

MS 3147/3/536
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
JOHN WILKINSON – CORRESPONDENCE
1796—1797

INTRODUCTION

Letters from John Wilkinson, from 1796 to 1797. The letters concern the final orders for cylinders and other castings executed for Boulton & Watt by Wilkinson, the dispute at Minera Mine, and Wilkinson's intention to manufacture engines himself. The majority of the letters are signed on Wilkinson's behalf by his clerks and engineers, and his nephew Thomas Jones (later Thomas Jones Wilkinson).

1. Letter. Thomas Jones for John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 3 Jan. 1796.
Docketed "Answered. From Thomas Jones. On cylinder etc. Promises to answer the remaining part."
2. Letter. Thomas Jones for John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Jan. 1796.
Docketed "Answered. Cylinders etc."
3. Letter. Thomas Jones for John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 19 Jan. 1796.
Docketed "Answered. Cylinders supposed to be missing."
4. Letter. Thomas Jones for John Wilkinson (Broseley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 29 Jan. 1796.
Docketed "Acknowledges receipt of letter. Cylinders etc."
5. Letter. John Turner for John Wilkinson (Bersham) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 4 Feb. 1796.
Docketed "Enquiries concerning a casting."
6. Letter. John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Feb. 1796.
Docketed "Acknowledging receipt of orders."
7. Letter. Richard Watson for John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 28 Feb. 1796.
Docketed "Abraham Storey's departure."
8. Letter. John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 31 Mar. 1796.
Docketed "Cylinder to be completed. Thanks for conduct to Jones."
9. Letter. John Turner for John Wilkinson (Bersham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 21 Apr. 1796.
Docketed "Cylinders ready for delivery."
10. Letter. Thomas Jones for John Wilkinson (Wrexham) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 29 Apr. 1796.
Docketed "Air pump to be completed. Cylinders delayed."

11. Letter. John Turner for John Wilkinson (Bersham) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 17 May 1796.
Docketed "Barclay's air pump. Air pump and bucket delivered. Want dimensions of air pump for 14 inch cylinder."
12. Letter. John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 10 Jul. 1796.
Docketed "Wants amount of charges against Maesyfynnon."
13. Letter. John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 16 Aug. 1796.
Docketed "Maesyfynnon Wen mine."
14. Letter. Thomas Jones (Brymbo) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 24 Aug. 1796.
Docketed "Acknowledging receipt of Minera account. Goods to be forwarded. Refers to Mr. Wilkinson for an answer to the rest of the letter."
15. Letter. John Wilkinson (Broseley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Oct. 1796.
Docketed "Proposes visiting Soho with Mr. Robertson of Glasgow."
16. Letter. John Wilkinson (Ketley) to John Southern (Post Office, Wrexham). 17 Oct. 1796.
Docketed "Complains of not being informed of John Southern's journey to Minera."
17. Memorandum. List of engines at Bradley. 1796.
The sheet has been used for calculations.
- 18a. Letter. John Wilkinson (Bradley) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 16 Jan. 1797.
Enclosing (b) below.
 - b. Letter. John Wilkinson (Bradley) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 16 Jan. 1797.
On the same sheet:
Transcript of notice. "Steam & Fire Engines."
Transcript of Wilkinson's announcement that he intends to supply and erect engines.
19. Letter. William Johnson for John Wilkinson (Bradley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 24 Jan. 1797.
Docketed "Proposes to reply to our letter upon his arrival at Brymbo."
20. Letter. John Wilkinson (Bradley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Feb. 1797.
21. Letter. John Wilkinson (Broseley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 6 Mar. 1797.
Docketed "Excuses backwardness in the repairs of the engines at Minera. Comments upon the French invasion. Ideas of remedies for the scarcity of cash. Proposes to issue notes."
- 22a. Letter. Thomas Jones for John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 2 Apr. 1797.
Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "With sundry affidavits in the Minera affair."
 - b. Memorandum. Transcripts of affidavits of John Southern, Charles Howard, William Wilkinson; extract from John Wilkinson, John Jones, Richard Watson and Thomas Jones' affidavits.
23. Letter. John Wilkinson (Bradley) to James Watt (Heathfield). 12 Apr. 1797.
24. Letter. John Wilkinson (Wrexham) to James Watt (Heathfield). 24 Apr. 1797.
Docketed "Declines having any further concern with the Minera engines."

25. Letter. Thomas Jones for John Wilkinson (Brymbo) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 8 Sep. 1797.
Docketed "Will undertake the order for blowing cylinder."

MS 3147/3/537
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
WILLIAM WILKINSON
1786, 1788, 1794—1799

INTRODUCTION

Letters from William Wilkinson, from 1786, 1788 and 1794 to 1799. William Wilkinson was the brother of the iron master John Wilkinson, and an engineer and iron founder in his own right. The brothers had various disagreements which lead to William spending time away from the works in Shropshire during the 1780s. The first two letters in the bundle date from that period. In the 1790s John and William had an irrevocable dispute which went to arbitration and saw the division of their various works. It was during this dispute that William informed Boulton & Watt of John's engine piracy, leading to their action against him. The letters cover the dispute between John and William, and others involving Boulton & Watt which resulted from their falling out, such as the dispute at Minera Mine and the dispute over the Stockdales' engine at Cark. The letters also cover Boulton & Watt's employment of men from John's Bersham works, and William's assistance in the design of Soho Foundry.

