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Sir James Jay papers4078946

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Rare Book and Manuscript Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Jay, James, Sir, 1732-1815
Title:	Sir James Jay papers
ID:	4078946
ID:	MS#0667
Date [inclusive]:	1760-1930
Date [bulk]:	1762-1774
Physical Description:	2.5 linear feet 1 document box (box 1), 1 volume (box 3), 1 flat box (box 3)
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Sir James Jay papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical Note

Physician. Sir James Jay was the brother of Justice John Jay. In 1763, Sir James Jay went to England to raise money for King's College and was knighted by King George III. He was also credited with inventing an ink for secret correspondence in the first years of the American Revolution and was a member of the New York State Senate (1778-1782).

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Historical Note

Adapted from "Early Fund-raising Efforts of King's College," part of the research materials for the Bicentennial Celebration, Office of Development, January 15, 1953. ("King's College – Fundraising," [Historical Subject Files \(UA#0002\)](#), Box 156, folder 7).

In 1762, the Board of Governors was looking to raise funds for the new College. They appointed a committee of five, headed by Dr. James Jay (brother of John Jay). This committee was to proceed to England, and Dr. Jay was instructed to apply first to the two members of the college corporation - His Grace, Thomas Secker, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury and the Right Honorable Samuel, Lord Sandys, first Lord of Trade and Plantations, to be advised by them as to the proper steps to be pursued. He was to obtain first the bounty of the royal family, then to procure circular letters from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to their respective clergy, to further the solicitation.

That these petitions bore fruit is evidenced by the inclusion in the minutes of the College of an order for the expression of thanks to his Majesty for "his most gracious countenance and donation," as well as to Lord Bute and to His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. No mention was made of the amounts received individually, but supporting evidence indicates the King's contribution to have been £400. Later, in June 1763, the Board of Governors expressed their thanks to the Right Honorable William Pitt for his generous donation. Altogether, the mission to England was successful, and the College benefited by the receipt over a period of some few years of approximately £10,000.

When presenting his initial letters to the King, on March 25, 1763, Dr. Jay was knighted by George III, who, in the interim, had succeeded to the throne. But in the early part of 1765, there appears in the minutes of the College the first indication of a controversy between Sir James Jay and the Board of Governors. Instigated by a London agent who was jealous of Sir James's success, a serious misunderstanding arose concerning the accounting for the funds accumulated, and it reached a point where the Board of Governors pursued a lawsuit against Sir James. A rare and unexpected find of the full record of the trial revealed that the Governors finally withdrew their charges. The situation resulted, however, in a break between Sir James and the College and a lack of public recognition on the latter's part of all that Sir James had accomplished.

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Summary

Source materials on Sir James Jay, relating principally to his trip to England to raise funds for King's College, 1762-1763, and to the subsequent lawsuit brought by the Governors of the College to recover funds which he had collected. Letters, documents, and accounts in

manuscript as well as photostats of the records in the Public Records Office in London bearing on the legal action are included. There is some personal and biographical material on Jay as well as photostats and other copies of his writings.

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Arrangement

Cataloged.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Inventory published. (JR) Inventory updated (volume information). CCR. 2023-11-16
2024-06-18

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession number--M-59.

Reproduction Note

Type of reproduction--Photostats in part

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 07/--/89.

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Processing Information

Photostats removed from old, labeled wooden OS box and placed into modern OS box, assigned as box 3.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

The [Early Minutes of the Governors of King's College 1755-1770](#) are available online. The Columbiana Collection holds copies of "An humble representation, by William Smith, DD and James Jay, MD, in behalf of the lately erected colleges of Philadelphia and New-York, London, September 9, 1762" (call number CE J3323) and Sir James Jay's "Letter to the Governors of the College of New York; respecting the Collection that was made in this Kingdom in 1762 and 1763 for the Colleges of Philadelphia and New York..." 1771 (call number CE J332 and [online](#)). Additional materials are also available online via the library's catalogue CLIO including "[A letter to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, &c., in respect to the collection that was made for the colleges of New York and Philadelphia / by Sir James Jay ... ; being a vindication of the author, occasioned by the groundless insinuations, and very illiberal behaviour of Mr. Alderman Trecothick, with authentic evidence.](#)"

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Controlled Access Headings

- Actions and defenses -- New York (State) -- New York
- Universities and colleges -- New York (State) -- New York
- England -- Description and travel
- King's College (New York, N.Y.) -- : Finance
- Great Britain. Public Record Office

