

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Bruce Family, Letters, 1809-1837</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Misc. mss. boxes "B"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>1 folder, 16 items</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p>
	<p>RLIN id:</p> <p>MAAR91-A303</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>none.</p> <p>See accompanying sheet(s) for additional information.</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Purchased from Carmen D. Valentino, September 6, 1991. Harold Hugo Memorial Book Fund.</p>	
<p>Collection Description:</p> <p>David Bruce (1770-1857) and his brother George Bruce (1781-1866) were born in Scotland, the sons of John Bruce (1730-) and Janet Gilbertson (c1740-c1823). After serving a printing apprenticeship, David came to New York City in 1793. Soon after, he moved to Philadelphia and began working as a printer. His brother George followed him to Philadelphia in 1795, and afterward the brothers moved to Albany, and later to New York City. At first, the Bruces worked in the establishments of others, but in 1806 they opened their own printing business. David went to England in 1812 to learn the process of stereotyping, and the brothers made early efforts in this field. By 1815 they were also producing printing types. In 1816 they sold the printing business and concentrated thereafter on stereotyping and type founding. David retired in 1822, and George continued the business. Gradually type founding became Bruce's principal enterprise, and the firm made a number of important technological advances in this area.</p> <p>The 16 letters in this collection were written to the Bruce brothers or to George's second wife, Catherine Wolfe Bruce (-). Correspondents include David Bruce; David and George Bruce's sister Wilhelmina Bruce (1785-); Samuel Paterson (c1743-), a family friend living in Dalreith, Scotland with whom the Bruces exchanged newspapers; and John David Wolfe (1792-1872), Catherine's brother. Most of the letters deal with family matters and with conditions in Europe, but there is also some discussion of the type founding business.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">November 15, 1991</p>	

American Antiquarian Society

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Sources of biographical information or background material for this collection:

Annenberg, Maurice. Type Foundries of America and their Catalogs.
Baltimore: Maran Printing Services, 1975, pp. 79-83.

Bruce, David. History of Typefounding in the United States. Ed. James Eckman. New York: The Typophiles, 1981.

MacBean, William M. "George Bruce." Biographical Register of Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York. New York: For the Society, 1922.
Vol. 1, p. 383.

Rowe, Robert R. "George Bruce." DAB (1929).

Weeks, Lyman H. Book of Bruce. New York: Americana Society, 1907.