

Sir William Jackson Hooker letters, 1819-1863
1819-1863
Mss.B.H7652

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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Title	Sir William Jackson Hooker letters, 1819-1863
Date [inclusive]	1819-1863
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Extent	39.0 Item(s)
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Language	English
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Abstract	These letters refer to the exchange of various plants, to botany in general, and to the operation of Kew. There is mention as well of the plants of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Background note

Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865) was a botanist and director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

William Jackson Hooker was born at Norwich, July 6, 1785. His father, Joseph Hooker, cultivated rare plants in his leisure time.

Hooker dedicated himself from an early age to natural philosophy and travel, having inherited land from his Godfather William Jackson. An early discovery of a rare moss drew Sir James Edward Smith's attention to young Hooker. The former was able to persuade the later to take up botany.

Hooker traveled throughout Scotland, then to Iceland making advances to all branches of natural philosophy. These findings were lost, however, when the ship he was on caught fire. Hooker himself made a narrow escape. In 1814 he toured France, Switzerland and Italy, collected specimens and added to a growing number of scientific correspondences.

In 1815 Hooker married Maria Turner and settled at Halesworth, Suffolk, where he started his extensive herbarium. In 1820, due to a growing family and shrinking funds, he accepted a professorship of botany at Glasgow. In 1836 he was knighted in recognition of his services to botany.

In 1841 he took charge of the Gardens at Kew, a position he would hold until his death. In 1847 he co-founded a museum of economic botany, the first and largest of its kind in the world.

Able to balance a busy professional life with multiple projects, Hooker, either as editor or author, contributed to more than 100 volumes on botany throughout his life. He was well liked and respected as a teacher, and often kept in touch with students as they dispersed around the globe. His ever-growing number of scientific contacts allowed him to persuade the cultivation of rare and important plants in their natural environments around the world. His contacts also helped him cultivate an impressive herbarium and library which he generously shared with students and fellow scientists.

Hooker was fellow of the Linnean Society (1806) and the Royal Society (1812) and co-founder of the Wernerian Society at Edinburgh.

Sir William Jackson Hooker died at Kew on 12 August, 1865 of a disease of the throat. He left a widow, two married daughters and a son, Joseph Dalton Hooker.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Purchased and accessioned, 1959 (1959 1029ms). See in-house shelf list for additional accession numbers and dates.

Indexing Terms

Corporate Name(s)

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Personal Name(s)

- Bowring, John, Sir, 1792-1872
- Braun, Alexander
- Eyton, Thomas Campbell, 1809-1880
- Henslow, J. S. (John Stevens), 1796-1861
- Lyell, Charles, Sir, 1797-1875
- Royle, J. Forbes, (John Forbes), 1799?-1858
- Washington, John, 1800-1863

Subject(s)

- Beyond Early America
- Botanical gardens -- England.
- Botany -- England.

- Botany -- Nova Scotia.
- Plants -- Collection and preservation.

Other Descriptive Information

This manuscript collection falls outside the geographic scope of the Early American guide (British North America and the United States before 1840). It may be of interest to scholars interested in global history, international relations, imperialism, or the U.S. in the world.

Collection Inventory

Papers

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Jan. 27, [1819] 7x5

Letter to Messrs Hurst & Robinson,
London;

Glasgow, A.L.S. 1p. and add. Asks that his Flora Scotia be given to a man.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 March 17, 1824 9½x7-¾

Letter to Edward Rigby;

Glasgow, A.L.S. 1p., add., enc. wanting. Returns the autographs left by Rigby. Mentions that "Greville & I have been working much at the Mosses lately...." Refers to Humboldt.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Sept. 30, 1829

Letter to "My Lord"

A.L.S. 4p.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Oct. 23, 1837 10x8

Letter to R. B. Bowman, Newcastle on
Tyne;

Glasgow, A.L.S. 3p. and add. Has prepared some new sets of botanical illustrations. Requests several drawings by Richardson.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Dec. 9, 1838 7¼x4½

Letter to Mrs. Cross;

A.L.S. 3p. Remarks that he "Could not, with safety & convenience, have sent your plants sooner". Complains of an awful draught. Mentions ferns.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Sept. 9, 1841 7x4½

Papers

Letter to "Sir";

Kew, A.L.S. 2p. Expresses thanks to his correspondent "for so kindly taking charge of the little package of the Medicinal Syrup for Lady Hooker at the request of our friend Mr. R[ober]t Brown".

