated:
30 October 2014
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Context

Name of creator

Jones, William (c.1745-1818) of Chelsea, wine merchant and amateur entomologist and artist.

Biographical history

No known records exist of the date or place of birth of William Jones, but according to his descendant, Dr Fredrick Dawtrey Drewitt, he is believed to have been born in 1745. Jones was a wealthy London wine merchant who retired to 10 Manor Street, Chelsea after amassing a private pension. It was after this that Jones began to devote his time to the pursuit of entomology, specifically, in the study of Lepidoptera. He published only once, submitting an article to the Transactions of the Linnean Society, but ultimately become best known for his unpublished manuscript, popularly entitled Jones' 'Icones'.

Jones was a member of the Linnaean Society from 1791, and was a contemporary of the founder, Sir James Smith. Jones was also Treasurer of the Society of London Entomologists.

William Jones died in 1818 and was buried at St Luke's in Chelsea on 1 April of that year.

Archival History

The William Jones Collection was donated to the Museum by Dr Fredrick Dawtrey Drewitt between 1925 and 1938 through Hope Professors, E.B. Poulton and G.H. Hale Carpenter. For information on the donation of the related specimen collection, contact the Life Collections department at Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

Contents

Scope and content

The William Jones collection comprises of material primarily related to Jones' interest in Lepidoptera, as well as his theological and artistic interests and study. The most notable item in the collection is his original and unpublished manuscript of butterfly and moth paintings, known popularly as Jones' 'Icons'. This work includes depictions of over 1500 butterflies and moths painted from some of the most eminent collections existing in London in the late 18th century.

The collection also includes papers and correspondence relating to Jones' association with both the Linnaean Society and the London Society of Entomologists, 2 silhouette likenesses of a man believed to be Jones, and a small collection of books and notebooks on theological and natural history topics.

The collection is arranged in the following series;

WJ/A Personal Papers

WJ/B Artistic works and papers

WJ/C Notes and notebooks

Appraisal, destruction and scheduling information

All items in this collection are to be retained in perpetuity by the Museum.

Accruals

It has been recorded that the collection was transferred to the Museum over the period of several years, between 1925 and 1938.

System of Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into 3 series to reflect both the types of materials found within the archive and the nature of their content.

The collection has been rearranged several times by curators and professors at Oxford since its donation to the museum. No records remain of the original arrangement, but all efforts have been made to maintain the provenance and arrangement, where known.

Conditions of Access and Use

Conditions governing access

Access to the collection must be arranged through the Head of Archives and Library.

Oxford University Museum of Natural History

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library@oum.ox.ac.uk

Access is available to all with a research interest in the collection.

Conditions governing reproduction

No reproduction or publication of the collection is permitted without permission. Contact the Museum in the first instance.

Language

The collection consists of material in Latin, Hebrew, and primarily English. It also contains material written in Shorthand.

Finding aids

A listing compiled by Hope Librarian, Audrey Z. Smith, is included in her book, 'A history of the Hope Entomological Collections in the University Museum Oxford: with lists of archives and collections', Oxford University Press, 1986. In addition to this listing, the collection can be found online at www.oum.ox.ac.uk/imu.

Description control

Archivist's Note

The following sources were consulting in preparing this description;

Dawtreay Drewitt, F. 1924. The romance of the apothecaries' garden in Chelsea. London: Chapman and Dodd.

Jones, W. 1794. A new arrangement of Papilio, in a letter to the President. *Transactions to the Linnaean Society of London* 2:63-69.

Poulton, E.B., Hobby, B.M. Hemming, F. & Edelsten, H.M. 1934. English names regularly used for British Lepidoptera up to the end of the eighteenth century, with a biographical account of William Jones of Chelsea. *Transactions for the Society of British Entomology* 1:139-184.

Salmon, M.A. 2000. The Aurelian Legacy. British butterflies and their collections. Colchester: Harley Books.

Smith, Audrey Z. 1986. A history of the Hope Entomological Collections in the University Museum Oxford: with lists of archives and collections. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Vane-Wright, R.I. 2010. William Jones of Chelsea (1745-1818), and the need for a digital online 'Icones'. *Antenna* 34(1): 16-21.

