

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY
Series One: The Boulton and Watt Archive and the Matthew Boulton Papers
from Birmingham Central Library
Part 12: Boulton & Watt Correspondence and Papers (MS 3147/3/1-79)

DETAILED LISTING

REEL 200

3/8 Letters to James Watt, 1784 (36 items)

1. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (at John Wilkinson's, Bersham). 21 Apr. 1784.
Summarised "Concerning Goodwyn's engine. Should get small cylinders cast – 15 inches to 18 inches. Our opponents have entered a caveat against our charter. The opposition seems to increase their resolution."
2. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 7 May 1784.
On the same sheet:
Letter. Henry Goodwyn (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 7 May 1784.
Summarised "Mr. Goodwyn's letter. Lengthy remarks upon the Albion Mill business. Caveat entered against Watt's patent by David Ritz."
3. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 13 May 1784.
Docketed "Mr. Kempelen's machine." Summarised "Boulton considers it impossible to obtain a charter for the Albion Mill. With Kempelin and gives a sketch [in the text] of his steam engine. Concerning engines for France. Polgooth 1/64 = £1000. Mentions Priestley."
4. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Exeter) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). "Sunday Morning" [13 Jun. 1784].
Summarised "Boulton visits Radstock and inspects the engine. Gives his opinion as to the manner of procedure against this infringement of our rights."
5. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Whitehall, Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 17 Jun. 1784.
Docketed "On his arrival in Cornwall." Summarised "Arrival in Cornwall. About Cornish business and when the mines shall start. Cameron is plaguing us here as much as Hornblowers ever did. Rasp is waiting in London to see the event of his engine."
6. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Whitehall, Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 19 Jun. 1784.
On the same sheet:
Letter. Thomas Wilson (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 19 Jun. 1784.
Docketed "About North Downs engines." Summarised "About the deeper sinking of the mines and the application of single acting cylinders that can be converted to double acting. Also a letter from Wilson."
7. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Whitehall, Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 23 Jun. 1784.
Summarised "Rasp the assayer is waiting to see Cameron's engine set to work. Murdock alters engine and pump work from Watt's designs, Boulton thinks Watt's the best (Wheal Maid rotative engine). Murdock like Baskerville's philosopher, his new scheme (sketch). Rasp entered a Chancery suit. Boulton concerned about his son and daughter. Would like his son with him in Cornwall."
8. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 28 Jun. 1784.
Summarised "About Radstock engine. Thinks an action ought to be commenced, to convince the world that we shall adhere to our rights. Rotative gin work. Mr. Tomkins is going to do great things with the mines."

9a. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (—). 30 Jun. 1784.

Enclosing (b) below.

Summarised "Boulton urges Watt with the double engine. Chaffs Watt as a "Caldeonian". Would not like to see other engines in the country. Thinks £8500 will be cleared this year. Murdock is going to be married to Capt. Painter's daughter – she lives upon Polgooth mine. Watt's doubt's concerning the up & down."

b. Memorandum. Resolutions agreed to at a meeting of North Downs adventurers. 29 Jun. 1784.

10. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 8 Jul. 1784. 2 sheets. *The two sheets were sent separately.*

Docketed "State of some mines and engines." Summarised "Boulton's remarks upon the great length of pump rods and the depth of mines under the sea, and also upon so many of the mines dying. Remarks upon the winding engine. Upon the life of timber beams and the cost. The planet wheel presses hard on the sun. 700 lbs. of lead put on the rod. Suggests the rods are made of iron for the future."

11. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (—). 15 Jul. 1784.

Summarised "[Capt. Magor] asks for abatement of license for Wheal Busy and Scorrier, afterwards resolves to have one of Hornblower's. Who shall we proceed against? Mr. Wilson proposes a scheme for taking the mine under new hands to prevent the Hornblowers erecting their engine. The little engine goes well. About 1000 people witnessed it."

12. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Soho). 17 Jul. 1784.

Summarised "Concerning Albion Mill. Watt's paradox is quite incomprehensible, getting rid of racks, sector, arch heads and chains will be acceptable. Speaks of pressing the piston with hot air. Has Wolf such ideas. Concerning the winding engine and trial of a new pit work and double engine which should be under Murdock's inspection."

13. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 22 Jul. 1784.

Summarised "Sketches [in the text] and comments upon the design and working of the rotative whim engine. Boulton's scheme to stop Brown [i.e. William Murdock] and his carriage. Wants Watt to erect the double acting engine and test the piston rod. Hornblower picking the bones of Watt's specification. Lawson makes sections of the mines for the adventurers. Watt's endless rope. Wolf, trumpeters and wasp all ghosts."

14a. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 24 Jul. 1784.

Enclosing (b) below.

Summarised "Catherine Phillips converses with Boulton upon the intended marriage of Scotchman James Lawson to Quaker Polly Williams. Lawson makes underground surveys and discovers many errors of Captains. Re. the mine affairs and the wish to erect Hornblower's engine., and the taking up of shares."

b. Transcript of letter. Capt. John Magor (Chacewater Mine) to Chacewater Co. Committee (London). 15 Jul. 1784.

Transcript made by M. R. Boulton.

15a. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (—). 26 Jul. 1784.

Enclosing (b) below. Summarised "Boulton gives a sketch of a new engine. Proposes Rennie should enquire for a Hornblower engine. Wish metal valves could be used instead of leather in pitwork. Mentions the name of lawyers for the impending law suit. About his children. Enclosed in a copy of Mr. Harris' letter."

b. Letter. William Harris (Rosewarne) to Matthew Boulton (—). 24 Jul. 1784.

