

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

# THE BANKS LETTERS

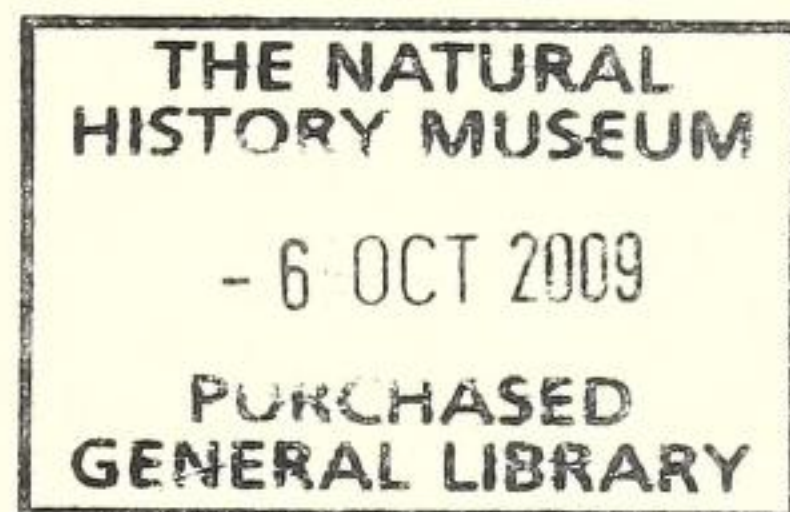
*A Calendar of the manuscript correspondence of*

SIR JOSEPH BANKS

*preserved in the British Museum, the British Museum (Natural History)  
and other collections in Great Britain*

*Edited by*

WARREN R. DAWSON



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who will print the plates and text; he hopes to publish his father's MSS. and plates on the anatomy and osteology of the Cetacea; asks B. for information on books he should consult; he has some curious copper plates engraved with characters brought by his grandfather from India; desires to exchange these with a member of the Soc. for Asiatic Researches for an equivalent in minerals or zoological preparations. [*French.*]

*B.M. Add. MS. 8099. 337-338*

CAMPER, Pieter, F.R.S. (1722-1789). Anatomist and Naturalist

1. Klein Lankum, Franeken 1786 Jan. 23 Thanks B. for his kindness to himself and his son in London; is sending two cases of specimens for exchange with the British Museum; requests Dr. [E. W.] Gray to have the exchanges packed and sent to his banker in London; list of specimens sent; has dissected the animal described by John Ellis in *Phil. Trans.* 56, as a larva, and finds it to be a true fish; asks for the skull of the Asiatic Rhinoceros; has performed the operation for fistula ani. *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 257-258*
2. Leeuwarden 1786 Mar. 26 Details of the despatch of specimens mentioned in last letter; Capt. Jache Romkers, the bearer, could bring back the exchanges; his observations on Cetacea are to be published in Paris under the supervision of Buffon; political unrest amongst his countrymen; wishes he could live in England. *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 259-260*
3. [Soho Square] 1786 May 8 \* Acknowledges C.'s letter; Capt. Romkers, who brought it, has been delayed in the river, loading freight on his ship *Bygeial*; has again applied to Gibraltar for specimens of the rock he desires. *B.M. (N.H.) B.C. 83*
4. Klein Lankum 1786 June 8 Has received the cases of exchange specimens; regrets that the large bones and horns were broken; describes fossils found in the samples of Gibraltar rock; has some fine specimens from Montmartre; will send drawings for John Hunter and B.; notes on the skeleton of Javan Rhinoceros, and on the Dugong, Manatee, Walrus, etc.; has been examining a foetal whale; unidentified cetaceous bones, some in Ashmolean Museum; messages to various friends including Sir Joshua Reynolds; progress of his work on Cetacea and the Anatomy of the Elephant. *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 261-262*
5. Klein Lankum 1786 June 18 Sends drawings and notes on the incognitum from Maestricht which he gave to the British Museum; intends to send a paper on the Dugong; would like some other skulls (of Walrus, etc.), of which there were many neglected duplicates in the basement [of British Museum]; is also sending specimens for Dr. Simmons and drawings of the Montmartre specimen for John Hunter. *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 408*
6. Klein Lankum 1786 Aug. 12 Would like some reprints of his memoir [pub. by R.S.]; Dryander, who knows Dutch, can tell B. about the Dugong and Siren he dissected in London; is preparing for press his work on Anatomy of the Cetacea to be published in Paris; notes the difficulties of sending him further duplicates [from Brit. Mus.]. *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 409-410*
7. Klein Lankum 1787 Feb. 19 Communicates notes on his scientific activities; the respiration of birds, the similarities of "*Pipa americana*" [*P. pipa*] to the European toad, his critique on Monro's work on Fishes, a memoir on fossil bison for the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg, etc.; regrets he could