Waterhouse, G.A. 1938. Notes on Jones' 'Icones' (Lepidoptera). With Footnotes and appendix by Sir Edward Poulton. *Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society of London (A)* 13, 9-7.

In addition to textual documents, this collection includes publications and objects which have been catalogued as archival material due to their relationship with the collection. The reference numbers assigned to these items in this catalogue represent both shelfmarks and object reference number for the purposes of citation, loans and collections management activities.

Rules

Fonds and series level descriptions are based on the *International Standards for Archival Description*, ISAD(g).

WJ/A: Personal Papers

1786-1803

1 box

Various creators

The series comprises correspondence and papers relating to Jones' association with the Linnaean Society and the Society of London Entomologists. It also includes two silhouette portraits of a man believed to be Jones, and small collection of books belonging to, and annotated by Jones.

This series is arranged into the following sub-series;

WJ/A/1: Correspondence

1786-1798

6 leaves

WJ/A/2: Societies

1780-1782, 1791

1 notebook and 1 leave

WJ/A/3: Portraits

No date

2 silhouettes

WJ/A/4: Annotated books

1771-1803

5 volumes

WJ/A/1 Correspondence

WJ/A/1/1 Letters from Sir James Smith to William Jones of Chelsea

1786-1787

3 leaves in 1 folder

James E. Smith

Bound leather folder containing three letters, all from James E. Smith to Jones on topics related to the founding of the Linnaean Society. Also includes a description of Smith's tour of Europe and enquires about a courier bird for Dr. Latham. Folder included annotations on the significance of the letters and information about Smith and Jones, made by Frederick Dawtrey Drewitt.

Items

WJ/A/1/1/001 Letter

8 September 1786

1 leave

Letter written from Paris in which Smith describes cabinets and garden in Europe that he has visited, including those in Paris and in The Hague.

WJ/A/1/1/002 Letter

19 February 1787

1 leave

Letter from Rome thanking Jones for his input on the founding of a society dedicated to the study of Natural History. Also includes further descriptions of Smith's travels in Europe.

WJ/A/1/1/003 Letter

7 July 1787

1 leave

Letter from Genoa in which Smith describes an illness he suffered when arriving in the city, and expresses pleasure at having convinced Jones of the Linnaean Society. Smith also describes his time in the city.

WJ/A/1/2 Miscellaneous letters

WJ/A/1/2/001 Letter

October 1789
1 leaves
Thomas Marsham

Fragment of a letter of introduction.

WJ/A/1/2/002 Letter

21 February 1798
1 leaves
J Tetlow

Letter outlining the methods used to stain straw various vivid colours.

WJ/A/1/2/003 Draft letter

No date
1 leaves
William Jones

Draft letter to Linnaean Society regarding a moth colony in Jamaica.

WJ/A/2 Societies

WJ/A/2/0/001 Draft minute book of the Society of London Entomologists

1780-1782
1 notebook; 27 leaves
William Jones

Rough copy of minute book listing attendees and actions of meetings in which Jones acted as secretary.

WJ/A/2/0/002 Receipt for subscription to Linnaean Society

7 December 1791
1 leave
Thomas Marsham

Receipt for payment of £10 for Jones' annual subscription to the Linnaean Society.

WJ/A/3 Portraits

WJ/A/3/0/001 Stencil silhouette of William Jones

No date
1 leave
Unknown creator

Stencil silhouette cut-out of William Jones on paper.

WJ/A/3/0/002 'Likeness' of William Jones

No date
Framed painting
T. Rider

Painted silhouette in oval frame by T. Rider of Charles Street, Covent Garden. Complete trade label pasted on back of frame.

WJ/A/4 Annotated books

WJ/A/4/0/001 [Bound volume containing various publications]

1771-1773
272 pages
William Curtis
T.P. Yeats

Includes 'Instructions for collecting and preserving insects; particularly moths and butterflies' and 'Fundamenta Entomologicae', both by William Curtis, and 'Institutions of Entomology', by T.P. Yeats.

WJ/A/4/0/002 'Catalogue of the plants growing wild in the environs of London'

1774
42 leaves
William Curtis

WJ/A/4/0/003 'Dissertation of the sexes of the plants translated from the Latin of Linnaeus'

1786
42 leaves
James Edward Smith

WJ/A/4/0/004 'Prodromus Lepidopterorum Britannicorum'

1802
59 leaves
Fellow of the Linnaean Society

Copy of a publication, popularly attributed to A.H. Haworth, a contemporary and friend of Jones. Heavily annotated with additional species notes made by Jones.