1. Letter. William Wilkinson (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 28 Jul. 1786.
Docketed "Truro."
2. Letter. William Wilkinson (Copenhagen) to James Watt (Birmingham). 11 Oct. 1788.
3. Letter. William Wilkinson (57 Devonshire St., Portland Place, London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 1 May 1794.
Docketed "Statement of accounts with Bersham Works."
4. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Mar. 1795.
Docketed "The visit from Clark of Bewdley. Banks of Bewdley. State of affairs."
5. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 15 Mar. 1795.
Docketed "Abraham Storey. Offers other men."
6. Letter. William Wilkinson [London] to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 16 Apr. 1795.
Not dated – date taken from the postmark.
Docketed "Hutton Jackson & McGraith want a halfpenny. Law business with John Wilkinson."
7. Letter. William Wilkinson (London) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Apr. 1795.
Docketed "Promises account of engines. Interview with Watson."
8. Letter. R. Jackson for William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 10 Jun. 1795.
Docketed "William Wilkinson gone to London."

9. Letter. William Wilkinson (Clifton, near Rotherham) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Jun. 1795.
Docketed "Joshua Walker's acceptance of the office of arbitrator."
10. Letter. William Wilkinson (Lincoln's Inn Hall, London) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 20 Jul. 1795.
Docketed "Endeavours to gain an injunction against his brother."
11. Letter. William Wilkinson [Court?] to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 2 Aug. 1795.
Docketed as being from Bersham. Postmarked Wrexham. On the same sheet:
Transcript of letter. James Weston (Fenchurch St., London) to William Wilkinson. 29 Jul. 1795.
Docketed "Injunction granted. Arbitration fixed."
- 12a. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 14 Aug. 1795.
Enclosing (b) and (c) below.
Docketed "Upon the new works at Smethwick."
 - b. Plan. Plots of land upon which Soho Foundry is intended to be built.
 - c. Plan. William Wilkinson's proposed layout of Soho Foundry and boring mill.
13. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Aug. 1795. 2 sheets.
On the same sheets:
Transcript of proceedings of the first meeting of the arbitrators.
Memorandum. An Account of Sundry Engines made at Bersham by John Wilkinson's order for himself as well as for other Persons upon Messrs. Boulton & Watt's plan.
Docketed "With resolution of the arbitrators."
14. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 4 Sep. 1795.
Docketed "Sale of Bersham Works. Maesyfynnon Wen mine."
15. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 6 Sep. 1795. 2 sheets.
Docketed "Caemuneth mine. Maesyfynnon Wen. Milwr mine. Mr. Fawcett and John Wilkinson."
16. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 7 Sep. 1795.
Docketed "Milwr mine. Proceedings of the arbitrators. John Wilkinson."
17. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 24 Sep. 1795.
On the same sheet:
Account. Invoice of sundry engine materials sent per our waggon for the account of Nicholas Ashton Esq. to his Colliery near St. Helen's, Lancashire. Bersham, 27 Dec. 1790.
Docketed "Invoice of winding engine."
18. Memorandum. Notes on Bersham – sale, assets, orders to be given to Fawcett etc. Not dated [circa Aug./Sep. 1795?].
19. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 2 Oct. 1795.
Docketed "Golftyn mine. Mr. Fawcett. Ashton's double winding engine."
20. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 24 Oct. 1795.
Docketed "Mr. Fawcett's visit to Castle Head. Proceedings of the arbitration."

21. Letter. William Wilkinson (Bersham) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 28 Oct. 1795.
On the same sheet:
Transcript of letter. William Fawcett (Castle Head) to Gilbert Gilpin (Bersham). 24 Oct. 1795.
Docketed "On Mr. Fawcett. Boulton & Watt's order to be expedited."
22. Letter. William Wilkinson (Bank) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 5 Nov. 1795.
Docketed "Prospect of a conclusion of animosities. Mr. Reynolds. Journey to Bradley with William Murdock."
- 23a. Letter. William Wilkinson (Chester) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 14 Nov. 1795.
Enclosing (b) below. Dated as 16 Nov. and docketed as 15 Nov. However Wilkinson's next letter says that he wrote from Chester on 14 Nov.
Docketed "Mr. Fawcett's antipathy at Watson. Sketch of cupola at Bersham."
- b. Sketches. Plans and sections and notes on the Bersham cupola.
On the same sheet:
Memorandum. List of Cylinders and other Engine Materials now at Bersham upon Messrs. Boulton & Watt's Plan – which are deemed good and will be disposed of at the Sale.
24. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 16 Nov. 1795.
Docketed "Robertson declines attending the sale. Wishes to attend and bring a clever agent."
25. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 21 Nov. 1795.
Docketed "Agrees with Boulton & Watt respecting the agent. The conditions of the sale. Cupola etc."
26. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 Nov. 1795.
Docketed "Wishes James Watt Jr. to come with a letter authenticating his power of treating on business. The determination of the arbitrators to come."
27. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 24 Nov. 1795.
Docketed "Advises James Watt Jr. to bring copies of accounts and a letter empowering him to treat. Conversation with Mr. Fawcett."
28. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 28 Nov. 1795.
Docketed "Preparations for the sale. Manner in which it is to be conducted."
29. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 2 Jan. 1796.
Re-directed to Watt Jr. at 13 London St.
Docketed "Brymbo. Order to Bersham. John Wilkinson's circular letter to arbitrators. William Wilkinson's ditto. Abraham Storey."
30. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (13 London St.). 12 Jan. 1796.
Docketed "Abraham Storey secured. John Wilkinson."
31. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 16 Feb. 1796.
Docketed "About Abraham Storey and his brother's application to Mr. Porter for payment of the premium of his engine."

32. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to M. R. Boulton (Soho). 25 Feb. 1796.
On the same sheet:
 Transcript of letter. Richard Watson (Brymbo) to Abraham Storey. 24 Feb. 1796.
 Transcript of letter. Abraham Storey (Bersham) to John Wilkinson. 24 Feb. 1796.
Docketed "Enclosing correspondence of Abraham Storey with John Wilkinson."
33. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 7 Apr. 1796.
Docketed "Upon his difference with John Wilkinson."
34. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt Jrs. (Soho). 15 Apr. 1796.
Docketed "John Kendrick's notice to John Wilkinson and offer to come to us."
35. Letter. William Wilkinson (Wrexham) to Boulton & Watt Jrs. (Soho). 26 Apr. 1796.
Docketed "Kendrick's conversation with John Wilkinson and acceptance of our terms. Meeting of arbitrators."
36. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 5 May 1796.
On the same sheet:
 Transcript of award of the arbitrators in settlement of dispute between William and John Wilkinson. 2 May 1796.
Docketed "Award."
37. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (13 London St.). 19 May 1796.
Docketed "Cark engines and Thackeray. Kendrick. T. Matthews. John Wilkinson."
38. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 20 May 1796.
Docketed "Offers to come over with Mr. Stockdale to settle about the Cark business."
- 39a. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt (Heathfield). 26 May 1796.
Kept with (b) below.
Docketed "Reflections about Thackeray. Minera boiler. Churn."
- b. Memorandum. Minera engines.
In John Southern's hand?
40. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to M. R. Boulton (at Thomas Jones', Manchester). 31 May 1796.
41. Letter. William Wilkinson (Soho) to James Watt (Heathfield). "Thursday Morning" [2 Jun. 1796].
Docketed as 3 Jun., which was a Friday.
Docketed "Notice of Thackeray's arrival at Birmingham."
42. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt (Heathfield). 18 Jun. 1796.
Docketed "Cark engines and sundries."
43. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to M. R. Boulton (at Thomas Jones', Manchester). 18 Jun. 1796.
Docketed "About his leaving home for a short time."
44. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to M. R. Boulton (at Thomas Jones', Manchester). 29 Jun. 1796.
Docketed "Acknowledges receipt of letter. Advises him to see the salt works at W... [Northwich?]."

45. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 6 Jul. 1796.
Docketed "Minera resolutions."
46. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 12 Jul. 1796.
Docketed "His journey to London. Proposed meeting of the Cark Company."
47. Letter. William Wilkinson (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 21 Jul. 1796.
Docketed "Minera."
48. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Aug. 1796.
Docketed "About our meeting with his brother and the Minera business."
49. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 26 Aug. 1796.
Docketed "About our settlement with his brother."
50. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 28 Aug. 1796.
Docketed "Bersham workmen. Assistance in the arrangement of the Foundry."
51. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 25 Sep. 1796.
Docketed as 26 Sep.
Docketed "Edward Pugh and other Bersham workmen."
52. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 25 Oct. 1796.
Docketed "Upon the subject of a loan of £3000 to Mr. Boulton."
53. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 30 Dec. 1796.
54. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 31 Dec. 1796.
55. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 7 Jan. 1797.
Docketed "About our engaging more of the Bersham men."
56. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 12 Jan. 1797.
Docketed "John Wilkinson's affidavit in the Minera affair. Wants Mr. Southern to make an affidavit concerning the engines."
57. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Jan. 1797.
Passed to James Watt at Heathfield.
Docketed "Appointment of Boulton & Watt in the Minera affair."
58. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Feb. 1797.
Docketed "Mr. Lovett's refusal to accept the management of Minera."
59. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Feb. 1797.
Docketed "Agrees to Mr. Lovett's being appointed manager of Minera."
60. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 11 Feb. 1797.
Docketed "On transactions relative to the Minera mine."
61. Letter. Thomas Williams, Thomas Griffiths, William Davies (Wrexham) to William Wilkinson (Court). 24 Feb. 1797.
Docketed "Letter from some of the Bersham men to William Wilkinson."
62. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho Foundry). 28 Feb. 1797.
Docketed "Chiefly about the Minera arbitration."

63. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt (Heathfield). 1 Mar. 1797.
Docketed "John Wilkinson's message to Mr. Jones, Coedyglyn. Mr. Jones' reply."
64. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 2 Mar. 1797.
Docketed "Wishes Mr. Jones' nomination to be dispatched immediately. Approves Boulton & Watt's application for an order in exemption."
65. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt (Soho). 7 Mar. 1797.
Docketed "Agrees to John Wilkinson's furnishing the boiler plates."
66. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt (Soho). 13 Mar. 1797.
On the same sheet:
Transcript of letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Weston. 13 Mar. 1797.
Docketed "Copy of his letter to James Weston on Mr. Campbell's opinion. Transactions at Minera. Delivery of the books. Proposes coming to Birmingham on his way to London."
67. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt (Soho). 16 Mar. 1797.
Docketed "Receipt of bank note of £10. Satisfaction at the nomination of Mr. Jones. Depreciation of bank notes."
68. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt (Soho). 9 Apr. 1797.
Docketed "Complaints upon proceedings at Minera. Remonstrances upon John Wilkinson's conduct."
69. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho Foundry). 8 Jun. 1797.
Docketed "Upon using straps for boring. Cupola. William Gilpin at Bersham. Kendrick's satisfaction. Advises taking apprentices. Wants £50 of coin. Wishes to decline reference with Cark Company."
70. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 27 Jun. 1797.
Docketed "Has not received his appointment from the Cark Co."
- 71a. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho Foundry). 30 Jun. 1797.
Docketed as 30 Jun. Enclosing (b) below. On the same sheet:
Receipt for ten shillings and sixpence received by Edward Edwards from William Wilkinson.
Docketed "No authority from the Cark Company. Discharge of the workmen at Bersham. Dismissal of the bearer Edward Edwards."
- b. Note. John Turner, Bersham Iron Works, 29 Jun. 1797.
Certifying that Edward Edwards, moulder has been freely discharged.
72. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 2 Jul. 1797.
Docketed "Letter from Mr. Stockdale Jr. empowering him to act in the Cark affair."
73. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 8 Jul. 1797.
Docketed "Notice of receipt of his credentials from the Cark Company."
74. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Jul. 1797.
Docketed "Fresh discharge of men from Bersham. Offer of Griffiths and Jones."
75. Letter. William Wilkinson (Parkgate) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 18 Aug. 1797.
Docketed "Reply to suggestions upon award in the Cark affair."

76. Letter. William Wilkinson (Parkgate) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 19 Aug. 1797.
Docketed "Sentiments upon his award. Wants £50 of the new coinage."
77. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 3 Jan. 1798.
Docketed "Upon the repayment of his money on bond. Thinks the notice short. New engine building at Bersham for boring. John Wilkinson refuses to pay his share at Minera."
78. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 12 Jan. 1798.
Mis-dated by Wilkinson as 1797.
Docketed "Manner in which he wishes his bond to be discharged. Orders coin from Mint."
79. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 29 Jan. 1798.
Docketed "Particulars of the bills to be drawn in payment of his bond."
80. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 3 Feb. 1798.
Docketed "Acknowledgement of the liquidation of our bond. Fresh complaints of his brother's conduct at Minera."
- 81a. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 6 Feb. 1798.
Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "Covering Boulton & Watt's bond for £2500 discharged."
- b. Printed form. Boulton & Watt's Bond to Mr. William Wilkinson. 2 Nov. 1796.
On the same sheet:
Memorandum. Discharge of bond and list of bills passed to William Wilkinson. 3 Feb. 1798.
82. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho Foundry). 24 Feb. 1798.
Docketed "About Kendrick's having left us."
83. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 12 Jun. 1799.
Docketed "Receipt of £5.5. Maesyfynnon. John Wilkinson's new fit of engineering. Churns. Aberdare situation."
84. Letter. William Wilkinson (London) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 7 Dec. 1799.
Docketed "Wishes to have an advertisement for Cark engine. John Wilkinson's law difficulties increase."

MS 3147/3/538
SPECIAL SUBJECTS & CORRESPONDENTS
WILLIAM WILKINSON
1800—1807

INTRODUCTION

Letters from William Wilkinson, from 1800 to 1807. The letters concern William's ongoing dispute with his brother John, progress at his various works and mines, and more domestic concerns such as wine and the purchase of corkscrews.

1. Letter. William Wilkinson (Court) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Jan. 1800.
Docketed "Weston's account of expenses at Minera. Our claims upon the mine. John Wilkinson's projects in the iron trade. Aqueduct over the Dee. Martin Meldrum."

2. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 23 Jul. 1800.
Docketed "Invitation to his house and directions how to proceed."
3. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 25 Jan. 1801.
Docketed "Profitable state of the mine at Minera. Intention of coming here. State of his suit with his brother. Wennington to take the command at Brymbo."
4. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgrono) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Apr. 1801.
Docketed "Cannot get the churns made in Lancashire. Produce of Minera. Sale of Cark engine. State of his affairs with John Wilkinson."
5. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. [Soho]. 16 Apr. 1801.
Docketed "A large stock of wines expected at Liverpool. Offers his services to procure some."
6. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgrono) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Nov. 1801.
Docketed "Intention of visiting Soho. State of his law suit. Sentiments upon going to France."
7. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 17 Jan. 1802.
Forwarded to Watt Jr. at 13 London St.
Docketed "Arrival at home. State of Botfield's engine. Gilbert Gilpin dissatisfied. Vist to the Dale and to William Reynolds. Good report of Onions' castings. William Reynolds' sentiments upon John Wilkinson's new bank. Intends having a governess for his daughters at home."
8. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 4 Feb. 1802.
Docketed "Encloses Mrs. Wilkinson's case. Wishes for some of Thomason's corkscrews."
9. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 5 Jun. 1803.
Docketed "State of law proceedings at Minera. Encloses draft for corkscrews etc. Mrs. Wilkinson's lameness better. Particulars of another engine which they are likely to want."
10. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 18 Jul. 1803.
Forwarded to Watt Jr. care of Philips Wood & Lee, Manchester.
Docketed "Wants drawings of engine house for Plas Mostyn Colliery. Displeased with Weston's inactivity. Wants particulars of our Foundry stoves. Is going to Lancaster. Good account of Minera mine and Llanarmon engine. Answered Manchester 29 Jul."
11. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 31 Jul. 1804.
Docketed "Has taken a wrong key with him from Mr. Boulton. Wishes the one he left to be sent by Mr. Kenrick."
12. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Handsworth). 20 Aug. 1804.
Not dated – date taken from the docket.
Docketed "Sends a key by Mr. Kenrick. Wishes his own to be sent with the plated goods from Mr. Hodgetts."
13. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 3 Nov. 1804.
Docketed "His acknowledgement for the present of plated goods."

14. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 16 Nov. 1804.
Docketed "Mr. Stockdale wishes to make me a present of beef at Cark. Wishes to have remarks upon and directions for engines. Progress at Minera and Llanarmon. Visit to Fawcett. Wishes to have his key. Offers to pay my father a visit. Good account of his children."
15. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 26 Jan. 1805.
Docketed "Causes which have delayed his visit to Heathfield and intention of being there in a few days."
16. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Handsworth). 18 Apr. 1805.
Docketed "Sends some maps to be framed and glazed. Success in his road indictment. Casing at Plas Mostyn leaking. Cannot meet with a pony for William etc."
17. Letter. William Wilkinson (Flookborough) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 4 Jul. 1805.
Docketed "Arrangement of his time. Have put in a 7 inch pump at Nantypalma. Will want a larger engine there. Enquires if the present one can be made to work double. Estates to be sold in his neighbourhood."
18. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 7 Nov. 1805.
Docketed "Statement of account between us. Progress made in reforming the Lancashire roads. Remarks on the Radnorshire ones."
19. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 28 Mar. 1807.
On the same sheet:
Transcript of letter. Jabez Carter Hornblower (East Place, City Road, London) to William Wilkinson [Plasgronow]. 7 Jun. 1806.
Docketed "Copy of Jabez Hornblower's letter. Particulars of Shropshire iron works learnt from Gilbert Gilpin. Proposes relinquishing the mine works at Minera."
- 20a. Letter. William Wilkinson (Plasgronow) to James Watt Jr. (The Rookery). 23 Dec. 1807.
Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "Enclosing a letter from Jabez Hornblower. Complains of not being able to get an account from Messrs. Westons'. Minera and Llanarmon. His brother's proceedings against Mrs. Turner etc."
- b. Transcript of letter. Jabez Carter Hornblower (East Place, City Road, London) to William Wilkinson [Plasgronow]. 7 Jun. 1806.

MS 3147/3/539
**LETTERS FROM "SCHEMES" (CONCERNING NEW INVENTIONS, IMPROVEMENTS
TO THE STEAM ENGINE ETC.)**
1801—1810

INTRODUCTION

"Letters from Schemes" from 1801 to 1810. "Letters from Schemes," or sometimes "Letters from Schemers," was Boulton Watt & Co.'s way of referring to correspondence from engineers and inventors offering the sale or use of their inventions and patents. Between 1801 and 1810 these inventions ranged from supposed improvements to the steam engine and boilers, through gas lighting apparatus, to corkscrews, perambulators and a portable kitchen.

According to the draft list of the Watt Room they were arranged in three packets: 1801 to 1810; 1811 to 1820; and a “third packet”. The majority of the 1801—1810 letters were found in Box 7/III, the 1811—1820 ones were mainly in Box 7/I, and the “third packet”, covering 1821—1829, were mostly in Box 34/11. Some letters offering “schemes” prior to 1801 can be found among the series of General Correspondence, and some after 1829 can be found among the General Correspondence dealt with in the Drawing Office, 1829 to 1843.