CAMPER, Pieter, *continued*

not have stayed longer in London to do more work on the Cetacea in the British Museum; has received a Rhinoceros head from Java; his Anatomy of the Elephant will soon be published; intended visit to Germany.

*B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 411-412*

8. [Klein Lankum] 1787 Oct. — [Received by B., Oct. 10.] Sends plates of two species of Rhinoceros for B., Simmons and John Hunter; these are private plates, not for sale; his progress in publication on Cetacea and Elephant; suggestions for putting in order the basement of the British Museum; travels of his son, who may visit England; horrors of the civil war, by which his house and museum are threatened; his specimens are being packed and moved to safety; anxiety about his profession and the fate of his country.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 413-414*
9. Bois le Duc 1787 Dec. 16 His son Pieter has forwarded B.'s letter; he is a member of the Council of States of the United Provinces; the rebels had threatened to destroy his house and museum and had trained their batteries on it; he has dispersed his collection for safety; the German translation of [Alexander] Monro's *Fishes* with C.'s additions; has seen the long-nosed monkey, described by Pennant, in Paris; believes that neither human nor bird remains have been found in fossil state.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 415-416*
10. Klein Lankum 1788 Apl. 3 Discusses the political situation and will support the projected alliance with England; his plans for scientific work and local affairs; warns B. against Dr. Damen, Prof. of Mathematics and Astronomy at Leiden.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8097. 20-21*
11. The Hague 1788 Sept. 12 Progress of his work on the Anatomy of the Elephant; before publishing it he would like to consult the works of earlier writers and asks B. to obtain them for him; declines to be a Foreign Member of Linnean Soc. as he has a poor opinion of the work of Linnaeus; deplores his country's political disturbances and the loss of scientific material due to his hurried flight.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8097. 18-19*
12. The Hague 1788 Sept. 27 Presents plates of the Asiatic and African Rhinoceros for B., R.S. and the British Museum; is sending them by Joseph Jacquin whom he recommends to B.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8097. 23*
13. The Hague 1788 Nov. 1 Returns thanks for loan of book [on the elephant] and for specimens of metals; describes scientific material for his collection brought from Italy by his younger son; discussion of scientific matters.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8097. 22*
14. The Hague 1788 Dec. 25 Returns thanks for specimens of iron; Dr. Heechens is ignorant of science, but interested in literature; believes in the migration of swallows; observations on the anatomy of the Elephant; observations on the works of Lacépède and Buffon; Zimmermann declined the title of Physician to His Majesty; has declined membership of Linnean Society.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8097. 152-153*

CAMPER, Pieter Everhard. Elder Son of Pieter Camper

1. [The Hague] 1790 Jan. 5 Promises to restore to B. the book lent by him to his father; hopes to call upon B. when he comes to London to settle his father's estate.  
*B.M. Add. MS. 8097. 291*



HOLLAND, Lord — See FOX, H. R. V.

