

MS 3147/3/421
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, T
1795—1798

1. Letter. William Taitt (Hen & Chickens, Birmingham) to James Watt (Soho). 4 Aug. 1797.
He and his brother-in-law Mr. Guest wish to meet Watt to discuss alterations to the engine at Dowlais.
2. Letter. William Taitt (Dowlais Works) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 6 Aug. 1798.
Arrangements with Mr. Pugh for carriage. The sockets for the boiler steam pipes can be made alike.
3. Letter. William Taitt (Cardiff) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 22 Nov. 1798.
Informing James Lawson of when their old engine will be stopped and the new one set to work.
4. Letter. Fermin de Tastet & Co. (London) to James Watt & Co. (Birmingham). 17 Dec. 1796.
Introducing Robert Brinley of the house of James Lloyd Jr., Boston, New England.
5. Memorandum. Tate & Co. distillers – names of. Undated.
6. Letter. Colonel William Tatham [London] to Mr. — Chippindall (—). 7 Feb. 1797.
Addressed to Chippindall as “Agent for Messrs. Bolton & Watts.”
Queries about shipping steam engines to America.
- 7a. Letter. Colonel William Tatham (London) to Richard Chippindall (Salisbury Square, London). 14 Feb. 1797.
Enclosed in (b) below.
- b. Letter. Richard Chippindall (Salisbury Square, London) to Boulton & Watt (13 London St.). 14 Feb. 1797.
Docketed as Colonel Tatham.
Docketed “On sending steam engines to America.”
8. Letter. John Taylor (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Sep. 1795.
Errors in the charges for William Harrison’s time.
9. Letter. John Taylor & Co. (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 7 Feb. 1796.
Feel they have been overcharged for the wooden framework for their engine – can Boulton & Watt give their opinion on the charges.
10. Letter. John Taylor (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 16 Sep. 1797.
Docketed “Wishes his engine to be examined by one of our men.”
11. Letter. John Taylor (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 20 Sep. 1797.
Docketed “Repairs and examination of his engine – wants a man for that purpose.”
12. Letter. John Taylor & Co. (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 21 Jul. 1798.
William Rudge’s repairs to their engine. Still need someone to visit again. Can they have an account for Rudge’s and James Lawson’s time.

13. Letter. John Taylor & Co. (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 21 Dec. 1798.
Corrosion of the joints of the pipes on their boiler. Have secured as best they can, but can one of Boulton & Watt's men visit them. Think iron plates and washers have been used where they should have been copper.
14. Letter. John Taylor (Gomersall, near Leeds) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 1 Mar. 1796.
*Enquiring about the price of an engine to power carding and scribbling machines.
On the same sheet:*
Letter. Benjamin Gott [Leeds] to Boulton & Watt (Soho). Mar. 1796.
Annexing a letter from John Taylor. Recommends him as a "merchant of respectability."
15. Letter. J. Taylor & Son (Rochdale) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 7 Aug. 1797.
Docketed "About Mr. Ravee's engagement to pay for the engine."
16. Letter. J. Taylor & Son (Rochdale) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 6 Sep. 1797.
Docketed "Wanting engine man."
17. Letter. J. Taylor & Son (Rochdale) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 17 Oct. 1797.
Docketed "Returning agreement."
18. Letter. Taylor Weston & Co. (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 30 Jun. 1797.
Docketed "Wish to have estimates."
19. Letter. Taylor Weston & Co. (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 14 Sep. 1797.
Docketed "Ordering a 16 horse engine."
20. Letter. Taylor & Weston (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Sep. 1797.
Docketed "Desire their engine to be completed with dispatch."
21. Letter. Taylor & Weston (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Nov. 1797.
They will be ready for the engine by the time Boulton & Watt can get it to Manchester.
22. Letter. Taylor & Weston (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 17 Mar. 1798.
Mr. Taylor is away – should they wait until he returns to sign the deed of agreement or should the parties now at home sign it and return it.
- 23a. Letter. Jos. Thackeray (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 5 Jul. 1796.
*Enclosing (b) below.
Has received the account, and encloses his first payment. Thinks the sum is too big: the law expenses are "enormous"; he is being charged as if he had a 42 horse engine but it is only 38½; understood that he would be made an allowance because although he intended to have a Boulton & Watt engine they could not make him one in the time he wanted it.
Enclosing a comparison between his engine and J. Simpson's.*
- b. Note. Comparison of the size and performance of J. Simpson's 40 horse engine at Shude Hill and Thackeray's engine at Garratt mill.
24. Letter. Jos. Thackeray (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 16 Mar. 1797.
*Docketed as 17 Mar.
Docketed "Begs further indulgence."*