Other Finding Aids

[Legacy finding aid](#)

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Collection Inventory

Series I: Sir James Jay papers, 1760-1930

Title/Description	Instances
King's College Governors to [Philip] Bearcroft (draft), [1760 February]	box 1
Kempe, John Tabor et al. to the Governors of King's College (also signed by Samuel Johnson, John Watts, Samuel Auchmuty, and James Duane, who made up the Committee of Correspondence), 1762 April 15	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Report of the Committee authorizing Sir James Jay to raise funds for King's College	
King's College Governors to the University of Oxford (copy), 1762 May 14	box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Sir James Jay, who will be raising funds for King's College

King's College Governors to Thomas [Secker], Archbishop of Canterbury (copy), 1762 May 14 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Sir James Jay et al., who will be raising funds for King's College

King's College Governors to the Society for the Encouragement of the Arts ... (copy), 1762 May 14 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Sir James Jay et al., who will be raising funds for King's College

King's College Governors to the Royal Society [London] (copy), 1762 May 14 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Sir James Jay et al., who will be raising funds for King's College

King's College Governors to the Antiquary Society [London] (copy), 1762 May 14 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Sir James Jay et al., who will be raising funds for King's College

King's College Governors to Cambridge University (copy), 1762 May 14 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Sir James Jay et al., who will be raising funds for King's College

King's College Governors to all Patrons of Learning ... (draft of circular letter, with a printed copy), 1762 May 14 box 1

Scope and Contents

Introducing Sir James Jay et al., who will be raising funds for King's College

King's College Governors to Sandys, Samuel, 1st Baron Sandys (copy), 1762 May 14 box 1

Jay, (Sir) James to the [Governors of King's College], 1762 August 9 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: his fundraising for King's College

Jay, (Sir) James to the [Governors of King's College], 1762 August 11 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: his fundraising for King's College

Jay, (Sir) James to the Governors of [King's] College (addressed to [Henry] Barclay), 1762 August 17 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: his fundraising for King's College

Jay, (Sir) James to the [Governors of King's College], 1762 [October] 5 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: his fundraising for King's College

Kempe, John Tabor to the Governors of King's College (enclosing report below), 1762 November 16 box 1

Scope and Contents

Kempe, John Tabor. Instructions for Dr. Jay. Authorizing Sir James Jay to raise funds for King's College. [1762 November]

Jay, (Sir) James to the Governors of [King's] College, 1763 April 19 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: his fundraising efforts

Jay, (Sir) James to the Governors of King's College, 1763 May 10 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: his fundraising efforts

Kempe, John Tabor to the [Governors of King's College] (written for the Committee of Correspondence and enclosing the letter below), 1763 November 1 box 1

Scope and Contents

Kempe, John Tabor to Sir James Jay, 1763 October 26 (draft)

King's College Governors to Messrs Drummond & Company (draft), 1763 November 21 box 1

Scope and Contents

Drawing on the funds raised by Sir James Jay

Jay, (Sir) James (account with King's College, draft), [1764]	box 1
Jay, (Sir) James (account with King's College), [1764]	box 1
Jay, (Sir) James to [Samuel] Auchmuty, 1764 April 7	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: his financial dispute with King's College	
Drummond, Andrew, & Co. to the Governors of King's College, circa 1765 March	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: the financial dispute with Sir James Jay	
George III (copy of the King's mandamus granting 20,000 acres in New York to King's College at the petition of Sir James Jay; signed by W. Sharpe), 1765 March 29	box 1
Jay, Peter to Samuel Auchmuty, 1765 April 15	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: the dispute between Sir James Jay and King's College	
Jay, Peter to Samuel Auchmuty, 1765 April 16	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: the dispute between Sir James Jay and King's College	
King's College Governors to Barlow Trecothick, [1765 May]	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: the financial dispute with Sir James Jay	
King's College Governors to [Barlow Trecothick] (draft), [1765 May]	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: the lawsuit brought by King's College against Sir James Jay	
[King's College Governors] (power of attorney to Barlow Trecothick to resolve the dispute with Sir James Jay, in the hand of Lambert Moore and with his signature), 1765 May 4	box 1