HOLLAND, Owen. Botanist

1. Conway 1774 July 19 Sends specimens of *Cistus hirsutus* and other plants gathered at Gloddaith; he hears from Pennant that B. is about to visit Wales, and hopes to see him at Conway *B.M. Add. MS. 33977. 37*
2. Conway 1782 July 28 Describes a method of dyeing leather red and yellow; as the plant from which the dye is prepared grows abundantly, he suggests it might be made a commercial undertaking; asks about the dyeing properties of Lincolnshire *Salicornia*. *B.M. Add. MS. 33977. 161*

HOLROYD, John Baker, 1st Earl of Sheffield (1735-1821). Statesman

1. Sheffield Place 1789 Oct. 17 Has received some samples of wool from Lord Auckland; sends B. two specimens, one of them long, the other very fine and close; they came from Do. Gaspar de Mendoza; our Ambassador states that he saw sheep with wool 5 or 6 inches long, but he (the writer) believes they were goats he saw; Lord A. says there is no difficulty in getting sheep out of Spain; was most pleased with his visit to Lincolnshire; he arrived at Holkham after Coke had gone from home, but he left B.'s note about the wethers and has since had a letter from him; he visited Norwich, Lowestoft and Yarmouth and thence went to Essex. *D.T.C. 6. 233-235*
2. Whitehall 1802 Apl. 1 Regrets he is unable to attend the Committee meeting, but will support the memorial to the late Duke of Bedford. *Wellcome, 67766. (39)*

HOLT, Andreas. Director of the Iceland Company

1. Copenhagen 1772 Apl. 24 Sends two samples of drift-wood found on the rocks near the coast of Iceland; suggests that it originates from America, as the part of Iceland where it occurs faces the New World, and the wood differs from all European kinds. *B.M. Add. MS. 8094. 31-32*
2. Copenhagen 1779 Nov. 30 Has a box of books and papers to transmit to B., but has had no opportunity of doing so; hopes there will be a ship in the spring; informs him that sickness has carried off most of the sheep in Iceland, and reports the death of the doctor, Biarne Paulsen and of the bishop; promises to send a description of the new Botanic Garden of the capital. *B.M. Add. MS. 8094. 219-220*

HOME, Sir Everard, Bart., F.R.S. (1756-1832). Surgeon

1. Kingston, Jamaica 1783 Oct. 15 He has been confirmed as Staff Surgeon and will not return to England for a year; he has sent B. a specimen of *Cactus* in spirit; Wright, a good botanist, has sent home a collection of plants for B. *Kew: B.C. 1. 150*
2. Leicester Square 1788 Aug. 26 Asks B. to obtain sheep for John Hunter's investigation of parasites, the results of which he will communicate to R.S. *Kew: B.C. 1. 318*
3. Leicester Square 1788 Oct. 11 An ailing sheep from Revesby has been dissected and a parasite found in the cerebellum; asks for one or two more sheep for Hunter before B. leaves Revesby for London. *Kew: B.C. 1. 326*



