

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Henchman, Daniel, Papers, 1712-1762

Location:

Microform Room

Size of collection:

3 microfilm reels

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id: MARC 93-A87

Sources of information on collection:

See accompanying sheet(s) for additional information.

Source of collection:

Original manuscripts owned by the Baker Library of the Harvard Business School, the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society (see collection description for details). Filmed at the American Antiquarian Society December 1991-January 1992.

Collection description:

Daniel Henchman (1689-1761), the Boston, Mass. bookseller, was the son of Hezekiah (-1694) and Abigail Henchman (-). Hezekiah was a son of Capt. Daniel Henchman (-1685), a schoolteacher, fighter in King Philip's War, and one of the founders of Worcester, Mass.

Daniel Henchman may have served an apprenticeship with a Boston bookseller, and by July, 1712, when the earliest ledger in this collection begins, he was in business for himself as a merchant. His business was extremely varied: in addition to selling and publishing books, he was a book binder and a stationer. He also sold other goods ranging from cloth to knives, buckles, combs, and spectacles. Some of this merchandise he imported. He often received payment in food or other goods.

Throughout his career, a principal part of Henchman's business was bookselling. He frequently acted as a publisher, arranging for the printing of specific works, often in partnership with one or more other booksellers. Nearly 400 works printed in Boston between 1712 and 1761 indicate on their title pages that they were "printed for" or "sold by" Henchman.

Henchman and several partners were responsible for establishing the first paper mill in New England. This mill, located on the Neponset River in what is now Milton, Mass., was chartered by the Massachusetts legislature in 1728, and was producing paper by 1731. Henchman had an interest in this mill until 1748.

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American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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Henchman, Daniel, Papers, 1712-1762

Collection description (continued)

In addition to being a successful businessman, Henchman was an active citizen of Boston. He joined the Artillery Company in 1712, rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the militia, was an overseer of the poor, a justice of the peace, an inspector of schools, and for more than 40 years a deacon in the Old South Church. In 1713 Henchman married Elizabeth Gerrish (1693-1767), and their daughter Lydia (-) married Thomas Hancock (1703-1764) who had been apprenticed to Henchman.

This microfilm contains copies of manuscripts owned at the time of filming by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society. In 1992, the Hancock Family papers (including the Henchman papers) owned by the New England Historic Genealogical Society were acquired by the Baker Library of the Harvard Business School.

While 11 of Henchman's account books constitute the majority of the collection, there are also many loose items, including bills, receipts, correspondence, and other papers.

See contents list.

April 9, 1992
revised February 19, 1993

American Antiquarian Society

Henchman, Daniel, Papers, 1712-1762

Sources of Biographical Information or background material for this collection:

William T. Baxter, "Daniel Henchman, a Colonial Bookseller," Essex Institute Historical Collections, 70 (1934), pp. 1-30.

William T. Baxter, The House of Hancock: Business in Boston, 1724-1775 (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1945).

O.A. Roberts, History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. Boston: 1895-1901. Vol I, pp. 381-382.

Isaiah Thomas, History of Printing in America, ed. Marcus A. McCorison (Barre, Mass: The Imprint Society, 1970).

Daniel Henschman
1689-1761
Boston Bookseller

Manuscripts in the Collections of
New England Historic Genealogical Society
Boston Public Library
Massachusetts Historical Society
American Antiquarian Society

Filmed December 1991 - January 1992
for the American Antiquarian Society

Daniel HENCHMAN Papers

NOTICE TO READERS

This microfilm contains reproductions of manuscripts relating to the bookselling trade of Daniel HENCHMAN (1689-1761). The manuscripts are in the collections of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society, and have been filmed through the courtesy of these organizations.

At the beginning of each volume or group of papers is a target, or title page, indicating the location of the original manuscript. No material on this film may be reproduced or published without the written permission of the owner of the original.

A table of contents for the microfilm may be found on the following pages.

Daniel Henschman

DAY BOOKS, LEDGERS, ETC.

Originals owned by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and Boston Public Library (BPL).