<p>[Kempe, John Tabor] to the Governors of King's College (draft, written for the Committee of Correspondence), 1765 May 14</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Re: the dispute between Sir James Jay and King's College</p>	
<p>Kempe, John Tabor to the Governors of King's College (written for the Committee of Correspondence), 1765 May 14</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Re: the dispute between Sir James Jay and King's College</p>	
<p>Trecothick, Barlow to the [Governors of King's College], 1765 September 14</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Re: the financial dispute between King's College and Sir James Jay</p>	
<p>[King's College Governors] to [Barlow Trecothick] (in the hand of John Tabor Kempe), 1765 December 18</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Re: the financial dispute with Sir James Jay</p>	
<p>Moore, Lambert to Daniel Horsmanden (copy), 1766 November 20</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>The Governors of King's College appoint a Committee of Correspondence to settle the dispute with Sir James Jay.</p>	
<p>Trecothick, Barlow to William Bayard (copy), 1766 December 11</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Re: the lawsuit between King's College and Sir James Jay</p>	
<p>Hicks, Whitehead (affidavit of John Watts, John Tabor Kempe, Samuel Auchmuty, and James Duane re: the report of Sir James Jay's proposal; draft copy), 1767 February</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p>Hicks, Whitehead (affidavit of John Watts, John Tabor Kempe, Samuel Auchmuty, and James Duane re: the report of Sir James Jay's proposal; draft copy with an a.n.s. added by Auchmuty), 1767 February</p>	<p>box 1</p>

Hicks, Whitehead (affidavit of John Watts, John Tabor Kempe, Samuel Auchmuty, and James Duane re: the report of Sir James Jay's proposal; draft copy), 1767 February	box 1
King's College Govenors to Barlow Trecothick (draft, to be signed by John Tabor Kempe, John Watts, Samuel Auchmuty, John Livingston, Myles Cooper and James Duane), 1767 February 10	box 1
King's College Governors to William Samuel Johnson (draft, to be signed by John Tabor Kempe, John Watts, Samuel Auchmuty, John Livingston, Myles Cooper and James Duane), 1767 February 22	box 1
King's College Governors to Barlow Trecothick (draft, to be signed by John Tabor Kempe, John Watts, Samuel Auchmuty, John Livingston, Myles Cooper and James Duane), 1767 February 23	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: the lawsuit brought by King's College against Sir James Jay	
Kempe, John Tabor, et al. to the Governors of King's College (also signed by Samuel Auchmuty, John Livingston, Myles Cooper, James Duane, and John Watts, all of whom for the Committee of Correspondence to resolve the dispute with Sir James Jay), 1767 February 26	box 1
Smith, William to John Tabor Kempe, 1767 December 27	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: the financial dispute between King's College and Sir James Jay	
Johnson, William Samuel to the [Governors of King's College] (copy, in his hand, of lost letter), 1768 January 9	box 1
Scope and Contents	
To the [Governors of King's College] 1768 July 25. Re: Sir James Jay's dispute with King's College	
Johnson, Samuel to [Myles] Cooper (copy, attested to by Lambert Moore and Isaac Ryckman, Jr.), 1768 November 24	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Re: his recollection of the fund-raising arrangements with Sir James Jay	
[King's College Governors] to Barlow Trecothick., 1769 March 22	box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: the financial dispute with Sir James Jay

Kempe, John Tabor, et al. to William Samuel Johnson box 1
(written for the Committee of Correspondence, also signed
by Myles Cooper, John Livingston, John Watts, and James
Duane), 1769 March 22

Scope and Contents

Re: the financial dispute with Sir James Jay

[King's College Governors] to [William] Samuel Johnson box 1
(draft in the hand of Myles Cooper), 1769 March 22

Scope and Contents

Re: the financial dispute with Sir James Jay

Kempe, John Tabor to John Watts (written in the third box 1
person), [1769 December]

Scope and Contents

Watts, John to the [Committee on Correspondence]
(in the third person, added to the letter above, also
signed by James Duane, John Livingston, and Samuel
Auchmuty), [1769 December]

Duane, James to [William Samuel] Johnson (draft), 1769 box 1
December 4

Scope and Contents

Re: the financial dispute between King's College and
Sir James Jay

Kempe, John Tabor to Barlow Trecothick (written for the box 1
Committee on Correspondence of King's College), 1769
December 9

Scope and Contents

Re: the financial dispute with Sir James Jay

Trecothick, Barlow to the Governors of King's College, 1770 box 1
August 14

Scope and Contents

Enclosing Sir James Jay's answer in the financial
dispute with King's College

Johnson, William Samuel to James Duane, 1771 March 30 box 1

Scope and Contents

Mentions Sir James Jay's dispute with King's College

Holker, Samuel to [William] Samuel Johnson, 1771 July 24 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: the lawsuit between King's College and Sir James Jay

Auchmuty, Samuel to James Duane, 1771 August 2 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: the lawsuit brought by King's College against Sir James Jay

[Jay, (Sir) James] Statement on his financial dispute with King's College, [1773] box 1

Scope and Contents

Sir James proposed that the College publish this statement but was refused.