HOME, Sir Everard, *continued*

4. Leicester Square [1788] — Hunter is investigating the Hippopotamus; asks B. to use his influence with Bishop to allow Hunter to examine a specimen in his possession. *Kew: B.C. 1. 331*
5. Leicester Square 1791 Feb. 17 Thanks B. for his friendly endeavours on behalf of Bell, who has been appointed to go to Bencoolen instead of St. Helena. [See EAST INDIA CO., Nos. 23-25.] *Kew: B.C. 2. 31*
6. Leicester Square 1792 Sept. 21 Informs B. of Bell's success in Sumatra; he is sending to B. drawings and description of a double-horned Rhinoceros; he (Home) is paying his addresses to Mrs. Thompson, niece of the Rev. Mr. Dodsworth, whom he wishes to introduce to B. *Kew: B.C. 2. 81*  
*D.T.C. 8. 80-81*
7. Leicester Square 1793 Oct. 17 He reports the death of John Hunter, "in a fit at St. George's Hospital in consequence of an expression of Keate's"; asks B.'s advice about Hunter's affairs, which are in a bad way. *Kew: B.C. 2. 104*  
*D.T.C. 8. 262*
8. Leicester Square 1795 May 3 He requests that B. will lay before the Council of R.S. a plea that he may be indulged in receiving three volumes to complete the set of *Phil. Trans.*; he understands that such indulgence is reserved for the older members of the Society, and fears therefore his request is not perfectly regular. *R.S. Misc. MSS. 3. 49*
9. Leicester Square 1797 Apl. 21 Sends Jenner's account of cow-pox and explains its difference from small-pox; he is at present sceptical of small-pox inoculation [i.e. Vaccination]. *Kew: B.C. 2. 159*  
*D.T.C. 10 (1). 122*
10. Spring Grove 1798 Sept. 30 \* Gives an account of the reasoning faculty in a sparrow feeding on the seeds of an aquatic plant growing in his pond. *de Beer Coll. 15*  
*D.T.C. 11. 102-103*
11. Soho Square 1804 Feb. 10 \* Is grateful for his professional attendance and care through a long and vexatious disease, and encloses a draft for 50 gns.; he hopes this sum is adequate, but if not, begs to be put right. *Kew: B.C. 2. 286*  
*D.T.C. 14. 226*
12. [Leicester Square 1804 Feb. 11] Acknowledges B.'s draft which he considers very liberal, and is also grateful for B.'s expression of confidence in him. *Kew: B.C. 2. 286 (2)*  
*D.T.C. 14. 227*
13. Soho Square 1804 Feb. — \* Informs him that the "Great Tooth" found at Walton, Essex, is now at Guy's Hospital; asks if it is worth his while to call and inspect it. [Endorsed by H., "Mr. Clift will call . . . and examine the tooth"; and by Clift, "The tooth was Elephantine similar to that sent from Colchester to Sir Wm. Blizard and now in the Museum of the College." (R. Coll. Surg., No. 2465).] *Stone Coll. 56*
14. Revesby Abbey 1805 Oct. 22 \* He has seen a most beautiful operation, which was worth the journey to a distant place; four sheep were cut for the *Taenia* in the brain, and in all cases "the operation hit exactly the worm"; describes the operation at some length, and states that the fee was one shilling, with a



MARRA, John (1746-1776+). Seaman

1. On board *Resolution* 1775 [July 30] Announces that the ship has arrived after a tedious but successful voyage; he has collected for B. some "curiosities" and shells; he has much to relate and hopes he may have an early opportunity of doing so. [*Edw. Smith*, 45. The writer was A.B. on Cook's First Voyage and Gunner's Mate on the Second.] *B.M. Add. M.S.* 33977. 53

MARSDEN, William, F.R.S. (1754-1836). Orientalist; Secretary of the Admiralty. (*See also* Addenda)