- 16.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 28 Jul. 1784.
2 sheets. *Boulton completed this letter on 29 Jul.*
Summarised "Concerning the double engine and the whim with the power to drive the stamps. Propose to enter the action against Radstock Colliery, not Hornblowers, who will be supported by subscription. Smeaton should be paid £20 to visit Radstock and give a report and other remarks re. the expected trial."
- 17.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 31 Jul. 1784.
Docketed "North Downs engines." Summarised "Concerning the shares in Cornish mines and the price to pay for license should be as the squares of the cylinder's diameter, not as the squares multiplied by the length of stroke."
- 18.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 2 Aug. 1784.
Docketed as 22 Jul. Summarised "Mr. Fox gives to Boulton a copy of Hornblower's proceedings. The miners much in favour of double engines. Is English iron as good as Russian for boiler plates."
- 19.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 5 Aug. 1784.
Summarised "Boulton examines the books [of Wheal Busy] and gives the gains per year. Has seen the Trumpeters' printed circular and remarks thereon. Hornblowers visit the whim engine. Watt to work well at his patents."
- 20.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 6 Aug. 1784.
Boulton completed this letter continued on 7 Aug. Summarised "Concerning wheel carriages and whether the idea should be included in Watt's specification. Wicked Robert Moor is off. Concerning the mines and shares. Chacewater and Scorrier."
- 21.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (—). 9 Aug. 1784.
Summarised "More men required in Cornwall for the repairing of Poldory, Poldice, Crane, Wheal Towan, Wheal Hawke, Scorrier and Chacewater and Pool."
- 22.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 12 Aug. 1784.
Summarised "Monthly accounts fall short in £.s.d. The surveys of Lawson's very useful. Also the circumferator better than compass. Should engage Smeaton upon the Radstock affair even if we give him 100 guineas. The double engine will beat Hornblower's. Will write to Radstock to be permitted an inspection of the engine."
- 23.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 19 Aug. 1784.
Summarised "Concerning the money matters of the mines. Would like to see Wheal Crane at work with the new scheme for balancing pump rod. About the marriage of Lawson and the wicked doings of Robert Moor."
- 24.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 28 Aug. 1784.
Summarised "Boulton takes a share in Chacewater mine to prevent the mine closing. Concerning Wolf's engine. Pleased to hear Goodwyn's engine is gone. About the use of cement. About Colclough's payments and Drumglass engine."
- 25.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 2 Sep. 1784.
Summarised "Concerning the expenses in the working of mines. Would like to see Soho principles adopted for payment. Mentions Rennie, and the water wheel at Soho. Will never gain by the plated trade at Soho till we roll the metal ourselves."
- 26.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 9 Sep. 1784.
Summarised "Boulton accompanies the ladies about the county of Cornwall. Will consider his remarks and treaties about wheel carriages."
- 27.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 13 Sep. 1784.
Summarised "Boulton attends a meeting at United Mines to conduct business. About the Albion Mill."

- 28.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (—). 18 Sep. 1784.
Summarised “Concerning the Irish patents. Re. the Albion Mill Co.’s affairs and Boulton’s distress thereat. Pool engine and mine will stop working and to be removed to another mine. Received drawings of the new 48 inch double engine.”
- 29.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 20 Sep. 1784.
Summarised “Concerning the destruction of the pump work by the water. Re. the dues upon little engines. Murdock would not have taken shares if he had known of these dues, thinks £3 per month sufficient. Concerning Wolf’s engine and Watt to visit it. Best to have as few enemies as possible out of our own pupils.”
- 30.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (—). 25 Sep. 1784.
Summarised “Concerning the erection of the whim engine. Brown [i.e. William Murdock] idles away his time. Calculations. Costs and remarks upon the whim engine. Iron connecting rods would be best. Query if the Hornblowers have not got into Wales. I think of returning home by Swansea. Mentions Wasp, Wolf, Playfoul, Blair and co.”
- 31.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London). 4 Oct. 1784.
Summarised “If Watt has anything to do or agreement to make with Wolf, please transport him to the Sweet Sugar Islands. Chiefly concerning the division of shares and the rich and poorness of the mines.”
- 32.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 21 Oct. 1784.
Summarised “Boulton accused of sending spies to different works. Boulton attends a meeting and agrees with the Adventurers for reduced fees. Concerning the alterations to whim engine and the satisfactory results, also the increased quantity drawn.”
- 33.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 28 Oct. 1784.
Summarised “Disputes concerning the price to pay for the power of engines at the Cornish mines. The whim engine at Crane goes well, have christened it the Racehorse. The Hornblowers have nearly finished the engine for Penryn. Rejoices the central motion does so well. Radstock engine is again at work.”
- 34.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 30 Oct. 1784.
Summarised “The custom of Cornwall, upon deep mines, is to erect engines of such a size as to go half as deep again, i.e. if a mine was 40 fathoms below adit, then to erect an engine to go 60 fathoms and to begin with 2/3 of the power. 8 fathoms increases power 1 lb. per inch. Concerning the yearly income from engines. Hornblowers have nearly finished their engine.”
- 35.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (Birmingham). 4 Nov. 1784.
Summarised “Boulton corrects his mistake in his last letter. Have cut a very hard vein in Eastern Wheal Maid and a meeting will be called, to which I will attend and not return to Cusgarne. One of us must be in Cornwall six out of the 12 months. The Hornblowers will soon have the Penryn engine at work and we already feel the insult thereby. Concerning North Downs mine and the arrangement of the pump work and rods.”
- 36.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Cusgarne) to James Watt (—). 8 Nov. 1784. 2 sheets.
Summarised “Hallamanin adventurers require our advice. The adventurers of North Downs do not take advantage of Boulton’s mistake. He gives his rule for calculating the price for cylinders. Boulton thinks the yearly income from Cornwall will amount to £12,000 and gives details. Boulton speaks most highly of Murdock and mentions his wheel carriage. About the bargains he has made.”