1. Printed memorandum. Stedman Adams (36 Carey St., Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London) – Exposition of a New Patent Steam Engine. 25 Jan. 1810.
With a note on the same sheet from Alexander Walker Sons & Co. recommending Adams to Boulton Watt & Co.
2. Letter. Anonymous [London] to Boulton & Watt. Nov. 1802.
Docketed “Anonymous application left at London St., 29 Nov. 1802. Respecting a supposed improvement upon the boilers of steam engines.”
3. Letter. Anonymous [“P. M.”] (Ormskirk) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 8 Jul. 1803.
Marked “Favoured per T. Y.” Docketed “Enquiry about the danger of transmitting steam through a tin pipe enclosed in a wooden case.”
4. Letter. William Appleyard (Great Church Lane, Gainsborough) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 17 Jan. 1803.
Docketed “A friend of his has invented a substitute for the steam engine, and is willing to treat with us for the purchase.”
5. Letter. William Appleyard (Gainsborough) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 21 Mar. 1803.
Docketed “Proposes that we should lay his friend’s invention before the Society of Arts. Also that he should make a model at our works and superintend the execution of the machines.”
6. Letter. “A. B.” (Lancaster) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 29 Jan. 1801.
Docketed “Offer of an improvement upon steam engines.”
7. Letter. John Bennock (Liverpool) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Nov. 1801.
Docketed “Offer of a share in his machine for making nails of iron and copper.”
8. Letter. D. Blair (Glasgow College) to Boulton & Watt (Lancaster). 24 Oct. 1801.
*Re-directed to Birmingham.
Docketed “Offer to communicate a scheme for saving ½ the fuel in steam engines.”*
9. Letter. James Blundell (Leigh Grammar School) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 20 May 1804.
Docketed “Offer of an invention for cutting screws.”
10. Letter. James Boaz (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 25 May 1805.
Docketed “Offer to communicate an improvement on extinguishing engines.”
11. Letter. Thomas Carey (Dublin) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 28 Aug. 1802.
Docketed “Invention of a machine to supersede all others. Offer of a share.”

12. Letter. Robert Claiborne (Washington, USA) to Boulton & Watt (Great Britain). 13 Feb. 1803.
Postscript added on 11 Mar. 1803.
Docketed "Offer of a scheme for moving boats and vessels."
13. Letter. William Congreve (8 Arundel St., London) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 28 Jul. 1805.
The docket is on a separate wrapper. On the same sheet:
Sketches and memorandum describing his corkscrew designs.
Docketed "Explanation and offer of his improvement of the corkscrew."
14. Letter. William Congreve [London] to John Woodward (London St.). "Sunday evening" [11 Aug. 1805].
Docketed "Renewed of his invention of an improved corkscrew."
15. Letter. Thomas Cormouls (Tanworth) to James Watt (Handsworth Heath). 1 Jun. 1800.
Docketed "Offer of a scheme."
16. Letter. David Cuthbert (8 St. Dunstan's Court, Fleet Street, London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 15 Mar. 1803.
On the same sheet:
Table. Comparison between crank and Cuthbert's motion.
Docketed "Offers to communicate an invention of a rotative motion superior to our crank or sun and planet wheel."
17. Letter. David Cuthbert (London) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 4 Apr. 1803.
Docketed "Has made a model of our rotative motion and finds the superiority of his own not so great as he expected. Solicits an interview and wishes to treat with us for the purchase of his invention."
18. Letter. Robert Delap (Loughbrickland) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 11 Jul. 1801.
Docketed "Offer of his invention of a new steam engine."
19. Letter. George Dixon (Bridge St., Lisburn) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 21 Feb. 1806.
Docketed "Offers an invention of an improvement of the steam engine."
20. Letter. George Dixon (Lisburn) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 4 Sep. 1806.
Docketed "Confirmed in his opinion of the advantages of his improvement on the steam engine. Illustration of its excellence."
21. Letter. John Dumbell (Perivale, near Warrington) to "Boulton & Son" (Soho). 24 Sep. 1806.
Docketed "Offer of a share in his invention for the cure of smoking chimneys."
22. Printed memorandum. William Cornelius English (Smalley, Thwaites & Co., Union Foundry, Bolton) – Steam: Fuel saved, for engines and every other purpose requiring steam. Oct. 1810.
The memorandum includes three testimonials witnessed by William Murdock. Sent by Samuel Crompton to Mr. Willoughby of Philips & Lee, Salford.
23. Letter. Mr. — Fishwick (Swan Inn, Birmingham) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 18 Feb. 1805.
Docketed "Is arrived there with Mr. G. Dodd and wishes to have a conversation upon improvements on steam engines and diverse other inventions."