1. Caroline Street 1783 Apl. 30 Sends an account of the Lightning-stroke at Fort Marlborough, on the west coast of Sumatra, on 18th March, 1782.  
*R.S. Letters* 1737-83. 27
2. London 1789 Oct. 29 Regrets to hear that Major Rennell has met with an accident; has just returned from a tour; after visiting the Cumberland Lakes, went to the N. of Ireland and saw the Giant's Causeway, then passed to the W. side, following the course of the Shannon and visited Killarney, going from thence to Cork, Youghal, Waterford, etc., to Dublin; returned through N. Wales, Stroud, Cirencester and Slough, where he called on Herschel who has a paper ready on the 6th Satellite; there was no meeting of the Academy while he was in Dublin, but he visited Lord Charlemont.  
*D.T.C.* 6. 267-268
3. Soho Square 1790 Apl. 3 \* Describes experiments with the gum of the Babul tree. [*See EAST INDIA CO.*, Nos. 15, 16]; comparison of the product with Gum Arabic from Senegal.  
*R.S. Misc. MSS.* 6. 7
4. Lincoln 1790 Sept. 9 \* Asks him to take delivery from Capt. [Edward] Manning of the animal [a Rhinoceros from Sumatra]; Dryander and Maclean will give every assistance; fears the winter will destroy it unless adequately protected; suggests lodging it at Exeter 'Change or with someone else in the trade, on condition of its being housed in a manner approved by M.; if Maclean should not be wanted in clearing the animal [at the Custom House], requests M. to deliver the enclosed letter to him or his son in the office of the India Inspector, Custom House; is in excellent health at Lincoln Races.  
*R.S. Misc. MSS.* 6. 10  
*D.T.C.* 7. 160-161
5. London 1793 Sept. 7 Went to see Lord Howe's Squadron in Torbay, but as it had sailed, went on a tour in Cornwall; the mines were idle, the men having demanded better terms which the owners refused to concede; thanks B. for sending the paper on Batavia, which contains some curious matter but is often wrong in its facts; will visit Ireland in November; a paper in *Asiatick Researches*, Vol. 3, seeks to prove from the Purânas that the Hindoos were acquainted not only with Egypt but with Britain and Ireland; in a future number there will be an account from the same source of St. Patrick's Purgatory.  
*D.T.C.* 8. 254-256
6. Soho Square 1794 May 25 \* He has made up a party to go to-morrow to visit Perry's Dock, thence to Deptford Yard and dine at the Globe at Greenwich, returning by water; his companions will be Lord Sheffield, Sir Thomas Hanmer and some others, and he invites M. to join them.  
*R.S. Misc. MSS.* 6. 13  
*D.T.C.* 8. 198
7. Admiralty 1796 Dec. 12 Wishes to know how the account for the payment of bounties [to seamen] stands as regards the County of Lincoln; he has



written to the Comptroller of the Navy and encloses his reply; it appears that the whole amount has been paid by the County Treasurer and has not been repaid to Government. *Lindsey. 11. 3. 3*

8. Navy Office 1796 Dec. 12 [From Sir Andrew Snape Hamond to Marsden.] It appears that the men raised for the Navy under the recent Act, who should have one-third of their bounty on enrolment, and two-thirds on their being mustered in their ships, have been paid the whole amount by the County Treasurer, although one-third is stated on their tickets; he is having the account for the County of Lincoln prepared and it will be forwarded; he is instructing Captains to be more careful to see that no man is paid the whole bounty on enrolment to prevent desertion and over-payment. *Lindsey. 11. 3. 4*
9. [Soho Square 1796 Dec. 12] \* It appears that the Act requires that two-thirds of the bounty to seamen be paid by Government to the County Treasurer, but it is not to be paid to the men until certificates are produced that they have been mustered in one of H.M. ships; it also appears that the Navy Board has advanced this sum and claims repayment by the County; it seems that at £40 per man the total is £6,400, two-thirds of which is £4,267, but only £2,800 has been received; he is enquiring into it and will report the result. [See CLITHEROW, R., Nos. 1, 2.] *Lindsey. 11. 3. 3A*
10. Admiralty Office 1796 Dec. 13 It seems that volunteers have the option, on being mustered, of receiving the whole of their bounty or of having it paid to their families on production of the ticket signed by the Captain; in the former case the payment is made by the Clerk of the Cheque at the port, and as the Navy Board provide the funds, they call on the Counties to reimburse them; if the County Justices have already paid the men, they receive their bounty twice over, an illegal and irregular proceeding; payment is made on mustering to prevent desertion. *Lindsey. 11. 3. 6*
11. [Soho Square] 1798 [Aug. ?] 22 \* Requests him to send books marked [in a list which is missing], so that Correia can begin his researches; if there is difficulty in sending them, he will call for them at his house to-morrow. *D.T.C. 11. 112* [Note. This letter is dated "Wed. 22. 1798". The only month in that year in which the 22nd fell on a Wednesday is August, when Banks was at Overton or Revesby, and therefore could not call at M.'s house in London.]
12. Admiralty 1804 Aug. 6 Informs B. that [Sir Evan] Nepean belongs nominally to the Board [of Admiralty] but will not take his seat until he returns from Ireland [where he is Chief Secretary]; has no news of Flinders except that he is a prisoner of war in the Isle de France, where he was captured on his return from Port Jackson; this is a gross violation of the good faith that has hitherto protected discoverers and demands a remonstrance to the French Government. *D.T.C. 15. 14*
13. Soho Square 1805 Feb. 21 \* When the Board of Admiralty settled the salaries to be paid to the men of science in H.M.S. *Investigator* the sum was understood by them and by B. to be a net amount, free from deductions, and the half-year's salary advanced to them was so paid; during their absence the Commissioners of the Navy have deducted 1s. 6d. in the £, the word "salary" having been inadvertently used for "allowances"; asks whether the deduction thus made, which has not yet been returned to the Tax



