

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

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| <p>Name of collection:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(1706-1790)</p> <p>Franklin, Benjamin, Account Books, 1714-1874</p> | <p>Location:</p> <p>Filed in Microform Reading Room</p> |
| <p>Size of collection:</p> <p>3 microfilm reels; 1 octavo volume, 17 pp.</p> | <p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p> |
| <p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For a biography of Franklin, see <u>DAB</u>, vol. 6, pp. 585-98. See also, <u>Guide to Microfilm Edition of Benjamin Franklin's Account Books</u> (Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1977)</p> | |
| <p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Gift of Warren G. Davis, 1977</p> | |
| <p>Collection Description:</p> <p>This collection contains 37 account books, on 3 microfilm reels, of Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) and various members of his family (the originals are located in the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa.). There is also a <u>Guide to Microfilm Edition of Benjamin Franklin's Account Books</u> (Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1977), with a table of contents, biographical material, and a description of each account book. The account books were not published in <u>The Papers of Benjamin Franklin</u>, 21 vol. to date (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959-1978). The guide divides the collection into four main categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) domestic and personal accounts, 1743-1787, kept by Benjamin and Deborah Read Franklin (-1774), e.g., receipt books, cash books, memorandum book. 2) business accounts primarily, but not exclusively, of Benjamin Franklin, 1730-1766, e.g., ledgers, shop books of his Philadelphia printing business with partner David Hall (1714-1772). 3) accounts of the Philadelphia Post Office during and after his tenure as Postmaster, 1737-1768, e.g., ledgers, accounts of amounts due for postage, lists of incoming and outgoing letters. 4) his public accounts when he served as colonial agent in London and a representative to the French court of Louis XVI, 1757-1778, e.g., account of money received for the Commissioners of the U.S. [including John Adams (1735-1826) and Silas Deane (1737-1789)], 1774-1778; Franklin's accounts with the London banking firm of Smith, Wright, and Gray, 1764-1774. Many of these accounts were kept by his grandson | |

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Collection Description (con't.) Franklin, Benjamin, Account Books

and secretary, William Temple Franklin (1760-1823).

The microfilms also contain miscellaneous business account books, 1714-1874, e.g., receipt book of Franklin's mother-in-law, Sarah White Read (-1762), 1714-1760; ledger of his brother, Peter Franklin (1692-1766), 1739-1764; and accounts of the administration of Franklin's Philadelphia property by his great grandson, Dr. Franklin Bache (1792-1864) and his great great grandson, Dr. Thomas Hewson Bache (-), 1820-1874.

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