WJ/A/4/0/005 'A concise Hebrew grammar without points'

1803
8 leaves
W Romaine

WJ/B: Artistic works and papers

c.1779-1818

7 boxes

William Jones

This series includes both bound and loose-leaf paintings, primarily of Lepidoptera specimens, as well as a small selection of botanical specimen representations. Most notable of these is Jones' most famous work, known popularly with zoologists and entomologists as Jones' 'Icones'. This work is an original, unpublished manuscript depicting butterfly and moth specimens and brief descriptions from some of the most eminent collections in London at the time.

It also includes papers related to painting technique and supplies, as well as a box of paint powders and a hand lens, believed to have been used by Jones in the painting of his 'Icones'.

This series is arranged into the following sub-series;

WJ/B/1: Jones' 'Icones'

c. 1779-1818

6 bound volumes

Originally bound in 7 volumes, the plate numbers for each drawing in this sub-series refer to this original format. Original volumes 2 and 3 are located in the current volume 2.

WJ/B/2: Paintings

c. 1790

13 paintings and sketches

WJ/B/3: Notes and supplies

c.1779-1818

2 leaves and 1 box of paints and supplies

WJ/B/1 Jones' Icones

WJ/B/1/1 Papiliones Equites

c. 1783
118 leaves

WJ/B/1/2 Papiliones Heliconii and Paliones Danii

c. 1784-1785
166 leaves

WJ/B/1/3 Papiliones Nymphales

c. 1785
111 leaves

WJ/B/1/4 Papiliones

No date
109 leaves

WJ/B/1/5 Papiliones Plebeii

No date
118 leaves

WJ/B/1/6 Papiliones

No date
139 leaves

WJ/B/2 Paintings

WJ/B/2/1 Butterfly and moth paintings

c. 1790
6 leaves
William Jones

Loose-leaf paintings, some with borders, of various butterflies and moths, similar in style to Jones' 'Icons'.

WJ/B/2/2 Caterpillar paintings

c.1790
9 leaves
William Jones

Loose-leaf paintings, some with borders, of various Lepidoptera larvae on vegetation.

WJ/B/2/3 Plant paintings

No date
4 leaves

Paintings of potted auriculas and tulips, some with butterflies featured in the scene.

WJ/B/3 Painting notes and supplies

WJ/B/3/0/001 Paint samples and mixes

No date
2 leaves

Instructions for mixing colours and sampling paints, as well as some colour samples on a chart.

WJ/B/3/0/002 'Direction for illuminating ms'

c. 1710
1 notebook; 13 leaves
Elisabeth Elstob
William Jones

Transcription by Jones of Elstob's transcription of an 'ancient manuscript' on illuminating and gilding letters.

WJ/B/3/0/003 Paints and related supplies

No date
1 wooden box

Box of paint powders, palette and hand lens owned by Jones, and used in painting the 'Icones'.

WJ/C: Notes and notebooks

c.1765-1785

21 notebooks and 2 leaves

William Jones

Notes and notebooks relating to Jones' interest and work in the areas of Lepidoptera and botany, including field notebooks that record the place, date and circumstances of his collection and observation. Also includes notebooks and documents on a wide variety of historical periods and facts, including reference to mythological and biblical events.

Includes hand-copied texts on the Hebrew language and instruction in writing shorthand. Includes one notebook in shorthand which has not been translated.

This series is arranged into the following sub-series;

WJ/C/1 Natural History notebooks

c. 1765-1785

8 notebooks

WJ/C/2 Historic and folklore notes

No date

2 notebooks and 2 leaves

WJ/C/3 Theological notebooks

No date

7 notebooks

WJ/C/4 Language notebooks

c. 1767

4 notebooks

WJ/C/1 Natural History notebooks

WJ/C/1/0/001 'Notes on British moths & butterflies 1780-85' and 'Drury's entomological diary 1764-1766'

1764-1766, 1780-1785
74 leaves

Notebook containing observations of various British insects, by Order, and a hand-copied version of Dru Drury's entomological diary for the years 1764-1766.