3/9 Letters to James Watt, 1785 (30 items)

- 1.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 15 Mar. 1785.
Summarised “Concerning the Irish business. Mentions Hornblower. Henderson offers his phosphoric trade.”

2. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 17 Mar. 1785.
Summarised "Concerning the selling of tin and copper and the proposed tax thereon. Buchanan leaves the service. Boulton has a fall, coming from the House of Commons. Re. the business at the House of Commons. Low Vere and Williams. Chamber of Manufacturers gathers strength daily."
3. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 25 Mar. 1785.
Summarised "Concerning the Chamber of Manufacturers at the House of Commons. Boulton puts a stop to Lord George Gordon's speech. Boulton has another accident. Re. Chacewater mine. Mylne requires drawings. Engines wanted for Holland. The French have succeeded in copying Boulton & Watt engine. Won't get into another scrape like this."
4. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 31 Mar. 1785.
Summarised "The Chamber of Manufacturers gathers strength. Other information of its success. Wedgwood is gone, so I am perpetual Chairman. Watt's pamphlet sells well. Pitt mentioned. Wedgwood offers £300 to the fund."
5. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 2 Apr. 1785.
Summarised "Boulton would like to return, but cannot till Wedgwood comes back, and must call upon the several gents mentioned. Other remarks about the Manufacturers business. Also the Irish business."
6. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 13 Apr. 1785.
Summarised "About the Manufacturers' affairs. Wolf visits me. Matthews thinks it impudence and after arguing turns him out of the house. Can't tell what Wolf is after. Murdock thinks there is cunning going on. We must do something with Radstock. It would not be amiss to employ Radstock engineman."
7. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 5 Jun. 1785.
Summarised "Boulton arrives at London – engaged with Vivian and Williams. Pray assist Garbett with petitions "for there is great hopes in the House of Lords." Watt to read several speeches."
8. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 6 Jun. 1785.
*Docketed "London – about C. Copper Company."
Summarised "Concerning the affairs before Parliament. Also the Copper Co."*
9. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 10 Jun. 1785.
Summary note missing. Boulton's opinions on the Copper Co., copper trade and the Anglesey Company. Proposals for agreement with Williams.
10. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 11 Jun. 1785.
*Dated by Boulton as "Saturday 10 Jun.", but 10 Jun. was a Friday.
Summarised "Watt to be in London to present himself before the Patent Committee. Re. the smokeless patent."*
11. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (—). 18 Jul. 1785.
Summarised "Boulton's arrival in Cornwall. Cornish men in great trouble concerning the copper trade."
12. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Birmingham). 22 Jul. 1785.
Summarised "Remarks upon the disturbance in the copper trade. Large meetings and subscriptions. What had Boulton & Watt better subscribe?"
13. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (—). 26 Jul. 1785.
Summarised "Concerning the cutting down of patents. The Overseers of the Poor of the parish of Redruth assess our profits to ¼ - can they claim any money? Will give Murdock your instructions of valve gear alteration. Concerning the copper trade. Crane engine working with 22 lbs. per inch."

- 14.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Birmingham). 31 Jul. 1785.
Summarised "Re. Copper Co. and my illness. Saw the Whim engine at work. Want certain parts of engines. All engines east of Redruth should have brass condensers. Remarks upon the wear of certain parts of engines. Wheel Towan cut a good load. Re. the subscription to the Copper Co. Cannot get an invalid's chair."
- 15.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (—). 5 Aug. 1785.
Summarised "Lengthy correspondence about the Copper Co. Boulton's leg is still very bad. Sorry to hear of Zaccheus Walker's malady. Bennallack's case is really hard."
- 16.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 7 Aug. 1785.
*Boulton completed this letter on 8 Aug.
Summarised "Concerning the Copper Co.'s affairs. With Mr. Elton at Gloucester. Cannot prepare timber large enough for Polgooth beam. Will send information about stamps for ores. My buckles are broken – send up others. £1000 to Mrs. Baskerville. Also prodigious meeting of Quakers."*
- 17.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 8 Aug. 1785.
Summarised "Boulton's remarks upon the piston for the double engine. Murdock has the drawings. Glad Zaccheus Walker is better. Concerning the shares in the Copper Co."
- 18.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (—). 12 Aug. 1785.
Docketed "Mr. Phillips' death."
- 19.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 22 Aug. 1785.
2 sheets.
Docketed "About state of mines and engine stamps." Summarised "Concerning the state of Cornish mines, their produce and a better method of dealing with it. Also recommends the use of steam stamps v. water stamps. The payment of wages at Soho by Scale or Hodges."
- 20.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 26 Aug. 1785.
Docketed "Subscriptions to C. M. Co." Summarised "Mentions the different sums invested in the Copper Co. for different gentlemen and Boulton & Watt. Concerning the removal of the Crane engine and steam stamps."
- 21.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 3 Sep. 1785.
*Docketed "Account of the election of directors and subscription to the C. M. Co."
Summarised "Has given Murdock particulars from letters. Re. Metal Co. They require a good clerk. Ennis and friends hatching mischief. Poor Halse is dying and Wasp always drunk. Wolf has some cunning scheme. Watt to be watchful of him. The distribution of shares and the election of officers, servants etc. – Metal Co."*
- 22.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 14 Sep. 1785.
Docketed "C. M. Co.'s seal." Summarised "The Cornish Metal Co. entrust Boulton & Watt to design their office seal, transfer and blank bill. Boulton requests Lawson to survey underground and perceives the Captains have been working in wrong directions, this is a frequent error on their part."
- 23.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (—). 19 Sep. 1785.
Summarised "Proposes to sell copper by commission. Re. the London agency. Our position in Cornwall. Engines not in good order. Murdock too much with his girl – he is rather awkward to deal with. Could make £1000 a month if he stayed in Cornwall. Cannot find a house to suit."