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Dec. 1, 1841

7x4½

Letter to "Dear Sir";

Kew, A.L.S. 3p. Informs his correspondent that Roupell is "quite ready to enter into an engagement with you for the possible publication..." of a book on plants.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 January 21, 1842

7¼x4½

Letter to "My dear Sir";

Kew, A.L.S. 4p. Explains why he cannot accept an appointment as chairman of the botanical committee of the Royal Society. Mentions Griffith, Watson and the Linnean Society, also the gardens at Kew.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 June 2, 1842

8x5

Letter to [John Forbes] Royle;

Kew, A.L.S. 3p., add. Explains why he desires Royle to assume the duty of "Convener of the Botanical Committee of the Royal Soc[iet]y" rather than himself. Refers to Lefroy who brought seeds back from the Antarctic expedition. Mentions the gardens at Kew.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 October 21, 1842

8¼x5

Letter to "My dear Sir";

Kew, A.L.S. 3p. Explains why he hopes that his correspondent will undertake "to call the Meeting of the Committee of Bot[an]y & Vegetable Physiology at the Royal Soc[iet]y". Mentions Griffith and Wallich.

Other Descriptive Information

Papers

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 May 11, 1843 7-1/4x4-1/2

Letter to Simon Williams, Hampstead;

Kew, A.L.S. 3p.and add. Will name Denny for membership in the Linnean Society. His health.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W.J.Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Jan. 31, 1846 7-1/4x4-1/2

Letter to T[homas] Crofton Croker;

Kew, A.L. in 3rd P. 1p., end., env. Requests that "a little packet of living plants in a small tin case" be sent to the Botanic Garden of Ceylon

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Sept. 23, 1848

Letter to ----;

Kew, A.L.S. 3p.and add. Asks about effects of glass on plants. Concerning pitch from the lake in Trinidad.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 January 25, 1850 7x4¼

Letter to "My dear Sir";

Kew, A.L.S. 4p. Expresses thanks for a favor done by his correspondent. Discusses the incident of "my Son having been put under restraint by the Rajah of Sikkim". Mentions Thomson and Campbell.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 December 13, 1850 4½x7

Letter to "My dear Sir";

Kew, A.L.S. 2p. Concerns financial matters. Refers to his son and the gardens at Kew.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 May 20, 1851 7x4-1/2

Letter to Asa Gray;

Papers

Kew, A.L.S. 4p. Explains why he delayed in writing to Gray. Mentions Joseph Dalton Hooker, Webb, De Vriese, Gardner, Stevens and Gay. Concludes with list of needs for his library. Botany.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Dec. 15, 1852

Letter to ----;

Kew, A.L.S. 4p. Is moving and is trying to arrange 100 volumes for binding. Concerning his publications on mosses.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 February 19, 1853 7-3/4x5

Letter to [Sir John] Bowring;

Kew, A.L.S. 4p. Acknowledges receipt at Kew rice paper plants sent by Bowring's son. Praises Bowring's son's botanical and entomological work. Mentions Paxton and Henslow. Refers to his son's Antarctic voyage with Ross.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 April 25, 1853 7x4-1/2

Letter to "Madam;"

Kew, A.L.S. 2p. Seeds from Mrs. James Cowell. "Deodar" seeds also being sent by India Company.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 October 22, 1855 7x4½

Letter to Mrs. Westwood;

Kew, A.L.S. 2p. Concerning a gourd "commonly called the Towel-gourd".