The NEHGS material is part of the Hancock Collection, given to NEHGS by Charles L. Hancock in 1871-3. The collection was described in 1961 by Robert Lovett, curator of manuscripts at the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, when it was on deposit at that library. The item, DH-9, is not present in the collection.

Reel 1:

Waste Book, 25 March 1719 - 25 February 1721. 1/2 Folio. NEHGS, DH-1.

Day Book, 13 December 1718 - 25 February 1725/6. Small Folio. NEHGS, DH-7.

Day Book, 1 March 1725/6 - 24 March 1728/9. 1/2 Folio. BPL, Ms.F.Am.1306.

Day Book, 25 March 1729 - 24 March 1731/2. 1/2 Folio. NEHGS, DH-2.

Day Book, 25 March 1732 - 24 March 1734/5. 1/2 Folio. NEHGS, DH-DH-3.

Day Book, 25 March 1735 - 25 March 1738. 1/2 Folio. NEHGS, DH-4.

Waste Book, 25 March 1741 - 20 November 1741. 1/2 Folio. NEHGS, DH-5.

Reel 2:

Day Book, 25 March 1745 - 31 March 1750. 1/2 Folio. NEHGS, DH-6.

Ledger, 1712 - c.1735. Quarto. NEHGS, DH-8.

Ledger, 1729 - c.1755. Folio. NEHGS, DH-10.

Ledger, 1745 - 1762. Long, narrow (or 1/2) Folio. NEHGS, DH-11.

Index of accounts in Ledger, 1745 - 1762, compiled by William T. Baxter. Small Octavo Notebook. NEHGS, DH-11a.

Reel 2 (continued):

LETTERS, BILLS, ACCOUNTS, ETC.

Originals owned by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the American Antiquarian Society.

New England Historic Genealogical Society

This material is part of the Hancock Collection (see above).

Box 14:

Folder 1: Domestic Letters, 1733-1763

Folder 2: Foreign letters, 1740-1759

Folder 3 (part): Domestic Bills, 1725-1741 (beginning to Sept. 11, 1728)

Reel 3:

Folder 3 (part): Domestic Bills, 1725-1741 (Oct. 25, 1728 to end)

Folder 4: Domestic Bills, 1750-1775

unnumbered folder: Bills, 1725, 1737/8, 1742

Box 15:

Folder 1: Domestic Bills, 1726-1748

Folder 2: Foreign Bills, 1739-1759

Folder 3: Sales, 1736-1763

Folder 4: Receipts, 1730-1755

Folder 5: Miscellaneous, 1729-1798

unnumbered folder: Bills, 1730/1-1742

Miscellaneous papers, Local History Collection, 3 M 18a-d.
Folders 1-4

Reel 3 (continued):

Boston Public Library Rare Book Collection

Henchman to the estate of John Edwards, April 1725. Ms. 1051.

Isabile Crawford to Henchman and Thomas Hancock, 30 June 1739. Ms. 1051.

Rogers and Fowle to Henchman for printing Whitefield's sermon. 23 September 1741. Ms.G.31.17, no. 6.

Joseph Edwards to Henchman, 23 May 1744. Ms. 1051.

Allyne to Henchman. 27 July 1751. Ms.Alc.G.41.8., v.2, p. 5. Refers to the following shipment of books.

Longman to Henchman. 12 September 1751. Ms. Alc.G.41.8., v.2, p. 112.

Massachusetts Historical Society

Appraisal of books belonging to the estate of Henry Dering, executed by Daniel Henchman, 1730? Dering Family Papers.

Account with George Gradock, including "sundry books papers &c.," 1 January 1742/3. Frederick L. Gay Family Papers.

Account with Samuel Eliot, for books, 23 February 1742/3. Frederick L. Gay Family Papers.

American Antiquarian Society

Samuel Kneeland and Timothy Green to Henchman for printing, 11 July 1727. Book Trades Collection.

Samuel Kneeland to Henchman for printing, 26 March 1729. Book Trades Collection.