WJ/C/1/0/002 Notes on British Lepidoptera

c.1770
88 leaves

Observation field notebook outlining species, date and place of observation.

WJ/C/1/0/003 'Papilones'

No date
66 leaves

Notebook containing descriptions of butterflies, including habitat. Reference to specific specimens in collections, including those in his own.

WJ/C/1/0/004 List of 56 British butterflies and 297 moths

No date
110 leaves

Observation field notebook outlining species, date and place of observation. Also includes a list of popular names of over 200 species.

WJ/C/1/0/005 Descriptions of caterpillars

No date
32 leaves

Notes on caterpillars including details of English and Linnaean names, their food source, when they emerge and where best to find them.

WJ/C/1/0/006 Description of caterpillars, food, plants, emergences, etc.

No date
12 leaves

Includes name, description of caterpillars, where and when they were found, when they emerged, and a description of their flight.

WJ/C/1/0/007 Notes on Bombyx and Noctua moths

No date
7 leaves

WJ/C/1/0/008 Botanical notes

No date
38 leaves
Unknown

Notebook containing descriptions of various botanical specimens in unknown hand. Some pages have been removed and others with sections missing.

WJ/C/2 Historic and folklore notes

WJ/C/2/0/001 Pedigree of English Kings

No date
1 leaves
Unknown

Genealogical pedigree of the English Kings proposing a direct lineage from mythical Anglo Saxon figures Woden and Friga.

WJ/C/2/0/002 "Speech of Logan a Shawanese Chief to Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia in 1774"

c. 1774
1 leaves
Unknown

Transcribed copy of speech made during the Dunmore War fought between British colonists and the Iroquois in the Ohio region of the United States.

WJ/C/2/0/003 Historic dates and notes

No date
1 notebook; 19 leaves
William Jones

Notebook containing lists related to various subjects in British history. Includes topics such as 'Tons of shipping entering ports', 'national debt' and 'taxes'. Also includes some reading lists and lists of translations related to theological topics.

WJ/C/2/0/004 Commonplace book

No date
1 notebook; 50 leaves
William Jones

Notebook containing cures and potions for various ailments and afflictions. Also includes calendar of activities at end for unknown year.

WJ/C/3 Theological notes and verse

WJ/C/3/0/001 List of Anglo-Saxon translations

No date
1 leaves
William Jones

List of biblical translations of 6th and 7th century texts, dating from 1349 to 1710. Also includes timeline of biblical crucifixions.

WJ/C/3/0/002 'Translatio es Greco en Latino'

No date
2 leaves
William Jones

Biblical translations from Greek and Latin.

WJ/C/3/0/003 Duty's of the converted to their neighbours

No date
1 leaves
William Jones

List of biblical passages related to the treatment of neighbours.

WJ/C/3/0/004 'Christianidos'

No date
22 leaves
William Jones

Handwritten sacred verse, copied into a notebook.

WJ/C/3/0/005 Sacred Verse

No date
1 notebook
William Jones

Notebooks containing various notes and transcriptions of sacred verse.

WJ/C/3/0/006 Sacred Verse

No date
1 notebook
William Jones

Notebooks containing various notes and transcriptions of sacred verse.

WJ/C/3/0/007 Sacred Verse

No date
1 notebook
William Jones

Notebooks containing various notes and transcriptions of sacred verse.

WJ/C/4 Language notebooks

WJ/C/4/0/001 'Brachngraphy or short-writing made easy to the meanest capacity'

No date
17 leaves
Thomas Gurney
William Jones

Gurney's book on shorthand, copied by Jones into a notebook.

WJ/C/4/0/002 Shorthand

No date
96 leaves
William Jones

Notebook of verse written in shorthand. Not translated.

WJ/C/4/0/003 'A short view of the Hebrew words with their sounds in English and also an introduction to the Hebrew language'

c.1767
100 leaves
John Mackay
William Jones

Mackay's book on Hebrew, copied by Jones into a notebook

WJ/C/4/0/004 'An introduction to the Hebrew language with a short view of the Hebrew words in English'

2 September 1767
50 leaves
John Mackay
William Jones

Mackay's book on Hebrew, copied by Jones into a notebook.