



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Otis family papers4079184

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 29, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Summary	3
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Controlled Access Headings	5
Other Finding Aids	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Otis Family
Creator:	Gay Family
Title:	Otis family papers
ID:	4079184
ID:	MS#0957
Date [inclusive]:	1687-1868
Physical Description:	4 boxes 4 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Family of Hingham, Barnstable, and Boston, Mass.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

The collection is equally divided between letters written by members of the Otis family and letters and documents relating to them. The earliest item is a 17th century marriage settlement and there are a few letters written in the 19th century. The bulk of the collection, however is from the second half of the 18th century. The largest number of letters were written by Joseph

Otis (1726-1810), his brother Samuel Allyne Otis (1740-1814), and their father, James Otis (1702-1778). There are a few letters from and relating to Joseph's more famous brother, James Otis of Boston (1725-1783) who was one of the more colorful and incendiary figures in pre-revolutionary New England. Also, letters and documents of George Washington, John Bradford, Josiah Quincy, and Edward Wigglesworth. The letters deal largely with legal and business matters, but there is some comment on events of contemporary interest.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Cataloged and listed.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

Reader must use microfilm of entire collection. See MN# 86-2143.

Alternate Form Available

Microfilm available.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Bancroft. Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--1953. Accession number--M-53.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 08/--/89.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Collections related by provenance: Columbia University also has the Sydney Howard Gay Papers in Ms Coll\Gay and Gay-Otis Family Papers in Ms Coll\Gay-Otis.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Families -- Massachusetts -- Hingham
- Families -- Massachusetts -- Barnstable
- Families -- Massachusetts -- Boston

- Marriage -- Massachusetts
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1775-1783
- United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775
- United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
- Autographs (manuscripts)
- Otis, Joseph, -1810
- Otis, Samuel Allyne, 1740-1814
- Otis, James, 1702-1778
- Otis, James, 1725-1783
- Washington, George, 1732-1799
- Bradford, John, 1747-1830
- Quincy, Josiah, 1744-1775
- Wigglesworth, Edward, 1732-1794
- Gay, Sydney Howard, 1814-1888

Other Finding Aids

Collection inventory is available as [a PDF file](#). Collection can be requested through [CLIO](#).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)