MERCK, Johann Heinrich (1741-1791). Palaeontologist

1. The Hague 1784 June 18 Not knowing if B. received his previous dissertation of two years ago, sends another copy, showing that twelve fossil Rhinoceros have been found in Germany; it also contains observations on fossil young Elephants and on the number of their molar teeth; has agreed with Camper that the teeth found near Mainz resemble those of the African Elephant, while those found near Rudolfstadt resemble the Indian; is working upon a fossil Crocodile found in Germany, also has fossil Bears, Lions and an enormous Ruminant. [*French.*] *B.M. Add. MS. 8095. 309-310*
2. Darmstadt 1785 Apl. 8 Sends drawing of a superb skeleton of a Giraffe at The Hague, and refers to the wretched figure of it in the Dutch edition of Buffon; his fossil researches have been crowned by the discovery that the "Incognitum" of Ohio also occurs in Germany; notes on the fossil Rhinoceros; bought in Bonn a fossil Elephant's tusk 6 ft. long; other acquisitions; the Duke of Württemberg has just discovered a Roman villa and some enormous bones. [*French.*] *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 133-134*
3. The Hague 1785 July 15 Sends drawings made from his osteological observations on little-known animals; mentions the Crocodile with a long snout and a fault in Edwards's drawing of it; he has the teeth of a young *Rhinoceros* in his collection and a lower jaw of *Diceros bicornis*; is doubtful about the teeth of the Hippopotamus sent by B. [*French.*] *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 135*

MERRY, Anthony. British Chargé d'Affaires, Madrid

1. Escorial 1791 Oct. 17 [To Lord St. Helens.] Informs him that the King's sheep have been embarked; the handsome manner in which this was made possible by the Countess del Campo d'Alange, from whose flock the sheep came, requires proper acknowledgement by the King, and he suggests that B. should explain the situation to H.M.; it was unavoidable that it should be known that the sheep were intended for H.M., otherwise a licence for export would not have been granted; suggests that B. should represent to H.M. that the sheep being very valuable, a proper return to the Countess would be the gift of a set of English carriage horses.  
*D.T.C. 7. 272-273*

MERTENS, Carl (1737-1788). Physician

1. Vienna 1781 May 27 Asks to be considered for election as a Foreign Member of R.S. mainly on account of his work on the prevention of scurvy; his observations have since been confirmed by Capt. Cook; had written three years earlier while Pringle was P.R.S., who told him that no foreigners could be elected as they were already too numerous, but he understands this ruling has now been abrogated. [*French.*] *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 472-473*
2. Vienna 1783 Aug. 2 Thanks B. for the communication he has received about the existing rule against the admission of foreigners to R.S.; sends a note on his publication on the use of Sauerkraut in *Phil. Trans.*, Vol. 68. [*French.*] *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 474-475*
3. Vienna 1784 Oct. 17 Had sent B. a Latin work early in the year [B. has written above: "I never received it."]; now sends a treatise on plague in French; reminds B. of his promise that he should be F.R.S. as soon as the regulation preventing the election of Foreign Members should be rescinded. [*French.*] *B.M. Add. MS. 8096. 136*