Jay, (Sir) James to the Governors of King's College, 1773 February 1 box 1

Scope and Contents

Re: the disputed £4,000 raised for King's College

Verplack, Samuel, et al. (Committee report resolving the financial dispute between King's College and Sir James Jay; also signed by Myles Cooper, Whitehead Hicks, Charles Inglis, Thomas Jones, G. Banyar, and William Walton), 1773 March 5 box 1

Jay, (Sir) James (releasing the Governors of King's College from all claims; also signed by Lambert Moore and Robert Hull, and bearing the seal of Sir James Jay), 1773 May 4 box 1

Jay, (Sir) James (releasing Barlow Trecothick from all claims, also signed by Lambert Moore and Robert Hull), 1773 July 1 box 1

Scope and Contents

Also bearing Sir James Jay's seal

[King's College Governors] (power of attorney to Thomas Maunsel, authorizing him to raise funds for King's College), [1774 May] box 1

Photostats relating to Sir James Jay and the Governors of King's College secured from the Public Record Office, London, 1930 March

<p>To the Right Honorable Charles Lord Camden, Baron of Camden Place in the County of Kent, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain. Humbly complaining shew unto Your Lordship Your Orators, the Corporation of the Governors of the College of the Province of New York ..., 1766 November 21</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>C12 855/19 A (6 pieces)</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>
<p>Sir James Jay, knight, Defendant to the Bill of Complaint of the Corporation and the Governors of the College of the Province of New York..., 1767 May 6</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>C12 855/19 B (6 pieces)</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>
<p>Continuation of above. Signed: James Jay., 1767 May 6</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>C12 855/19 C (6 pieces)</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>
<p>To the Right Honourable Charles Lord Camden ... Lord High Chancellor of Britain - Humbly complaining sheweth unto Your Lordship your Orator Sir James Jay of Pall Mall in the Parish of St. James Westminster, Doctor in Physic..., 1767 November 16</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>C12 1310/13 A (6 pieces)</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>
<p>Continuation of the above, 1767 November 16</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>C12 1310/13 B (6 pieces)</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>
<p>Continuation of the above, 1767 November 16</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>C12 1310/13 C (6 pieces)</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>
<p>Continuation of the above, 1767 November 16</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>C12 1310/13 D (6 pieces)</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>
<p>Continuation of the above, 1767 November 16</p>	<p>flatbox 3 (OS)</p>

Scope and Contents

C12 1310/13 E (6 pieces)

The Answer of Barlow Trecothick, esquire, one of the Defendants to the Bill of Complaints of Sir James Jay, knight, Dr. of Physic, complainant..., 1768 August 19	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1310/13 F (25 pieces)

The Answer of the Governors of the College of the Province of New York in the City of New York in America Defendants to the Bill of Complaint of Sir James Jay, knight..., 1771 November 20	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 A (6 pieces)

Continuation of the above, 1771 November 20	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 B (6 pieces)

Continuation of the above, 1771 November 20	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 C (6 pieces)

Continuation of the above, 1771 November 20	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 D (6 pieces)

A schedule containing true and exact copies of all the Minutes, Orders, Reports, Letters and Papers referred to in the Answer to which this schedule is annexed., 1771 November 20	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 E (6 pieces)

Continuation of the above, 1771 November 20	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 F (4 pieces)

Continuation of the above, 1771 November 20	flatbox 3 (OS)
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Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 G (6 pieces)

Continuation of the above, 1771 November 20

flatbox 3
(OS)

Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 H (6 pieces)

Continuation of the above, 1771 November 20

flatbox 3
(OS)

Scope and Contents

C12 1322/36 I (3 pieces)

Affidavit of William Hardy, 1768 February 3

flatbox 3
(OS)

Scope and Contents

H319

Affidavit of Sir James Jay that the Reverend Samuel Johnson is above 70 years and is a material witness in this cause, 1768 February 1

flatbox 3
(OS)

Scope and Contents

H320

Correspondence with Columbiana Curator Milton Halsey Thomas re: photostats, 1930 January 26

box 1

Governors of King's College vs. Sir James Jay

box 2

Physical Description: 1 Volumes

Scope and Contents

Papers in the case of Governors of King's College vs. Sir James Jay; 3 documents.

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