Guide to the James Blair Collection 1781-1792
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Descriptive Summary

Identifier  ICU.SPCL.BLAIRJ
Title  Blair, James. Collection
Date  1781-1792
Size  0.25 linear feet (1 box)
Repository  Special Collections Research Center
             University of Chicago Library
             1100 East 57th Street
             Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

Abstract  James Blair, correspondent for Philadelphia mercantile house, Stewart,
          Nesbitt & Co., operating primarily out of the Caribbean island of Dominica
          in the late 18th century. This collection contains letters written Blair from
          1781 to 1792. Also included in the collection is a letter from William
          Lawrence to Alexander Nesbitt.

Information on Use

Access
The collection is open for research.

Citation
When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: James Blair. Collection,
[Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Biographical Note
James Blair, operating out of the island of Dominica, was the correspondent for the Philadelphia
mercantile house, Stewart, Nesbitt & Co. While there, Blair maintained correspondence with
both Alexander Nesbitt and Walter Stewart, among others, regarding the state of Caribbean
commerce and trade. Little is known about the life of Blair outside of his profession.

Scope Note
The James Blair Collection is organized into two series, though a certain degree of overlap was
unavoidable. Series I contains personal correspondence. These letters range from 1788 to 1791.
Series II contains business correspondence. These letter discuss the markets in Dominica as well
and speculate on the state of trade elsewhere in the world. These letter range from 1781 to 1792.
The collection was previously part of the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection.

**Related Resources**
The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/scrc/findingaids/topics.php

**Subject Headings**
- Blair, James, fl. 1781-1792
- Nesbitt, Alexander, 18th cent.
- Stewart, Walter, active 1781-1792
- Dominica -- History -- Early works to 1800
- Dominica -- Economic conditions -- 18th century -- Early works to 1800

**INVENTORY**

**Series I: Personal Correspondence**

- **Box 1**
  - **Folder 1**
    - Personal Correspondence, 1788-1791
      - Letter from James Blair to unknown recipient. Dominica, May 19, 1788.
      - Letter from James Blair to unknown recipient. Dominica, May 8, 1791.
      - Letter from James Blair to Walter Stewart. Dominica, June 20, 1790.
      - Letter from James Blair to unknown recipient. Dominica, August 1, 1790.
      - Letter from James Blair to unknown recipient. Dominica, May 8, 1791.
      - Letter from James Blair to unknown recipient. Dominica, May 8, 1791.
      - Letter from James Blair to Alexander Nesbitt. Dominica, September 24, 1791.

**Series II: Professional Correspondence**

- **Box 1**
  - **Folder 2**
    - Professional Correspondences, 1781-1792
      - Letter from William Lawrence to Alexander Nesbitt. Providence, November 25, 1781.
      - Letter from James Blair to Walter Stewart. Dominica, August 6, 1788.
      - Letter from James Blair to unknown recipient. Dominica, September 24, 1791.
      - Letter from James Blair to Walter Stewart. Dominica, December 23, 1791.
      - Letter from James Blair to Walter Stewart. Dominica, March 23, 1792.