25. Letter. Jos. Thackeray (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Jun. 1798.
Enclosing payment of part of what he owes. Considers Boulton & Watt should give up the rest.
26. Letter. Jos. Thackeray (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 3 Jul. 1798.
Intended to pay the remainder of what owed, but has been unexpectedly called upon for £3000.
27. Letter. Jos. Thackeray (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 7 Nov. 1798.
Enclosing a bill and settling his account.
28. Letter. Thompson & Baxter (Hull) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Apr. 1797.
Want Benjamin Firth to repair the engine and fix the regulator.
29. Letter. H. P. Thorbeck (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 22 Oct. 1796.
Enquiring about an engine on behalf of a German friend who wants one to power his paper mill.
30. Letter. John Threlkeld (Bradley Iron Works) to James Watt (Soho). 30 Aug. 1796.
Enquiring about James Watt's pneumatic apparatus. List of complaints he would like to know if it treats.
31. Letter. John Threlkeld (Bradley) to John Southern (Soho). 3 Jul. 1797.
Docketed "Enclosing invoice of castings for Lawson Main."
32. Letter. John Threlkeld (Bradley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Jul. 1797.
Docketed "Acknowledgement of receipt of our draft of £309.18.6."
33. Letter. John Threlkeld (Bradley) to John Southern (Soho). 9 May 1798.
They did not have the metals to make the two brass working barrels, but some has been ordered.
34. Letter (in French). Fernando de Torres (Isla de Leon) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 3 Jun. 1795.
Did reply to Boulton & Watt's letter. Progress with the engine. They should make James Murdock repay the money he swindled out of various officials. Malcolm Logan's terms of employment – they are treating him very well and negotiating with Naples for him to stay in Spain. He has demanded more money despite their treatment of him.
35. Letter. George Townend (York) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 3 Mar. 1798.
Enclosing a draft for a dividend for Thomas Wilson on his shares in Messrs. Fenton & the Yorkshire Copper Co.
36. Letter. George Townend (York) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 11 Apr. 1798.
Enclosing a draft for a further dividend for Thomas Wilson on his shares in shares in Messrs. Fenton & the Yorkshire Copper Co.
37. Letter. George Townend (York) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 7 May 1798.
Enclosing a draft for the final dividend for Thomas Wilson on his shares in shares in Messrs. Fenton & the Yorkshire Copper Co. The company has a security in Swansea Harbour but it is not for sale.

38. Letter. Hawkins Tremayne (Heligan) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 15 Feb. 1798.
The Poldice mine adventurers have accepted his proposal for paying Boulton & Watt's demand. Can he make the same proposal to the Wheel Unity adventurers.
39. Letter. John Trumbull (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 12 Nov. 1797.
*The docket is on a separate wrapper.
Docketed "Mr. Argand's invention and copy of his former letter."*
40. Letter. Bernard Tschoffen (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 10 Feb. 1796.
Has seen the engine at Roberts's distillery and will try to see Samuel Whitbread's. Wants the estimate for the 50 horse engine and estimates for 24 and 42 inch cylinders so he can decide which one is appropriate. They will only need to send one erector to Vienna. Can he have Matthew Boulton's reply and the copy presses soon as his stay will be short.
41. Letter. Bernard Tschoffen (London) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 29 Feb. 1796.
Has decided on a 24 inch cylinder engine – can the contract be sent. Will not mention the coin, as Matthew Boulton does not seem to want to give him the information. Hopes the copying press and the latches have been sent as he cannot stay in London any longer.
- 42a. Letter. Bernard Tschoffen (Yarmouth) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 9 Mar. 1796.
*Kept with (b) below.
Agrees to the articles they sent – repeats the terms of the agreement as Boulton & Watt wished. Requests drawings of the rotative shaft and flywheel. Wishes to have these made in Vienna as the freight will be too expensive. The copying presses and latches should be sent to Battier Zornlin & Co. They can be drawn on for payment for the presses, latches and the coins that Matthew Boulton sent.*
- b. Printed schedule. "List of the Metal Materials to be furnished by Boulton & Watt."
Signed by Tschoffen.
43. Letter. Bernard Tschoffen (Vienna) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Aug. 1796.
Has been in Prague on a speculation in wheat for England – Henry Hadley can give them the details. Details of the layout of the engine and boiler that they are adopting. However the political situation and the war with France makes it impossible to get an engine to Vienna. Therefore can Boulton & Watt neither complete nor deliver the engine until the situation changes. Has not been told how much he owes for the "beautiful coins".
44. Letter. John Furnell Tuffen (Thames Street, London) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Jun. 1795.
Introducing Francis Blacke. Can James Watt Jr. show him Soho and "anything particularly curious at Birmingham."
45. Letter. William & Edward Turner (Warrington) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 23 Apr. 1796.
Enquiring about the cost of a 6 horse engine.

MS 3147/3/422
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, U, V
1795—1798

1. Letter. Charles Udale (Workington) to Boulton & Watt (—). 19 Feb. 1798.
Unpleasant financial circumstances have befallen Mr. Curwen, but he will pay soon.