24. Letter. George Gray (Edinburgh) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 29 Sep. 1803.
Docketed "Has invented a method of working an engine without condensing water or dense steam."
25. Letter. William Hamilton (Dublin) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 18 Sep. 1801.
Docketed "Offer of his invention of an improved steam engine. Evidence of its merits."
- 26a. Letter. William Hamilton (Dublin) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Birmingham). 20 Oct. 1801.
Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "Further observations on his scheme for the improvement of the steam engine."
- b. Pen & wash drawing. Section of his engine apparatus.
This drawing is of the part of his apparatus which he substitutes for "the leading stops" – see his letter of 9 May 1804 below.
27. Letter. William Hamilton (Dublin) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Birmingham). 9 May 1804.
Docketed "Explains his improvements upon the steam engine which consists in working expansively."
28. Letter. William Hamilton (11 Linen Hall St., Dublin) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Birmingham). 30 May 1804. 2 sheets.
Docketed "Has been prevented by want of means from finishing the model of his improvements. Has applied himself to drawing and chemistry and has improved the apparatus for making soda water. Successful application of his invention to a working engine. Has invented and completed a model of a machine for raising water in distilleries. Proposes an excursion hither and intimates a wish to be employed by us."
29. Letter. William Hamilton (Dublin) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Birmingham). 26 Jun. 1804.
On the same sheet:
Sketch. Section of his hydraulic machine.
Docketed "Is satisfied that his supposed invention has been anticipated. Sends a sketch and description of his hydraulic contrivance. Is desirous of being engaged by us."
30. Letter. W. Hendy (7 Horseferry Road, Westminster) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 30 May 1804.
Docketed "Offer of an improvement upon rope making."
31. Letter. James Hill (Birmingham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 13 Feb. 1810. 2 sheets.
Docketed "Upon the introduction of the steam engine into the island of St. Croix, and the general improvement of the system of mechanics and chemistry in the West Indies."
32. Letter. James Hill (Henley in Arden) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 10 Mar. 1810. 3 sheets.
Docketed "Dr. Hill of St. Croix. Upon the difficulty of procuring water and fuel for steam engines in the island of St. Croix. Has invented a steam engine which he intends sending out to St. Croix."
33. Letter. James Hill (Hen & Chickens, Birmingham) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 2 Apr. 1810. 2 sheets.
Docketed "Communicates his invention of an engine to be worked with spirits of wine, and remarks upon its theory and application in the West Indies."

34. Letter. James Hill (Birmingham) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 9 Apr. 1810.
Docketed "Dr. Hill of St. Croix. Going to London. Further remarks upon the alcohol engine. Wishes to have a machine constructed for trying the experiments."
35. Letter. Stephen Hooper (Chatham Place, Walworth) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 19 Jul. 1805.
Docketed "Offers in participation of his invention."
36. Letter. John Hope (37 Princess St., Buxton) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 13 Apr. 1801.
Docketed "Offer to communicate his invention of an improvement upon canal locks."
37. Letter. D. Howard (Portsea) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 19 Oct. 1801.
Docketed "Has invented a new and advantageous method of treating water."
- 38a. Printed prospectus. New Imperial Patent Company. London, 20 Aug. 1804.
*Docketed as the Imperial Smoke Company. Sent with (b) and (c) below.
Sent to Boulton & Watt by the patentee, F. A. Winsor. Patent for "making and extracting from all combustibles of pit-coal, timber, peat etc. coke, charcoal, tar, pitch, oil, acids, ammonia, salts, and inflammable gas for lighting and heating."*
- b. Printed form for subscribers to the New Imperial Patent Manufactory.
- c. Printed advertisement. "Now exhibiting, Most Brilliant Illuminations from Smoke."
Display of Winsor's invention at The Lyceum.
39. Letter. S. Leather (Brown's Buildings, St. Mary Axe, London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Aug. 1804.
Docketed "Communicating an invention of John Gower. Offer of a share in the patent."
40. Letter. J. MacCulloch (New England Coffee House, Threadneedle St., London) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 17 Dec. 1802.
Docketed "States his having called on James Watt Jr. respecting an improvement on boilers, of which he makes us an offer."
41. Letter. J. MacCulloch (New England Coffee House, Threadneedle St., London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Dec. 1802.
Docketed "Thinks his hopes of improvements warranted by Wilcox's experiments. Refers to Mr. Davey. Offers to accede to any terms of communication we think proper. Proposals made him by Messrs. Foxes."
42. Letter. John McDonald (Nottingham) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 25 Nov. 1801.
Docketed "Offer of a scheme. Not answered."
- 43a. Letter. John Maiber (Perth) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 23 May 1810.
*Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "Has taken out a patent for a gas light apparatus of which he encloses a drawing and description and makes us an offer of the patent for England."*
- b. Memorandum & drawings. Description of Maiber's invention.
44. Letter. John Maiber (Perth) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 12 Jun. 1810.
*On the same sheet:
Pen & wash drawing of his gazometer.
Docketed "Further explanation of his gas apparatus."*