- 24.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 23 Sep. 1785. 2 sheets.
Docketed "State of the mines." Summarised "Trusts Hurd will have the position of Commission Agent to the Copper Co. The bad state of Chacewater. The state of Polgooth. Boulton proposes to do away the old engines of Boulton & Watt and erect two new ones and thereby save the adventurers money. Sketch [within the text] of stamping apparatus. Wooden top to air pump will do. Hancox is a thief. Suffers with cramp in legs."
- 25.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 30 Sep. 1785.
Summarised "Urges Watt not to be down-hearted. Boulton only in doubt about Chacewater. Will make about £10,000 next year. Complains of the bad method of sinking shafts. Gives a sketch [within the text]. Boulton leaves Cosgarne House. Dwells upon the sad state of Cornwall and the deaths through bad medical attendance."
- 26.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 12 Oct. 1785.
Docketed "With receipts for £1200 – C. M. Co." Summarised "Hopes he will be able to remit Watt some money as well as pay the Copper Co. shares. Mentions Wedgwood. The Crane rotative engine to be removed to Chacewater. Requests Watt to send information about the stamping apparatus."
- 27.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London). 17 Oct. 1785.
Summarised "Concerning the profit realised at several Cornish mines. Conversation with Sir F. Bassett about the shares in the Metal Co. Lord Falmouth's son and heir dead."
- 28a.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London). 21 Oct. 1785.
*Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "With letter to Mr. Bedford." Summarised "Sir F. Bassett upsets the arrangements previously made by the Copper Co. Boulton feels alarmed at the sight of Wheal Fortune new engine. Concerning delaying the trial against Boulton. Copy of Boulton's letter to the lawyer enclosed."*
- b.** Letter (press copy). Matthew Boulton (Truro) to William Bedford (—). 21 Oct. 1785.
- 29.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Birmingham). 31 Oct. 1785.
Summarised "Boulton receives no answer concerning the extension of time for his Chancery suit. The Albion Mill foundations are giving way. Re. the Copper Co.'s affairs. Boulton and Murdock in trouble with the parallel motion. Concerning the payment of certain sums of money."
- 30.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (North Downs) to James Watt (Birmingham). 2 Nov. 1785.
Summarised "Wheal Fortune engine works well – being set to work at 2 o'clock today. Murdock says this double engine with parallel motion works and is more manageable than the single-acting engine."
- 31.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 4 Nov. 1785.
Summarised "Boulton speaks highly of the double engine at Wheal Fortune, wishes Watt could see it. Attends the committee at Truro and paid £1200. Speaks of Wedgwood. Concerning the copper and brass trade."
- 32.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 7 Nov. 1785.
The direction to James Watt on the outside has been crossed out, and the letter passed to Mr. Walker. However the docket is by Watt. Summarised "Boulton hurries to London concerning his Chancery suit."

33. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 28 Nov. 1785. 2 sheets.
Docketed "About abatement on Poldice." Summarised "Concerning the Copper Co.'s affairs. The new engine at Wheal Fortune. Poldice mine adventurers in trouble. Boulton accuses them of bad management. Ask for reduction of fees, what are we to do? All Cornwall our enemies."

3/10 Letters to James Watt, 1786 (30 items)

1. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (—). 10 Jan. 1786.
Summarised "With Dr. Priestley, Mr. Russell, Mr. Wilkinson and John Vivian. Sends a letter to Dr. Blagden, and concerning Albion agent."

2. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (London). 22 Jan. 1786.
Docketed as 26 Jan. Summarised "Concerning the copper trade and Birmingham. Leather dresser from Leicester requires 2 horse power engine. Don't know how to make such small engines. Trouble at not having the engines to work by June. Concerning the coke scheme."

3. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 24 Feb. 1786.
*Boulton completed this letter on 27 Feb.
Docketed "Argand's trial."
Summarised "MyIne requires the materials for the New River Head Water Works engine, that it may be set to work. About Mr. Allingham's erection by Robert Moore. Concerning Argand and his patent lamp trial."*

4. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 1 Mar. 1786.
Summarised "Albion Mill engine set to work. Slight troubles with different parts of the engine, the piston gets loose on rod. Visits Whitbread's engine, has less fears of the single revolver than the double."

5. Letter. Matthew Boulton (New River Head) to James Watt (Birmingham). 5 Mar. 1786.
*Boulton completed this letter on 6 Mar.
Summarised "New River Head Water Works materials all behind. Wishes Soho or Bradley had a boring bar. Boiler plates won't bend, will make them of Russia slabs. Boulton does not like the shafts at Albion Mill, driving off each side of the connecting rod with two sets of planet wheels."*

6. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 15 Mar. 1786.
Summarised "Business with Pitt etc. ready of Parliament. The arrangement of Albion Mill affairs. Lengthy correspondence thereon. Mentions Rennie. About Argand's patent lamp. Concerning the New River Head Water Works."

7. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 22 Mar. 1786.
Summarised "Concerning the Albion Mill. Visited Thrales brewery [Barclay & Perkins], they want a 12 horse power engine and for us to consume their smoke, but have informed them it is not worth our while for so small an engine. Will examine several sorts of coal before buying for Albion Mill. Got £1000 of corn in grainary."

8. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 27 Mar. 1786.
Summarised "Letter concerning the Albion Mill affairs. Mentions Imperial Rennie."

9. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 2 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Concerning the Albion Mill. Has agreed with Barclay & Perkins to erect them an engine. Re. York Buildings Water Works."

10. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Albion Mill) to James Watt (Birmingham). 4 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Concerning the Albion Mill engine. Thomson, the erector, must sign and seal agreement or he will be off. Elton and the Penryndee engine."

- 11.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to James Watt (—). 9 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Boulton mislays the papers concerning the Dutch patent. The Albion Mill engine gives trouble, wishes Watt would come to it."
- 12.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to James Watt (Birmingham). 11 Apr. 1786.
*Not dated – date taken from the docket and postmark.
Summarised "Concerning the troubles at the Albion Mill. Cannot yet find the Dutch patents. Rennie and Brown continue to snarl and thwart each other."*
- 13.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Albion Mill) to James Watt (Birmingham). 15 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Concerning the Albion Mill. Rennie wants us to lend him money for his undertakings, he has invited several gents from Scotland and uses the 'I' and 'We' freely."
- 14.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Albion Mill) to James Watt (Birmingham). 18 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Concurring the troubles with the engines at Albion Mill. Does not speak well of Rennie."
- 15.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (6 Green Lettice Lane, London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 19 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Watt remarks upon the number of people allowed to go over the Albion Mill. Boulton considers Watt has lent his ear to pimps and gossips and is annoyed."
- 16.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 22 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Boulton ill and in bed. Argand visits him. He feels hurt by Watt's remarks, for he always endeavours to please his friends."
- 17.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 24 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Boulton with Mr. Barclay and Mr. Perkins, sends plan of their brewery. Introduces to them Mr. Rennie, who does not keep a promise he made. Boulton thinks when he is on his own legs he will get into many scrapes. Boulton also enlarges upon Rennie's proceedings, which are not straightforward."
- 18.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 26 Apr. 1786.
Summarised "Concerning the troubles at the Albion Mill. Boulton again unwell. Joseph Hateley's engine makes a great noise in Cornwall and Gullett is to have one erected."
- 19.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 1 May 1786.
Summarised "Trial with the Albion Mill boiler. Boulton complains of the heat lost, and considers that a larger heating surface is necessary to absorb the heat before entering chimney. Visits Bell, Goss & Benwell."
- 20.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 8 Jun. 1786.
Summarised "Boulton with the Duke of Richmond concerning the gunpowder mills belonging to the Government, which have to be rebuilt. The London Bridge Water Works Co. have a trial concerning the Poors Rate. John Calvert orders an 8 horse power engine."
- 21.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 12 Jun. 1786.
Summarised "Returns from the gunpowder excursion with Richmond, and it is a job for Rennie. Undertakes to dry their powder by steam. About the Albion Mill. Concerning the appointment of lawyers."
- 22.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Birmingham). 2 Sep. 1786.
Summarised "Boulton travels from London to Cornwall. Meets with Murdock on his way to London with his steam wheel carriage to patent and persuades him to return. Murdock makes it run round a room carrying the tongues, pokers etc."
- 23.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Birmingham). 6 Sep. 1786.
Summarised "Concerning the delivery of goods. About the requirement of an engine at Wheal Maid. Watt does not like a 9 feet stroke in a double engine. Visits the North Downs mines and remarks upon their productive power."

24. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Birmingham). 8 Sep. 1786.
Summarised "Boulton attends the Copper Co. monthly committee meeting and receives the interest upon the sums invested, and would prefer the amount split in smaller sums, which will give more votes. Visits several mines. About the renting of a house. Lawson an idler. Murdock in good spirits and has neither thought upon nor done anything with his wheel carriage."

25. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 17 Sep. 1786.
*The address and docket are on a separate wrapper.
Docketed "About steam carriages." Summarised "Ravenhead engine. Should put a dozen engines in hand. About the insult received at the mines. The Hornblowers. Wheel Virgin requires as large an engine as Watt can construct. The advantages of double-acting pumps. About removal of Cornish engines to Ireland. Valuable remarks on Murdock and the wheel carriage."*

26. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 19 Sep. 1786.
Summarised "Re. the shipping of goods. Require more men to erect the engines. Send the 12 inch engine in Refining Shop to do the turning. Mentions Murdock, Bull and Cartwright. Complains of the heavy forged work. The bearings of motion etc. should be twice their diameters. The sale of shares."

27. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 26 Sep. 1786.
Docketed "Account of Polgooth No. 2 engine." Summarised "Received Argand's letter, also one from Mr. Poli of Naples for an engine for the King. About various engines in Cornwall and the fuel burnt, their speeds, also their pump work and Murdock's remarks."

28. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Birmingham). 1 Oct. 1786.
*Boulton completed this letter on 2 Oct.
Docketed "Prince George calculations." Summarised "Murdock flies from mine to mine. About employing his brother. Concerning the Cornish mine engine at Prince George, also remarks and sketch [within the text] about the rotative engines for the mines and also about the other class of engines."*

29. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (—). 6 Oct. 1786.
Summarised "About the construction of the new committees for Copper Co. and the erection of a forge. Boulton in a poor bed, catches cold. 4ft. cylinder does not save coal. Prince George mine. Murdock in a temper with Prince George people."

30. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Bristol) to James Watt (Birmingham). 16 Oct. 1786.
Docketed "About Chacewater mine." Summarised "Concerning the productive power of Chacewater mine. Concerning the insolent Captain, and proposes to take more shares to gain a majority."

3/11 Letters to James Watt, 1787 (18 items)

1. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London). 3 Mar. 1787.
*Boulton completed this letter on 4 Mar.
Docketed "About Baron Stein." Summarised "Baron Stein wants an engine. Would be better to get money from his King rather than a patent. About the state of the North Downs mines, shall we assist them."*

2. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 15 Jun. 1787.
Docketed "London Bridge Engine." Summarised "Mr. Williams (Boulton thinks) intends to demolish the Cornish copper trade. Asks Boulton to coin him two tons of pence and then uses it to injure Boulton's trade. Scott & Co. want a mill. Concerning the London Bridge Water Works."

- 3.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 20 Jun. 1787.
Summarised “Concerning the engine at the London Bridge Water Works. J. Williams intends to destroy the Cornish copper trade. Sends his son to Paris to fetter Droz and inform him I must now buy my copper from his father.”
- 4.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 25 Jun. 1787.
Summarised “Two Frenchmen and a Marquis shown over Albion Mill, and make sketches of the engine. They will come to Birmingham and Boulton requests Watt not to let the thieves see over Soho. In company with Wolf.”
- 5.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 2 Jul. 1787.
Summarised “Concerning the Albion Mill and a consultation with Rennie. Also about the result of the alteration to the chimney. Has been to the New River Head Water Works. The arrangement of payments for advice about engines for France.”
- 6.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane). 4 Sep. 1787.
On the same sheet:
Letter. Samuel Garbett (Birmingham) to James Watt. 2 Sep. 1787.
Transcript of letter. ? (Liverpool) to Samuel Garbett [Birmingham]. 24 Aug. 1787.
Not dated – date taken from information in Matthew Boulton’s diary.
Summarised “Copies of information for Watt, re. the Frenchmen taking out a patent for bleaching. Boulton intends to journey to Anglesey. Concerning Mr. Droz. General Elliott at Soho, plenty of gun firing.”
- 7.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 26 Sep. 1787.
Summarised “Boulton journies in a patent coach, which makes him very ill. His remarks upon the coach. Meets Phillips and Lawson. About the Cornish mines.”
- 8.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Birmingham). 29 Sep. 1787.
Summarised “Boulton again very ill, caused by the ride in the patent coach. About [Mr. Knipe’s] German journey.”
- 9.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 1 Oct. 1787.
Docketed “List of produce of mines.” Summarised “Symington’s new engine will go the same way as his wheel carriage, so don’t vex about it. About someone stealing and re-using the rotative motion at Manchester. The Hornblowers abandon the engine trade. About Williams and the copper supply. About the wiredrawing of the steam at Poldice. List of the copper produced.”
- 10.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 3 Oct. 1787.
Docketed “Amount of our dues on copper got and about Mr. Gullet’s engine.”
Summarised “Boulton remarks upon the distressed state of the Cornish mines. Our tax upon copper = 1½ guineas per ton. Our tax upon tin = 2 guineas per ton. Concerning Mr. Gullet’s engine.”
- 11.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 5 Oct. 1787.
Mis-dated by Boulton as 1789.
Docketed “About stopping North Downs and other mines.” Summarised “Boulton’s remarks upon the distressed state of the Cornish mines.”
- 12.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to James Watt (—). “Saturday Morning” [6 Oct. 1787].
Docketed “Beginning of miners’ mob.” Summarised “400 Cornish miners assemble to pull down Vivian’s house. Boulton fetched out of bed to render assistance.”
- 13.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Harper’s Hill). 7 Oct. 1787.
Docketed “Miners’ mob.” Summarised “The miners’ mob about 500 strong – ask for Boulton. Boulton and Murdock flee to St. Agnes and then to Truro to avoid them.”

14. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 8 Oct. 1787.
Docketed "Account of miners' mob." Summarised "Concerning the Cornish miner's distress. The unsound position of the Copper Co."

15. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 11 Oct. 1787.
Mis-docketed as 7 Oct.
Docketed "General meeting at Truro." Summarised "Concerning the prices of the stock of copper and the position of the Cornish Copper Co., also their difficult position."

16a. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Truro) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 15 Oct. 1787.
Enclosing (b) and (c) below. On the same sheet:
Balance sheet. The Cornish Metal Co.'s Effects and Debts due to and from them.
Docketed "With Cornish Metal Co.'s balance, and copy of a letter to Mr. Wedgwood."

b. Letter (press copy). Matthew Boulton to Josiah Wedgwood. [15 Oct. 1787.] 2 sheets.

c. Letter. Thomas Wilson (Morrison) to Matthew Boulton (—). 11 Oct. 1787.

17. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Chacewater) to James Watt (—). 17 Oct. 1787.
Summarised "Concerning the Cornish tanners and the distress. Also enclosed is a letter from Thomas Wilson [this letter was actually enclosed in the letter of 15 Oct. above]. Williams the cause of the mischief."

18. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (—). 23 Dec. 1787.
Summarised "Wilkinsons visit Boulton. Could not attend concerning the coinage. Gives a description of his illness."

3/12 Letters to James Watt, 1788 (18 items)

1. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (care of Dr. Black, Edinburgh). 8 Jan. 1788.
Summarised "Concerning the copper coinage and the proposed enlargement of his mint. Cornish mines still losing. Several engines wanted at home and abroad. Does not care to go in for small engines. Jim is his French secretary."

2. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 25 Jan. 1788.
Summarised "About the Albion Mill. The King of Naples allows £1000 for profit. Concerning coinage."

3. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 28 Jan. 1788.
Summarised "Several engines wanted in London. Infamous news spread about Boulton concerning the copper trade. Murdock's scheme to draw the water from the Cornish mines without pumps. Concerning coinage and his mint."

4. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 1 Feb. 1788.
Summarised "Concerning the King of Naples' engine. Also Truman's engine. Concerning the number of pence to the lb. Should have an office in London. About Rennie and Albion Mill."

5a. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 5 Feb. 1788.
Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "North Downs adit." Summarised "Alterations have been made in the Cornish mines, without the consent of Boulton & Watt. Concerning the King of Naples' engine. Could do with secretary and office. Mr. Beckman requires an engine."

b. Transcript of letter. Matthew Boulton to G. C. Fox & Sons (Falmouth). 4 Feb. 1788.
Docketed by James Watt as 30 Jan.

- 6.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 7 Feb. 1788.
Docketed "Morris' premium." Summarised "Mr. Pulteney and his invention. Mr. Morris and his engine. Watt to confine himself to £5 a year for the country and 6 guineas in London. Chacewater mine to be given up after a month's trial, surprised as it is a tin mine."
- 7.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 15 Feb. 1788.
Summarised "Boulton and his daughter witness a sight of royalty etc. Have no reply from Morris about his engine. Rutt's engine is going very well. Concerning the alterations etc. of the Cornish mines, without the consent of Boulton & Watt."
- 8a.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 15 Feb. 1788.
*Enclosing (b) below.
Docketed "With letter on coal trade." Summarised "Account of papers enclosed."*
- b.** Letter. H. Grey Macnab (Adelphi, Strand) to Matthew Boulton [London]. Undated.
- 9.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 20 Feb. 1788.
Summarised "The Cornish property, copper and bills surrendered into the hands of Williams. Albion Mill customers put into the hands of lawyers. Sacks of corn stolen from the barges. About Truman's engine and Morris' engine. Also the Glass Co. engine. About Albion Mill. Concerning coinage. Beckman's engine to stand over."
- 10.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 22 Feb. 1788.
Summarised "Watt troubled with asthma. J. Calvert's address. Also Whitbread. Concerning the sale of tin and copper. Also the state of affairs of the Metal Co."
- 11.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 28 Feb. 1788.
Summarised "Boulton and son are ill. Will visit the Lord Advocate and other members of Parliament about Bartholet stealing our designs. About the Neapolitan boiler. To visit Sir William Lemon, to confer with several Cornish gents."
- 12.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 28 May 1788.
Summarised "The Lead Hills Co. The Mint engine boiler. Accompanies Van Liender to the Albion Mill. Parker's schemes and a sketch [within the text]. Concerning the governor, applied to a mill stone. About Mr. Vere's."
- 13.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 29 May 1788.
Summarised "Concerning the drainage of the Fens. About the engine for the King of Naples and Lawson to erect it."
- 14.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Albion Mill) to James Watt (—). 31 May 1788.
Summarised "Lawson not to erect the engine for the King of Naples, and other remarks concerning the delivery."
- 15.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 3 Jun. 1788.
Summarised "About the King of Naples' engine. Concerning the Fens. Boulton proposes to buy a few thousand acres, and other remarks. Visited Whitbread's, Calvert's and Barclay's with Van Liender."
- 16.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 7 Jun. 1788.
Summarised "Proposes to meet Watt in the Fens. Whitbread peaks at being the first to give us information thereof. About the King of Naples' engine – good delivery."
- 17.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (Buxton). 13 Aug. 1788.
*Mis-dated by Boulton as 14 Aug.
Summarised "Watt visits Buxton. About the Hawkesbury Colliery engine. Boulton visits Bridgnorth. Major Cartwright wants an engine. Rennie to be married to a lady of fortune."*

18. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (Buxton). 14 Aug. 1788.
Mis-dated by Boulton as 15 Aug. Summarised "About Rumsey and Vaughan's intention to build engines in Ireland where the law will not reach them. Boulton very annoyed thereby. Concerning slight disputes with part of the agreements by customers."

3/13 Letters to James Watt, 1789 (16 items)

1. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 25 Jan. 1789.
Summarised "Concerning agreements. The Spaniard in London – Perrier will make him an engine. About insolence at the Albion Mill. Other Parliamentary affairs. Boulton must make friends with the Duke of Portland."

2. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 26 Jan. 1789.
Docketed as 25 Jan. Summarised "Major Cartwright's writings returned. About the selling of tin blocks. About Count Solager's engine. Watt's asthma and Boulton's remarks."

3. Letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). — Feb. 1789. Incomplete.
This letter originally consisted of 2 sheets, of which the first is now missing. Docketed "About F. Scott & Co." Summarised "Concerning Gardner, and the saving of coals."

4. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London). 26 Mar. 1789.
Summarised "Concerning the Albion Mill. Wilson in trouble. The miners say he stopped the North Downs mine for which they intend taking his life. Young Daniels in trouble respecting the Consolidated Mine."

5. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London). 1 Apr. 1789.
Summarised "Concerning the Cornish mine affairs. Concerning the Albion Mill affairs. About the coining presses. Boulton to attend upon the slave trade. Also a Lunar meeting."

6. Letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to James Watt (—). Not dated [circa 17 Jun. 1789].
Dated from the docket and from information in Matthew Boulton's diary. Docketed "Sales to the East India Co."

7. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Harper's Hill). 23 Jun. 1789.
Summarised "Boulton at Windsor, goes on the terrace to see the King who recognises him and has a conversation with him. About the brewers in London. Garbett insists upon me taking the Winson Green house."

8. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 6 Jul. 1789.
Summarised "Concerning the drainage of the Fens. About coinage. Re. Wilkinson and Weston erecting an engine without our consent, also gives a sketch of Wilkinson's character. The Albion Mill sells 20,000 sacks."

9. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (at Mr. Newman's, haberdasher, or at the Post Office, Cheltenham). 15 Aug. 1789.
Summarised "Robert Cameron visits Boulton and trusts he will not be against him for erecting 5 winding engines (Blair, Jeffries and Cameron). Mr. Ware the inventor. Letter from Rennie about Cameron. Order for engine. Re. to coining press. Miss Boulton leaves her card [for Mr. and Mrs. Startin] and causes trouble."

10. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (Cheltenham). 20 Aug. 1789.

11. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (London). 30 Sep. 1789.
Summarised "About Mr. Mensa and the Spanish engine business. Also Wilkinson and the construction of engines. Robert Cameron calls again. Re. Mr. Sam Broome and the Paris engine."

12. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (London). 2 Oct. 1789.
Mis-dated by Boulton as Sep. Summarised "About Robert Cameron, and also East India Co. bought 600 tons of tin."

13. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (London). 4 Oct. 1789.
Docketed "About Mr. Torres." Summarised "Concerning the Spanish engine business. Wilkinson and Carron patronise Symington. Wishes Watt would bring the box of coin with him."

14. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London).
6 Oct. 1789.
*Re-directed to James Watt at Harper's Hill.
Docketed "Concerning Mr. Torres". Summarised "Concerning the Spanish engine business."*

15. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Birmingham). 2 Dec. 1789.
*Docketed "Agreement with Mr. Gardner."
Summarised "About Gardner and the premium. An appointment with Mr. Pitt."*

16. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 6 Dec. 1789.
Summarised "Mr. Mensa takes a complete model of Albion Mill. New River Water Works Co. will not allow their water for condensing purposes. Concerning the Spanish engine business. Whitbread's engine goes well. The sun wheel teeth are of well-seasoned live oak."

3/14 Letters to James Watt, 1790

1. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London).
1 Apr. 1790.
Summarised "About an engine for Cornwall. About Stein's affairs. Mensa's conduct. Concerning Droz and his invention for multiplying dies. Also other miscellaneous information."

2. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London).
1 Apr. 1790.
Summarised "Concerning Cornish lawyers. Flint's engine gone wrong. Boulton wishes Watt to assure him several questions about Mr. Droz and coining machinery."

3. Letter. Matthew Boulton (—) to James Watt (—). 9 Apr. 1790.
Summarised "Boulton does not invite Watt to dine with his company, as he considers the dislike Watt has to mixed company, and better not expose himself to the wind."

4. Letter. Matthew Boulton (Soho) to James Watt (6 Green Lettice Lane, London).
27 May 1790.
Summarised "Boulton guards Soho against an intended riot. Harper whom I nursed in misfortune says he is going to do coinage against me. About intended partnership with Scale and other remarks upon the button trade."

5. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 26 Jun. 1790.
*Boulton completed this letter on 29 Jun.
Docketed "Borough Water Works." Summarised "Boulton says 'as we have never applied double engines to the raising of water by one pump, I think it would do to try it at Borough Water Works.' The sales at the Albion Mill. About Droz, and his conduct re. the coinage machinery. Watt with the King."*

6. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 6 Jul. 1790. 2 sheets.
Docketed "Droz's arbitration." Summarised "Lengthy correspondence re the arbitration. Droz and the coining machinery."

7. Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 7 Jul. 1790.
Mis-dated by Boulton as 1788. Summarised "Concerning the arbitration. Droz and the coining machinery."

- 8.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 8 Jul. 1790.
Docketed "Mensa, Torres, copper trade, abatements to mines etc."
Summarised "Concerning Torres and Mensa's engine. Concerning the copper trade and abatement of dues."
- 9.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 9 Jul. 1790.
Docketed "Mensa's patent. Albion Mill. Williams' copper warehouse."
Summarised "Concerning Mensa and the Cadiz business. About mines. Bad management of the Albion Mills. Gardner pressing for his engine. Concerning the copper trade."
- 10.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (Albion Mill, London) to James Watt (—). 10 Jul. 1790.
Docketed "Copper and tin trade. Mensa." *Summarised "Concerning Mensa, Garbett, Handley and the copper and tin trade. Copper will fall."*
- 11.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 16 Jul. 1790.
Docketed "Bourdieu and Chollet." *Summarised "Messrs. Bourdieu, Chollet & Bourdieu, merchants, require an engine for Spain – a sugar mill at St. Dominga. Mensa and the patent business, also about his mill. Albion Mill profits. Concerning the design of coining presses."*
- 12.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 21 Jul. 1790.
Docketed "Bourdieu and Chollet." *Summarised "Concerning the Spanish business. About Mr. de Tastet and Messrs. Mensa & Co. The patent and drawings."*
- 13.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 23 Jul. 1790.
Docketed "Droz." *Summarised "Watt to attend the arbitration case, to note Droz's remarks, for he agreed to teach me the art, and superintend, and put the coinage in good train, so that I shall make the finest money."*
- 14.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (—). 24 Jul. 1790.
Docketed "Droz." *Summarised "Concerning Droz and the coining machinery – valuable information."*
- 15.** Letter. Matthew Boulton (London) to James Watt (Soho). 29 Dec. 1790.
Summarised "Miscellaneous information. Re. Soho men's characters."