2. Letter. Charles Udale (Workington) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 11 Sep. 1798.
Details of the weights of coal, baskets etc. that Mr. Curwen's new winding engine will have to lift. An error in Boulton & Watt's estimate of the work their proposed size of engine, one of the same size as Simpson's, will do.
3. Letter. Charles Udale (Workington) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 3 Oct. 1798.
Querying the calculation of the stoppage time for the winding engine – waiting for, taking up and letting down the men will take up nearly 6 hours. Observations on corrosion of cylinders, their trial of the double conical pump barrel, and durability of boilers. Mr. Curwen's sentiments about Boulton & Watt's attitudes to pirates.
4. Letter. Charles Udale (Workington) to James Watt Jr. (—). 16 Oct. 1798.
Enclosing a bill of exchange for part payment of Mr. Curwen's premium for 1797. Declines apologising for remarks in his last letter – these were Mr. Curwen's sentiments.
5. Letter. The Underwood Spinning Co. per John Gillies (Paisley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 19 Nov. 1798.
Ordering a 16 horse engine. It must be erected before their old one is taken down.
6. Letter. The Union Mill Co. per P. D. Parquot (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 29 Dec. 1797.
Requesting an account of Boulton & Watt's demand against the mill, including the premium and interest, and the lid for the cylinder.
7. Letter. Samuel Unwin & Co. (Sutton) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Jan. 1798.
Details of their current engine which is used for returning water. Can any alterations be made at a small expense. Enclosing a draft.
8. Letter. Samuel Unwin & Co. (Sutton) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Feb. 1798.
Enclosing a drawing of their existing engine. Are considering altering their existing engine and buying a 15 horse Boulton & Watt engine as well. Requesting estimates of the cost.
9. Letter. Samuel Unwin & Co. (Sutton) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Mar. 1798.
Unsure if buying a new engine will be advantageous. Want to discuss it with a Boulton & Watt agent. Are there any Boulton & Watt engines near Burton working in conjunction with water wheels.
10. Letter. Samuel Unwin & Co. (Sutton) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Jul. 1798.
Mr. Unwin has returned – can a Boulton & Watt agent visit them. Requesting the price of a 25 to 30 horse engine.
11. Letter. Samuel Unwin & Co. (Sutton) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Jul. 1798.
Thoughts on the power of their new engine. Cannot find a buyer for their old engine. If they cannot sell it, could they get it altered to Boulton & Watt's rotative plan free of premium charges.
12. Letter. Philip Vaughan (Carmarthen) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 May 1798.
Enquiring about a small engine to raise water to work a forge hammer.
13. Letter. Humphrey Vaughton for Isaac Spooner (Birmingham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 13 Mar. 1795.
Enclosing a letter from a friend of Spooner's Swedish friends Tottie & Arfwedson. The enclosed letter was from Alexander Seton. Part of the sheet has been used for calculations.

14. Letter. S. Venables (Ketley) to Matthew Robinson Boulton (Soho). 20 Aug. 1798.
Requesting a reply to his offer of service.
15. Letter (in French). J. de Viette (Birmingham) to Matthew Robinson Boulton (—). 14 Feb. 1798.
16. Letter (in French). J. de Viette (9 Tavistock Street, Bedford Square, London) to Matthew Robinson Boulton (Soho). 14 Mar. 1798.
- 17a. Letter (in French). J. de Viette (London) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 4 Apr. 1798.
Kept with (b) below. The address is on a separate wrapper.
- b. Cutting. From *The Courier*.
With wrapper. Cutting of two letters sent to the paper by de Viette, as follows:
“Aux redacteurs & cooperateurs du journal *The Publican’s Morning Advertiser*.”
To Boulton & Watt. 4 Apr. 1798.
The second letter is a copy of the letter to Boulton & Watt.
18. Letter (in French). J. de Viette (London) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 5 Apr. 1798.
19. Letter (in French). J. de Viette (Chez Messrs. Ruker & Wesphalen, Hamburg) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). — Oct. 1798.
20. Letter. — Villers (—) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 Dec. 1795.
Has not heard from Boulton & Watt about William Pemberton. Sending his account of the balance – will Boulton & Watt be accountable for it.
21. Letter. John Vivian (Truro) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Mar. 1797.
Will Boulton & Watt accept a much smaller payment for Poldice’s engine. North Downs are paying much less for their five engines. When the other Poldice engines were stopped, the Adventurers hoped to pay £30 per month.
22. Letter. John Vivian (Truro) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Apr. 1797.
Will gladly sign the paper [a protest] that Boulton & Watt sent, as, as an Adventurer in Consolidated Mines, does not want to involve them in litigation with Boulton & Watt. The protest should be delivered on account day and entered into the Resolution Book.

MS 3147/3/423
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, W, Y
1795—1798

1. Letter. David Waddell (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Oct. 1798.
Isaac Perrins has recommended Boulton & Watt’s steam engines. Requesting the prices of 8 to 10 and 12 horse engines.
2. Letter. Mr. — Walker [Handsworth] to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 20 Oct. 1795.
Not dated – date taken from the docket.
Re. Walker’s right of road for his cattle to the piece of land called Spring Piece.
3. Letter. G. Walker (Retford) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 18 Nov. 1795.
Will pay his remittance when he goes to Nottingham and obtains drafts.

