

Amory Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009224>

Collection Summary

Title: Amory Family Papers

Span Dates: 1697-1882

ID No.: MSS10884

Creator: Amory Family

Extent: 650 items; 5 containers; 1.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Merchant trading and shipping family of Ireland, South Carolina, and Boston, Massachusetts. Letterbooks, correspondence, wills, a petition, financial papers, printed matter, and other material pertaining chiefly to Thomas Amory (1682-1728) and his grandson, Thomas Amory (1762-1823).

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Amory, Rebekah Holmes--Correspondence.

Amory, Rufus Greene--Correspondence.

Amory, Thomas, 1682-1728. Thomas Amory papers.

Amory, Thomas, 1762-1823. Thomas Amory papers.

Belcher, Jonathan, 1682-1757--Correspondence.

Eliot, Samuel, fl. 1770--Correspondence.

Emery family.

Holmes family.

Mullin, Alan--Correspondence.

Oursel, Nicholas--Correspondence.

Penhallow, Samuel, 1665-1726--Correspondence.

Ramsey, Ann--Correspondence.

Ramsey, James, fl. 1720--Correspondence.

Organizations

Amory & Taylor--Correspondence.

Jonathan & John Amory (Firm)--Correspondence.

Subjects

Commerce--History--18th century.

Commerce--History--19th century.

Distilling industries.

Imports.

International trade.

Merchants--Ireland.

Merchants--Massachusetts--Boston.

Merchants--South Carolina.

Shipbuilding.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of the Amory Family were given to the Library of Congress by Copley Amory in 1934. Additions were purchased from 1936 to 1943.

Processing History

A petition of John Amory previously cataloged separately was combined with the collection and a finding aid prepared in 2000. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Amory Family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Amory Family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Amory Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Amory Family span the years 1697-1882 and consist of correspondence, letterbooks, wills, a petition, financial material, printed matter, and miscellaneous items. The papers are primarily those of Thomas Amory (1682-1728), and his grandson, Thomas Amory (1762-1823), of Boston.

Thomas Amory the elder was born in the West of England but was brought up in Limerick, Ireland. He lived variously in the Azores, Charleston, South Carolina, and finally in Boston. Amory's letterbooks, 1711-1728, chronicle his career as a transatlantic trader. His correspondence, nearly half of which is in Portuguese, also relates to the early history of trade in the Americas and to the status of the Amory estate. It includes correspondence between various members of the family of his wife, Rebekah Holmes Amory, as well as from various Amory family members, including James and Ann Ramsey and Alan Mullin. Also included is a scrapbook of financial material which was kept by Rebekah Holmes Amory after her husband's death.

The papers of Thomas Amory (1762-1823) consist primarily of commercial correspondence, 1802-1804, and of a business letterbook, 1798-1799, relating chiefly to Amory commercial activities, importing, shipbuilding, and distilleries.

Also included in the papers is correspondence of the firm of Jonathan and John Amory, letters and drafts of the firm of Amory and Taylor of Boston, Massachusetts, and several letters from Rufus Greene Amory. Other correspondents include Jonathan Belcher, Samuel Eliot, Nicholas Oursel, and Samuel Penhallow.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence and other papers
BOX 1	1697-1802 (8 folders)
BOX 2	1803 (4 folders)
BOX 2	1804
BOX 2	Jan.-Apr. (4 folders)
BOX 3	May-Dec. (4 folders)
BOX 3	1808, 1882, undated
BOX 3	Financial scrapbook, 1723-1744
BOX 3	Letterbooks
BOX 3	1711-1714
BOX 4	1717-1725 (3 folders)
BOX 5	1726-1728, 1798-1799 (2 folders)