Henchman account with Edward Tyng for goods including books, 26 January 1739 (i.e. 1738/9?). Misc. mss. H.

Samuel Gerrish to Henchman for printing and paper, 29 February 1739 (i.e. 1738/9?). Misc. mss. H.

Henchman account with Robert Williams for goods including books, 16 May 1739. Misc. mss. H.

Benjamin Gerrish to Henchman for goods including books, Dec. 31, 1739. Misc. mss. H.

Reel 3 (continued):

American Antiquarian Society, (continued)

John Draper to Henschman for printing and paper, 18 January 1739/40. Misc. mss. D.

Ezekiel Lewis to Henschman for goods including books, 18 January 1739 (i.e. 1739/40). Misc. mss. H.

Henschman to the estate of Rebekah Baker, for goods including books, 10 July 1745. Misc. mss. H.

Henschman to Obediah Dickinson for books and needles, 4 April 1755. Misc. mss. H.

William Alexander to Henschman for Bibles, 20 June 1758. Misc. mss. H.

Notes on the Account Books of Daniel Henschman

This collection contains 3 kinds of account books, representing the 3 times Henschman recorded each transaction. Sales or incoming payments were first entered as they occurred into a waste book (variously labeled "Blotter" or "Wast Book" by Henschman). Afterwards, the transactions were copied more neatly into a day book (also usually referred to by Henschman as a "wast book"). In both of these books, transactions were entered chronologically, with debits and credits recorded together in a single column. This information was eventually transferred to a ledger, in which each person's account with Henschman was kept separately, with debits and credits on facing pages. The page or folio number in the ledger where an account was located was then posted back into the day book.

The dates represented in the 3 ledgers owned by NEHGS overlap considerably. This is partly because Henschman would transfer accounts from one ledger to the next as he ran out of space for a given account in the old ledger. Thus the earlier ledger would remain in use until all active accounts were transferred.

Additionally, all 3 of the surviving ledgers contain references to other ledgers which are not now known to exist. It appears that the reason for this is that Henschman kept large and small ledgers simultaneously. On folio 168 of ledger A (account of Samuel Mix) Henschman entered "by foot of his acct. brot from small book," suggesting that there was a smaller book in use at this time.

This also seems to have been the case with ledger(s) B. The first entry in the existing C refers back to "foot of account [from] Small Ledj. Fol. 104." This account (Samuel Clarke) is not on folio 104 of ledgers A or B at NEHGS. Likewise, on folio 55 of C (account of Samuel Gerrish) Henschman has written "To Ball. Due [from] adjust. Fol. 28 in Small Ledj. B." Additional evidence for a second B can be found in ledger B Fol. 189 (account of Samuel Waldo) "To Bal. due as P. adjust. Ledj. B Fo. 257." Neither of these accounts can be found in ledgers A or B at NEHGS; it is apparently the larger ledger B which has survived.

There are indications that a second ledger was also in use along with ledger C. The daybook for 1745-1750 contains some entries with a folio number reference to the ledger, and others have a folio number followed by "m." Only the references including an "m" can be found posted in the surviving ledger C. As only a few of the transactions found in the day book for 1745-1750 can be found in the surviving ledger C, it seems likely that the other ledger C was larger.

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Notes on the Account Books of Daniel Henschman
(continued)

W.T. Baxter ("Daniel Henschman, a Colonial Bookseller," p. 2) says "the oldest of his surviving ledgers is dated 1712 and contains references to an earlier volume." The earliest of these references appears to be on folio 8 (account of Samuel Robinson) and is dated 1723: "Brot from Small Ledger Fol. 52." This reference is almost certainly to a second (smaller?) ledger A, and there seems to be no evidence in the account books that Henschman was in business before July 1712 when the accounts in the existing ledger A begin. On folio 4 of ledger A (account of Robie) the account dated July 10, 1712 lists "sundries as p. wast fol. 3" (i.e. near the beginning of the waste book) and is thus consistent with the waste book and ledger having both been begun at about the same time.

April 9, 1992