4. Letter. G. Walker (Retford) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 20 Jan. 1797.
Docketed as 22 Jan.
Wishes to pay the account of the Revolution Mill by a bill on London.
5. Letter. G. Walker (Nottingham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 26 Jan. 1797.
Has not heard from Boulton & Watt about whether he can pay his account by a bill on London.
- 6a. Letter. John & James Walker (Wortley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Oct. 1795.
Kept with (b) below.
Why have they received an invoice from William Fawcett of Wrexham for the cylinder made by John Wilkinson at Bersham. They paid for it when they paid Boulton & Watt.
- b. Memorandum. John & James Walker.
Note explaining the allocation of various cylinders to various engines and why the Walkers have been charged. In James Watt Jr. 's hand.
7. Letter. John & James Walker (Wortley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Aug. 1796.
Apologise for sending such a small payment, but money has never been scarcer.
8. Letter. John & James Walker (Wortley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 22 Aug. 1796.
Apologise for not paying their bond – had intended to, but cannot get money. Hope Boulton & Watt will give them a little longer.
9. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 26 Oct. 1796.
Can Boulton & Watt send an agent to advise on repairs and alterations to their engine.
Thanks for a copying press.
10. Letter. Jonathan Walker for “Company & Self” (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 18 Jul. 1797.
Have sent the nozzles to be repaired.
11. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 24 Aug. 1797.
Enquiring about Boulton & Watt’s method of smoke prevention for their new air furnaces.
12. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 25 Sep. 1797.
Prices of the sheet iron Boulton & Watt have ordered – can they confirm the sheet length.
13. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 28 Oct. 1797.
Thomas Gibbons of Wolverhampton has written to them about the proposed tax on iron.
They will happily attend a meeting to discuss opposition to it.
14. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 15 Nov. 1797.
Annexing an account of a meeting of the iron masters of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Have written to Thomas Gibbons about what the Wolverhampton meeting did. The account of the meeting at Wakefield 13 Nov. 1797 is on the same sheet.
15. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 13 Apr. 1798.
Requesting details of a 40 inch cylinder engine for blowing a furnace and other work.
16. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 8 Aug. 1798.
Had written to James Watt Jr. at Newcastle, hoping he would call on them. Have not seen him. Is there an agent at Leeds with whom they can discuss their intended engine.

17. Letter. Joshua Walker & Co. (Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 26 Dec. 1798.
Difficulties with the water supply for their intended engine. The engine will now only have to blow the furnace and raise its own water.
18. Letter. Richard Walker (Ridings, Birstall, near Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Jul. 1796.
Hopes the engine will be ready before the time stipulated. Has heard from James Lawson that they are making progress with smokeless fireplaces – this is very important to his situation.
19. Letter. Richard Walker (St. James Street, London) to Matthew Boulton (13 London Street, London). 23 Dec. 1796.
Will be glad to sign the engine contract. Has had a “very pressing letter” from Messrs. Nussey about the engine.
20. Letter. Richard Walker (St. James Street, London) to James Pearson (Soho). 16 May 1797.
Wishes to know the expected time and mode of payment for Messrs. Nussey’s engine. Would like to advance one half immediately.
21. Letter. Richard Walker (St. James Street, London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 May 1797.
Arrangements for payment for Messrs. Nussey’s engine. Apologises for any mistake he made, but he did not hear of the engine being delivered until March, and was then led to believe he would be given “timely notice” of payment.
22. Letter. Thomas Walker (Manchester) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 8 May 1796.
Details of lectures in Natural Philosophy and Chemistry by Dr. T. Garnett. He has given the lectures in Liverpool and Manchester and wants to give them in Birmingham.
23. Letter. Thomas & Richard Walker (Manchester) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 21 Jan. 1797.
[In Thomas’ hand] Can James Watt Jr. send the documents relating to Gabourier’s affairs. [In Richard’s hand] Recommending Robert Brinley of the house of James Lloyd Jr. & Co., Boston, New England. Orders he has placed with the Walkers. Is sending this letter with Mr. Philips, whose son, in the 4th Regiment of Dragoons, is in Coventry jail for debt. Cannot find what T. Marriott’s original fortune was.
24. Letter. Thomas Walker (Manchester) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 27 Jul. 1797.
They can safely trust Thomas Hope of Stockport with £1000. Has had a letter from Dr. Beddoes giving a poor report of [his brother] Richard’s health.
25. Letter. Zaccheus Walker (Livery St.) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Jan. 1797.
Docketed “Enclosing Mackenzie’s draft.”
26. Letter. Zaccheus Walker (Birmingham) to Thomas Wilson Jr. (Soho). 20 Jan. 1797.
Docketed “Supply of cash.”
27. Letter. Zaccheus Walker (Birmingham) to M. R. Boulton [Soho]. 6 Apr. 1797.
*The docket is on a separate wrapper.
Docketed “Proposed method of getting the letters from Birmingham with greater expedition.”*
28. Letter. Zaccheus Walker (Birmingham) to M. R. Boulton (Soho House). 14 Apr. 1797.
Docketed “Respecting method of procuring letters sooner from the Post Office.”