45. Letter. John Nimmo (Glasgow) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 22 Sep. 1802.
Docketed "Offers to make communication of his improvements upon the steam engine."
46. Letter. William Niven (Kidwelly) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 30 Mar. 1803.
Docketed "Has invented an improvement upon corn mills."
47. Letter. James Oliver (Bonsall) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 21 Dec. 1802.
Docketed "Offers to communicate his schemes of a new stocking frame and writes us to undertake the casting of it."
48. Letter. "T. P." (London) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Aug. 1802.
Docketed "Has invented a portable kitchen and other articles and offers to communicate his discovery."
49. Letter. W. Parkes (Francis St., Newington) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 27 Mar. 1801.
Docketed "Proposes to disclose to us conditionally an invention for superseding the necessity of water or steam mills."
50. Letter. W. Parkes (Francis St., Newington) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 5 May 1802.
Docketed "Has brought the perpetual motion to bear, and gives us the option of making the castings."
51. Letter. William Playfair (Old Brompton) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Birmingham). 8 May 1805.
Docketed "Offer of a patent for transparent clock dials."
52. Letter. Charles Pritty (Thornham) to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 6 Jul. 1805.
Docketed "His brother offers us an interest in his newly invented perambulator. Has also a variety of other mechanical inventions etc. etc."
53. Letter. A. Richardson (A. & W. Adams & Co., Digbeth St., Walsall) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 17 Jan. 1806.
Docketed "Offers communication of an invention for preventing the scurfing of boilers."
54. Letter. Anthony Robinson Jr. (Birmingham) to M. R. Boulton (Soho). 4 Jan. 1802.
Docketed "Wanting advice upon a scheme."
55. Letter. James Sharples (Furnivals Inn Coffee House, London) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 20 Dec. 1801.
Docketed "Has invented improvements in the steam engine which he offers to communicate."
56. Letter. James Sharples (Furnivals Inn Coffee House [London]) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 8 Feb. 1802.
*Mis-dated as 1801. Mis-docketed as John Sharples.
Docketed "Has taken out a patent for his invention. Repeats his offer to us to treat for the purchase."*
57. Letter. Mr. — Smith (London) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 27 Mar. 1805.
Docketed "Enquiry as to the possibility and expediency of coking under an engine boiler."

- 58a.** Letter. John Smith (Crown Point, Camlackie) to “Dr. James Watt” (Heathfield). 9 Aug. 1806.
Kept with (b) below.
Docketed “Advising of his having sent a scheme of a steam engine and pumps for the Glasgow Water Works. Wishes Mr. Watt to inspect them and recommend him to the superintendence of said works, or employ him in any other capacity. Has erected some engines near Glasgow and refers to sundry persons for an account of these etc.”
- b.** Letter. James Watt [Heathfield] to Boulton Watt & Co. (Soho). 16 Aug. 1816.
Not dated – date taken from the docket.
Docketed “Accompanying a letter and drawings from John Smith.”
- 59.** Letter. Thomas Spencer (Gravesend) to Matthew Boulton (Soho). 22 Jan. 1805.
Docketed “Offer of an improvement upon the steam engine.”
- 60.** Letter. William Steel (Longport) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 18 Mar. 1805.
Docketed “Offers an improvement upon the steam engine. Has also invented a machine for taking soundings at sea.”
- 61.** Letter. William Steel (Glass Works, Longport) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 13 Apr. 1805.
Docketed “Proposes sending a sketch of his invention.”
- 62a.** Letter. William Steel (Longport) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 15 Apr. 1805.
Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed “Enclosing plan and description of his supposed invention of an expansive engine.”
- b.** Memorandum & drawing. Description of Steel’s engine.
- 63.** Letter. Richard Stevens (Brownfield) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 4 Aug. 1802.
Docketed “Has discovered a scheme to prevent sand and gravel from getting into pumps.”
- 64.** Letter. James Tate (Llynally) to James Watt Jr. (Soho). 12 May 1801.
Docketed “Wishes me to call on Lord Stanhope to see his invention. Not answered.”
- 65.** Letter. Thomas Walters (Batheaston) to Boulton & Watt [Soho]. 30 Oct. 1802.
Docketed “Description of a new invented lock etc.”
- 66.** Letter. Thomas Walters (Batheaston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 9 Nov. 1802.
Docketed “Refers to his letter by Capt. Pierrepont and mentions the lock being sent by the Bath coach.”
- 67.** Letter. Thomas Walters (Batheaston) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 12 Nov. 1802.
Docketed “Pressing us to undertake the manufacturing of his new invented locks. Directions for returning it.”
- 68.** Letter. Robert Watts (Paisley) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 12 Mar. 1804.
Docketed “Offer to communicate an improvement upon the steam engine.”
- 69.** Letter. Joshua Wigfull (Aldwark) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 12 Nov. 1804.
Docketed “Offer to communicate an invention of his.”
- 70.** Letter. Joshua Wigfull (Aldwark) to Boulton & Watt (Soho). 20 Nov. 1804.
Docketed “Terms upon which he wishes to communicate his invention.”

71. Letter. Joshua Wigfull (Aldwark) to Boulton & Watt (Birmingham). 23 Jan. 1805.
Docketed "Renewed offer of a participation in his patent. Nature of it."
72. Printed prospectus. C. Wilson (3 Grange Walk, Bermondsey) – Patent. Apr. 1803.
Patent for "a new method of making or obtaining a vacuum or vacuums, whereby Powers are gained or obtained applicable to the Improvement of Hydraulic, Pneumatical, and Mechanical Machines or Engines, or any others where fluids, steam, or vapour, may be used or applied."
Docketed "Statement of the properties of his new invented power."
73. Memorandum. Henry Wood (Birmingham) – Description and sketch of his Time Setter. 10 Jan. 1801. 2 sheets.