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 October 10, 1856 5-7-1/2

Letter to Dr. [Alexander] Braun;

Royal Gardens, Kew, A.L.S. 2p. and end. by Braun. Is forwarding plants to Braun & Berlin Botanical Garden to avoid cold; awaiting Caspary [Braun's son-in-law]. [J.D.] Hooker returned from Europe and meeting Braun. Braun's note dated 26 October 1856.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 18 Feb., 1857 7 1/8 x 4 3/8

Letter to Captain [John] Washington;

Papers

ALS 4p. Thanks Washington for interest in Vancouver Island Survey. Discusses grasses and gooseberries in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Mentions Beaufort, Beardsley, Duke of Devonshire.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Dec. 5, 1857

Letter to ----;

Kew, A.L.S. 4p. Describes how a botanical guide for a museum should be made up. Concerning Alexander Smith's health.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 April 5, 1858

7-1/4x4-1/2

Letter to Miss Maurice;

A.L.S. 3p. Arrival of box of bulbs in excellent condition.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (Sir William Jackson Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 February 15, 1860

6½x4½

Letter to "Sir";

A.L.S. 1p., end. Expresses thanks to his correspondent for the plants that were sent.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 May 15, 1860

7-1/4x4-1/2

Letter to Seth Levinson;

Kew, A.L.S. 2p. Thanks for Coots Eggs. Will accept more specimens when better habitats can be created.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 August 19, 1860

7¼x4½

Letter to "Sir";

A.L.S. 3p. Explains what he believes to be the origin of communications sent to his correspondent's office for publication.

Other Descriptive Information

See: (W. J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Aug. 25, 1860

7 1/4 x 4 1/2

Papers

Letter to [John] Kirk;

Royal Gardens, Kew, ALS 3p. has seen Dr. Meller, who will be surgeon on steamer for Livingstone. Awaits box of plants. Dr. Hooker on coast. Praise for Capt. Washington. Mentions Archdeacon Mackenzie.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 July 4, 1861

7-1/4x4-3/4

Letter to ----;

A.L.S. 4p. Comments on Mr. Birt, who knows nothing of Kew Gardens except what he picks up as a general visitor. Does not believe Edward Jesse is looking for a position.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 July 5, 1861

7x4-1/2

Letter to Miss Edmonstone;

Kew, A.L.S. 3p. Regrets that he cannot show her around the Kew royal gardens on Saturday.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Jan. 6, 1862

7-1/4x4-1/2

Letter to "Dear Sir";

Kew, A.L.S. 3p. Seeds from Ethiopia. Persons with whom Hooker can correspond in Ethiopia? plants from Schimper in Ethiopia.

**Schwarz, Hooker, [Sir] W[illiam]
J[ackson], 1785-1865.**

October 21, 1862

7-1/4x4-1/2

Letter to Monsieur Le Chevalier de Schwarz;

A.L.S. 3p. Informs Schwarz when he will be at home in order for Schwarz to bring a friend to meet him. Mentions the Gardens.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Oct. 17, 1863

7-1/4x4-1/2

Letter to Hermann Kundt;

A.L.S. 2p. Does not have any letters written by Vogel.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Undated

7-1/4x4-1/2

Concerning Mr. Ward's fungi sketches.

A.D.S. 1p. Botanical notes on reverse.

Papers

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Undated 8x4-3/4

Letter to ----;

A.L.S. 3p. Appreciates the invitation, but goes to Argyleshire and cannot accept. March 28

Other Descriptive Information

See: (Sir William J. Hooker papers.)

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Undated 5x8

Letter to "My Dear Sir"

Nov. 2nd. A.L.S. 1p. Regrets that engagements prevent him from being present at the meeting of the Medical Professors. Comments about gardens.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Undated 7½x4½

Letter to "Dear Sir";

Kew, Tuesday. A.L.S. 2p., enc. wanting. Sends his account of the cedar tree. Refers to Dr. Malet.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Undated 9x7-1/4

Letter to "Dear Sir;"

n.d. L. 1p. copy Refers to Dillwyn and Richard Walker. Discusses C. sentaces plant. Searches for Lichens.

Hooker, William Jackson, Sir, 1785-1865 Undated 7 1/16x8 3/4

Letter to "Dear Sir";

n.d. 3p. A.L.S. Refers to coming meeting with Captain Kellet, Sir John Richardson and Mr. Bentham, suggests joining them. Has asked Captain Kellet to see Lovell Reeve for a written statement about a publication.