29. Letter. Zaccheus Walker (Birmingham) to M. R. Boulton (Soho Foundry). 15 Aug. 1797.
Docketed "Conversation with Mr. Dixon."
30. Letter. Walkers Fishwick & Co. (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 26 Jan. 1796.
Expecting an engine erector to be sent after their millwright Thomas Dudgeon wrote requesting one. A friend of theirs who erects winding engines wants to know the premium of putting one up on Boulton & Watt's principles.
31. Letter. Walkers Fishwick & Co. (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 13 Aug. 1798.
Surprised at having heard nothing about the engine being sent off.
32. Letter. Walkers Fishwick & Co. (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 13 Oct. 1798.
The engine and the erector have arrived, but they are afraid it is going to take longer than they thought. Other firms have complained too. Demands for "drink-money" being made by their erector [Michael Wheatley], who also demanded money of Messrs. Campbell & Gibson. They will not pay him – can Boulton & Watt tell them what he should be getting.
33. Letter. Walkers Fishwick & Co. (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Oct. 1798.
Enquiring about freight charges between Birmingham and Gainsborough.
34. Letter. Walker Thompson & Ward per Richard Thompson (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 17 Jul. 1797.
Their engine parts have arrived. Need instructions about the ash holes. Are ready for an engine erector.
35. Letter. Walker Thompson & Ward per Richard Thompson (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 26 Jul. 1797.
Punshon needs the rest of the drawings. Wish their fire grate to be enlarged. Ordering six new bearer bars.
36. Letter. Walker Thompson & Ward per Richard Thompson (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 6 Dec. 1797.
Sending a draft to pay their account. Details of items he feels they have been overcharged for. Ordering cement.
37. Letter. Walker Thompson & Ward per Richard Thompson (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 31 Mar. 1798.
When can they expect their upright shaft.
38. Letter. Walker Thompson & Ward per Richard Thompson (Newcastle upon Tyne) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 May 1798.
Enclosing a bill in payment of their account. Details of items they do not think should have been charged to them.
39. Letter. Arthur Ward (Derby) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 25 Dec. 1795.
Enquiring about the price of a 26 horse engine for his proposed cotton spinning business in Staffordshire.
40. Letter. John Ward (Marlborough) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 5 Nov. 1797.
Will show Boulton & Watt's letter to the managers of the Kennet & Avon Canal. Is sure they will be paid at the next General Meeting if not before.

41. Letter. Wareham Potts & Smith (Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 1 Dec. 1798.
Enquiring about the price of 2½ and 5 horse engines for a friend of theirs, a dyer, who wants it for scouring his goods.
- 42a. Draft of letter. Boulton & Watt (Soho) to Samuel Bull (Smethwick). 13 Sep. 1795.
*Docketed as “Rough Calculations – Warwick & Braunton Canal.”
Kept with (b) – (d) below. In James Watt Jr. ’s hand.*
- b. Note. Samuel Bull [Smethwick to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 10 Sep. 1795.
Requesting estimates of engines for the Warwick & Braunston Canal. One side of the sheet contains data on the amount of water to be raised, the height it has to raised etc.
- c. Calculations. “Mr. Bull asks what size Engine & pump will be sufficient to raise 540 tons of water pr. hour to sundry heights.” Not dated.
In Matthew Boulton’s hand.
- d. Calculations. Not dated.
In James Watt Jr. ’s hand.
43. Transcript of letter. Boulton & Watt (Soho) to John Watson (Preston). 2 May 1796.
In James Watt Jr. ’s hand.
44. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 5 Aug. 1796.
Enclosing a bill of exchange for their first payment for their engine in Walton. Can Boulton & Watt send someone to alter their old engine. The air pump is on the premises but nothing has been done as they are in dispute with Bateman & Sherratt.
45. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 30 Oct. 1796.
Want an air pump fixed to their engine of “the old principle” which was put up by Bateman & Sherratt. What are Boulton & Watt’s terms for adding one.
46. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Nov. 1796.
This is the only season in which they can have the air pump fixed to their old engine.
47. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 13 Nov. 1796.
*Docketed as 12 Nov.
Can Boulton & Watt arrange for their agent to come over to fix the air pump to their engine.*
48. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (—). 13 Dec. 1796.
Enclosing payment for their premium. When will they receive the air pump for their old engine – Boulton & Watt’s agent promised it would be done in a month.
49. Letter. John Watson for Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Feb. 1797.
Isaac Perrins and his family are sick so he cannot come to fit their air pump. Can Boulton & Watt send someone immediately.
50. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Mar. 1797.
Are still waiting for a Boulton & Watt agent to fit their air pump. If it is not done soon it will mean considerable loss to them.

51. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Mar. 1797.
Bateman & Sherratt have offered to fit their air pump under Boulton & Watt's direction.
52. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 10 Nov. 1798.
They are tenants in the mill where Boulton & Watt suspect there is a pirate engine – it is owned by the Earl of Derby. Will give his steward Boulton & Watt's letter.
53. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Dec. 1798.
Enquiring about the price of a 5 or 6 horse engine. They can supply water from the reservoir of an old engine they still work.
54. Letter. Watsons Myers & Russell (Preston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Dec. 1798.
Unsure of how to fix the engine to work their mules and whether a 4 horse would be sufficient. Can James Lawson visit to give his opinion. What would be the charge to send goods to Liverpool.
55. Letter. John Watson Jr. (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Jun. 1797.
Offering Boulton & Watt a method of working a wheel with a standing pool of water, invented by a friend of his in Ireland.
56. Letter. R. Wedgwood (Hill, Burslem) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Feb. 1798.
Is considering buying a steam engine for his earthen ware manufactory near Glasgow. Flaws in the application of engines to potteries, especially Josiah Spode's and Mr. Wolfe of Stoke. Has seen Mr. Sparrow's engines at Cockshead. Suggested improvements including laying the cylinder on its side.
57. Memorandum. Estimate of Engines for Mr. Wainman, Leeds. 20 Feb. 1796.
Estimates of 12, 20 and 24 horse engines.
58. Memorandum. Mr. [Benjamin] Gott's Memorandum of the Cost of a Cloth Mill & of a Corn Mill for Mr. Wainman. Undated [circa Feb. 1796].
59. Letter. William Wainman (Carhead) to James Lawson (—). 17 Apr. 1796.
The agreement for building the mill at Shipley has not been concluded.
60. Letter. William Wetherill & Son (Bristol) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 13 May 1798.
Homfray & Co. want their goods as soon as possible – can Boulton & Watt call on Mr. Skey to find out when it will arrive in Bristol.
61. Letter. William Wetherill & Son (Bristol) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 May 1798.
Mr. Devey's agent Mr. Hart says Boulton & Watt agreed to pay them for the freight of Messrs. Homfray's goods. Can Boulton & Watt write to him as Wetherill want to settle the business.
62. Letter. Henry P. Whately (Birmingham) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. "Tuesday" [11 Aug. 1795].
Will meet Watt Jr. tomorrow.
63. Letter. Henry P. Whately (Birmingham) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 24 Nov. 1795.
64. Letter. Henry P. Whately (Birmingham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 25 Feb. 1796.
Agreeing to Boulton & Watt's proposal. The docket notes this was concerning terms of payment.

65. Letter. Henry & John Whately (Birmingham) to Boulton & Watt (—). 4 Mar. 1797.
Have ceased lining their gun chests with baize, otherwise they would have been happy to buy George Newbold's as recommended by Boulton & Watt.
66. Letter. Henry P. Whately (Birmingham) to James Watt Jr. (Soho Foundry). 17 May 1798.
Understands they have a plan to arm the men at Soho and have bought muskets. Offering his services as a gunmaker if they need more arms.
67. Letter. Henry P. Whately (French Walls) to Matthew Robinson Boulton (—). 9 Nov. 1797.
His clerk did not know who Boulton was, and therefore did not know that he was allowed access to the manufactory. No intentional disrespect was intended.
68. Letter. Michael Wheatley (Manchester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 17 Dec. 1797.
Has started McConnell & Kennedy's engine. Waiting for directions as to where to go.
69. Letter. Michael Wheatley (Newcastleupon Tyne) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 8 Nov. 1798.
Defence of his character – asked Mr. Campbell if he gave drink, and Campbell asked him what he had had at other places. Asked the same question of Mr. Fishwick. Did not make any demands at either place. Did not delay with Fishwick's engine – the mill wrights were not ready. This letter was forwarded to James Watt Jr. in London.
70. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Jan. 1796.
Requesting an estimate of another engine. Enclosing a draft for the balance of their account.
71. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Jan. 1796.
Account of money paid to William Harrison and William Brown for erecting the engine.
72. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 5 Feb. 1796.
Can Boulton & Watt send an engineman – they are not satisfied with theirs.
73. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 10 Feb. 1796.
Requesting an estimate of an engine. The Committee will not pay the additional £60 Boulton & Watt are claiming. [The docket notes this was for the premium.]
74. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Mar. 1796.
Enclosing Boulton & Watt's demand – it was included in the original bill which they have paid.
75. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 15 Mar. 1796.
The Committee want an explanation of the demand for a premium. Does the most recent engine estimate they have had include the premium.
76. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 2 Apr. 1796.
Extracts from the minutes of the committee's last meeting – resolving to pay Boulton & Watt £60 for the premium (Robert Mylne explained the charge) and ordering a new engine as described in Boulton & Watt's letter of 15 Feb.

77. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Nov. 1796.
Arrival the engine parts on the site. William Harrison will receive every assistance.
78. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 22 Feb. 1797.
Has William Harrison given them the order for the large weight for the beam.
79. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester & Berkeley Canal Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 16 Aug. 1797.
Payment of part of their bill. Would have paid in full, but large arrears are due from several of the proprietors.
80. Account. Account of Goods sent John Wheeler, Gloucester. 7 Oct. 1797.
Goods bought for Wheeler by Boulton & Watt from M. Boulton & Plate Co.
81. Letter. John Wheeler (Gloucester) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 16 Oct. 1797.
Thanks Boulton & Watt for the present [the goods bought from the Plate Co. in No. 74 above?]. Will do his utmost to represent Boulton & Watt's interests in Gloucester.
82. Letter. Robert Wheeler Jr. (—) to William Forman (—). 23 May 1798.
*Docketed as J. Wheeler.
His prices of muskets, cartouche boxes and belts.*
83. Letter. William Whitelock per Jonas Lupton (Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 9 Jan. 1797.
When can they expect to see James Lawson. They want his opinion on a common engine. Do Boulton & Watt have any small engines to hand.
84. Letter. W. Whitmore (—) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 19 Jun. 1798.
The character of Robert Potter.
85. Letter. Joseph Wilkes per Edward Mammatt (Measham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 9 Feb. 1798.
The "coal engine" at Measham has not worked since the time stated in Dec. 1796.
86. Letter. Joseph Wilkes & Co. per S. Jewsbury Jr. (Measham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Aug. 1798.
Are ready to stop the engine at their spinning mill. Can the new cylinder be sent as soon as possible. It also needs general repairs – can some of Boulton & Watt's people look at it.
87. Letter. Joseph Wilkes & Co. per S. Jewsbury Jr. (Measham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 Oct. 1798.
The sooner Boulton & Watt's man comes to repair their engine the better.
88. Letter. Joseph Wilkes & Co. per S. Jewsbury Jr. (Measham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 19 Dec. 1798.
Requesting an explanation of Boulton & Watt's account for the repairs and increase of power.
89. Letter. Thomas Wilkes (Muirkirk Iron Works, Ayrshire) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 9 Apr. 1796.
Has heard from his brother William that Boulton & Watt already have a manager for the Foundry. Still willing to work as a moulder. Details of his experience and terms.

90. Letter. Wilkinson & Baker per Richard Baker (Hill Street, Moorfields) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 4 Aug. 1797.
Ordering a 12 horse engine for their calico works. John Rennie's millwrights cannot proceed until they have Boulton & Watt's plans.
91. Letter. Wilkinson & Fisher (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 15 Aug. 1797.
Disappointing that Boulton & Watt cannot deliver the engine by the time John Rennie said it would be erected. Due to the nature of their work they must have it by that time.
92. Letter. Wilkinson & Fisher (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 7 Nov. 1797.
*Docketed as Wilkinson Baker & Fisher.
Impatient for their engine to be delivered. The necessity of having it by the time stated.*
- 93a. Letter. Wilkinson & Fisher (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 9 Aug. 1798.
*Kept with (b) below.
Thank Boulton & Watt for the dimensions of the copper boiler. What was the price of the iron one at Albion Mill.*
- b. Memorandum. Estimate of a 12 horse boiler.
- 94a. Letter. Wilkinson & Fisher (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 22 Aug. 1798.
*Kept with (b) below.
Have decided to have the iron boiler. Ordering various parts for it. The docket notes that this boiler was currently at Albion Mill.*
- b. Small sheet of calculations.
In James Pearson's hand – interest on Wilkinson & Fisher's payment.
95. Letter. Wilkinson Holdforth & Co. (Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 12 Sep. 1797.
Have not heard from the gentleman who wanted a 20 horse engine. Ordering a 34 horse engine.
96. Letter. Wilkinson Holdforth & Co. (Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 3 Apr. 1798.
Have received the parts of their engine. Need an engine erector.
97. Letter. Wilkinson Holdforth & Co. (Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 22 Sep. 1798.
Queries over charges for William Brunton's time – he was kept waiting for directions from Soho, and spent time assembling parts of the engine, and as the engine is to be taken back Boulton & Watt will benefit from his work. Sending an account of Gavin McMurdo's time.
98. Letter. Henry Williams (Hadley) to Boulton & Watt (—). 25 Sep. 1796.
Has no business with the Ketley Co. so is unacquainted with Mr. Glazebrook's engine. Is informed he is a carpenter by trade and thinks he has made an improvement on the steam engine.
99. Letter. John Williams (Scorrier) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 29 Jul. 1795.
What will Boulton & Watt charge the adventurers of Wheal Gorland per month for a small Boulton & Watt engine that they propose to buy from Poldice. Details of the engine. Some of the adventurers wanted to buy a Hornblower engine from Wheal Pool. A sale of a Boulton & Watt engine so soon after the trial will convince the county which make is best.
100. Letter. John Williams (Scorrier) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Sep. 1798.
Surprised by Thomas Wilson's demand for double the sum from Wheal Gorland and Wheal Jewel that they are paying already. Assumes this is a mistake. Hope they will let William Murdock return soon.

101. Letter. Pascoe Grenfell (London) to [Thomas] Wilson (—). 31 Mar. 1795.
Docketed “Mr. Williams’ terms for selling copper 1795.”
Alterations to the terms on which Thomas Williams receives copper on consignment. On the same sheet are details of the proposals by Grenfell, dated Copper Office 30 Mar. 1795, and G.C. Fox & Sons, dated Exeter 2 May 1795.
102. Letter. Thomas Williams (Birmingham) to James Watt [Jr.?] (—). 2 Apr. 1796.
Sorry he did not call as he intended. Have they had any thoughts about the copper. The brass sheets are ready and will be sent to Liverpool.
103. Letter. Thomas Williams (Adelphi, London) to Boulton & Watt (London). 20 Dec. 1796.
Congratulates them on their success in the trial.
104. Letter. John Wilson (Bradley) to James Watt (Soho). 20 Oct. 1797.
Wants an answer to his offer of service as a book keeper as he will have to settle with John Wilkinson. Has also made drawings of engines. This letter was passed to Matthew Robinson Boulton.
105. Letter. Patrick Wilson (Glasgow College) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Dec. 1796.
Congratulations on their success in the trial. Disappointed that there is little disposition in Glasgow towards Dr. Beddoes’ “scheme of applying the new gases to medicine.”
106. Letter. P. H. Witton Jr. (Warwick & Birmingham Navigation Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Oct. 1796.
The committee will order Boulton & Watt a remittance soon – their finances are low.
107. Letter. P. H. Witton Jr. (Warwick & Birmingham Navigation Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 19 Nov. 1796.
The committee will comply with their request and make a remittance in a fortnight.
108. Letter. P. H. Witton Jr. (Warwick & Birmingham Navigation Office) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Jan. 1797.
Docketed as 29 Jan.
Enclosing a remittance of £500 – apologises that this is all they can pay at the moment.
109. Letter. John Wood (Pateley Bridge) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Jul. 1795.
Forwarding of lead to their agent in Hull. Has sold the engine to Mr. Horner who seems “inclined to run off the bargain”. The decaying state of the engine.
110. Letter. John Wood (Pateley Bridge) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Aug. 1797.
Can he pay his balance in lead.
111. Letter. J. Wood (Marlborough) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 13 Nov. 1796.
Will lay Boulton & Watt’s account before the Kennet & Avon Canal Committee for payment at their next meeting on 6 Dec.
112. Letter. William Wood & Co. (Carlisle) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 7 Dec. 1796.
Requesting an estimate of a 6 horse engine for driving cotton cards.
113. Letter. Wood & Harrop (Ashton-under-Lyne) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 19 May 1798.
Requesting estimates of 6 and 8 horse engines.

114. Letter. Jonathan Woodhouse (Ashby de la Zouch) to Boulton & Watt (Soho Foundry). 5 Feb. 1798.
Is to erect an engine for Barber & Walker of Bilborough. Details of their three existing atmospheric colliery engines. Mr. Walker is particular about his castings – could they order the cylinder, piston, reservoir etc. from Boulton & Watt. The letter had been mis-docketed “Wodehouse”.
115. Letter. Wormald Fountain & Gott (Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 10 Jan. 1797.
Ordering lamp wicks, ink powders and glasses. Mr. Gott sends his compliments and has sent Matthew Boulton and James Watt Jr. cloth for topcoats.
116. Letter. Wormald Fountain & Gott (Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 15 Feb. 1797.
Acknowledging receipt of a bill.
117. Letter. Jacob Yallowely (London) to James Watt (Heathfield). 14 Jul. 1798.
Can Boulton & Watt value Samuel Whitbread’s engine as part of their annual valuation of plant, utensils etc.
118. Letter. Alexander Young (Copenhagen) to “Watts Esq.” (Birmingham). 9 May 1798.
Enquiring about an engine to power a flour mill.

MS 3147/3/424

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE DEALT WITH BY JOHN SOUTHERN, 1788—1797

A

1. Bundle wrapper.
Marked “A the whole 1790—1798.”
2. Letter. John Adams (Leicester) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 25 Dec. 1795.
Docketed “Adams, John, Bromsgrove.”
3. Letter. Peter Ainsworth & Son (Halliwell) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 24 Jun. 1796.
Docketed “Sundries.”
4. Letter. William Aitchison (at Aitchison & Brown, St. Clement’s Wells, nr. Edinburgh) to James Watt (Birmingham). 26 Feb. 1788.
5. Letter. William Aitchison (St. Clement’s Wells) to Boulton & Watt. 29 Aug. 1794.
Docketed “Replied 2 Sep.”
6. Letter. Randle & John Allcock (Stockport) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 28 Nov. 1792.
Marked “Replied 30 Nov. J. S.”
7. Letter. Randle & John Allcock (Stockport) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 2 Jan. 1793.
Docketed “Replied 8 Feb. 1793.”
8. Letter. Randle & John Allcock (Stockport) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 28 Feb. 1793.
Docketed “Replied 2 March.”
9. Letter. Randle & John Allcock (Stockport) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 27 Jan. 1794.
Docketed “Replied 24 Jan.”

10. Letter. Thomas Allingham (Cromford) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 13 Oct. 1791.
11. Letter. Thomas Lloyd Anwyl per John Skrymaker (Shrewsbury) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 14 Jan. 1789.
12. Letter. H. Arden (Sutton Coldfield) to James Watt [Soho]. 23 Mar. 1791.
13. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 11 Mar. 1791.
Docketed "ABCH" [the code of the engine in question].
14. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to John Southern (Birmingham). 28 Mar. 1791.
On the same sheet:
Sketch plan of Atherton's engine house.
15. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 17 May 1791.
16. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 4 Jul. 1791.
17. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt "or Mr. Southern" (Soho). 5 Jul. 1791.
On the same sheet:
Sketches of arrangements of sun and planet wheels.
18. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 11 Jul. 1791.
19. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt "or Mr. Southern" (Soho). 1 Sep. 1791.
20. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 19 Sep. 1791.
21. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Jul. 1792.
22. Letter. Peter Atherton "for Self & Co." (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 8 Jan. 1796.
23. Letter. Peter Atherton (Liverpool) to John Southern (Soho). 15 Jan. 1796.
On the same sheet:
Sketch and dimensions of an engine beam.
24. Letter. Peter Atherton "for Self & Partners" (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Feb. 1796.
The outside of the letter is directed to John Southern.
25. Letter. William Atkinson (Holbeck Mills, near Leeds) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Feb. 1795.
26. Letter. Patrick & James Aytoun (Kinghorn, Fifeshire) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 12 Feb. 1797.
Docketed "For an estimate."