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Isaac Mann's Collection of Letters

BEGINNING in January 1932, *The Baptist Quarterly* (VI, 39ff.) published a "Calendar of Letters, 1742-1831, collected by Isaac Mann". These letters had passed through several ownerships prior to their acquisition by the National Library of Wales (M.S. 1207. E). Compiled by the Rev. F. G. Hastings, the calendar amply demonstrated that the two hundred letters contain valuable information about leading Baptists of this period. Recently, a similar group of letters, equally varied and interesting, and almost certainly an additional part of Isaac Mann's collection, has come to light in the Osborn Collection of the Yale University Library. These letters, eighty-six in number, provide vivid insights into the lives and concerns of certain late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Baptist leaders.

John Ryland and Abraham Booth are represented in this group of papers by eight and six letters, respectively, and William Carey, Christmas Evans, Andrew Fuller, and Samuel Pearce are represented by several items. Letters of four members of the prominent Stennett family of preachers are also present, including Joseph Stennett's farewell letter, written two months before his death to his congregation in Little Wild Street, and his son Samuel's letter accepting the call to succeed his father. Other Baptist leaders such as John Sutcliff, William Paxon, and Isaac Mann are among the recipients of the letters. The remaining items include letters or other documents of several Independent divines.

While there is no conclusive proof that Isaac Mann collected these letters, certain evidence supports this hypothesis. Five of the letters, for example, are addressed to Mann, and three of these relate to his autograph collecting. Two other letters bear endorsements in Mann's hand, attesting to the validity of handwriting specimens of eminent ministers. Thus it seems highly probable that these manuscripts were once part of his collection but were separated from it in the nineteenth century, presumably before W. Thomas Lewis sorted and arranged the main body of the collection (see the introduction to the calendar of 1932).

The subsequent ownership of the newly discovered segment of the Mann collection remains obscure. Sold anonymously at Sotheby's in London on 6th February, 1973 (lot 353, listed among "Other Properties"), the Mann letters comprised less than half of a catalogue lot of clerical autographs ranging from Philip Henry to Cardinal Wiseman. On sorting these diverse materials it became apparent that one significant group of letters possessed a unity which suggested a common origin. Thus, a lost portion of the Isaac Mann collection has been recovered.

The following list is arranged alphabetically by author. The convenient abbreviation "ALS" identifies an autograph letter, signed. Each description also provides the date, within square brackets if inferred, and the place from which the letter was written. After a statement of the pagination, which includes only the pages bearing text, I have added a brief summary of the content of each letter.

Binney, Thomas. 1798-1874.

ALS to Isaac Mann. [1831]. 1p.

Asking Mann to lead a prayer meeting because Mrs. Binney is ill.

ALS to unidentified recipient. n.d. 2p.

Giving corrections on text of recipient's lecture.

Booth, Abraham, 1734-1806.

ALS to Gilbert Pudner. [1774]. 1p.

Advising against the publication of Samuel Rowles's answer to a tract by Joshua Toulmin.

Receipt, signed. 1796 Feb. 16. 1p.

Receipt for £110.10.5. to the Particular Baptist Fund.

ALS to John Webster Morris. 1798 June 1. London. 1p.

Returning to Morris a MS. of Samuel Hopkins, an American theologian, and defending himself against its arguments.

ALS to John Ryland. 1798 July 26. London. 1p.

Defending himself against misrepresentations in a MS. of Samuel Hopkins on justification, and criticizing metaphysical theology of American authors which might lead to Arminianism.

ALS to Betsey and Mary Wightman. 1803 Feb. 26. London. 1p.

Sending a parcel of their grandmother's wearing apparel, and giving advice about their deportment.

ALS to Robert Harness 1804 Sep. 11. London. 1p.

Concerning the possibility of recipient taking Baptist church in Broseley, Shropshire.

Broadfoot, William.

ALS to William Paxon. n.y. Oct. 26. Soley Terrace. 1p.

Listing the addresses of Rev. Thomas Archer, Rev. Robert Redpath, and Rev. Mr. Leach.

Brown, David. 1763-1812.

Letter, copy, to Joshua Marshman. [after 1803]. 1p.

Enquiring about progress of translating Bible into languages of India.

Bull, William. 1738-1814.

ALS to John Sutcliff. 1794 Nov. 28. 2p.

Concerning William Carey's missionary efforts.

Bull, Thomas Palmer. 1773-1859.

ALS to John Clayton. 1829 Mar. 16. Newport. 1p.

Reporting that he is unable to admit a recommended student to Newport Pagnell Academy.

Carey, William. 1761-1854.

Petition to the Managers of the Particular Baptist Fund: holograph. 1786 May 5. Moulton. 1p.

Acknowledging receipt of gift and soliciting further aid.

Petition to the Managers of the Particular Baptist Fund: holograph. 1786 June 29. Moulton. 1p.

Petitioning for an allowance "for the Purchase of Books necessary for a Minister." With signed recommendation by John Evans and John Ryland.

Two petitions to the Managers of the Particular Baptist Fund: holograph. 1790 Oct. 31 and 1791 Oct. 30. Leicester. 3p.

Acknowledging receipt of gift and soliciting further aid. Also signed by Deacons and members of the Baptist church in Leicester.

- ALS to unidentified recipient. 1807 Feb. 17. Calcutta. 3p.
Giving instructions for selling of the first volume of his *Ramayana* and his Sanskrit grammar, and relating plans for translations of the Bible.
- Collyer, William Bengo. 1782-1854.
ALS to Joseph Maitland. 1828 Apr. 28. Peckham, 2p.
Concerning votes by proxy.
- Erskine, John. 1721?-1803.
ALS to John Sutcliff. 1799 Oct. 14. Lauriston. 1p.
Sending pamphlets (now missing) about American theology.
2ALS to John Ryland. 1801 Aug. 13 and 1802 Jan. 26. Lauriston. 2p.
Sending pamphlets (now missing) about American theology.
- Evans, Christmas. 1766-1838.
ALS to unidentified recipient. 1813 Apr. 27. Llangefni. 1p.
Concerning efforts to get signatures for petition to Parliament for the protection of the Baptist Mission in India.
Doc., Holograph, S. recommending David Thomas. [after 1814]. 1p.
Also signed by Joseph Harris and Timothy Thomas. Support for effort to gather books to aid ministry in Gower, Glamorganshire.
ALS to William Paxon. 1829 Jan. 3. Cardiff. 2p.
Reviewing his ministry in the last year, his gifts from the Baptist Fund, and his state of health.
ALS to Managers of the Particular Baptist Fund. 1829 Jan. 4. Cardiff. 1p.
Giving a short summary of his faith and soliciting further aid.
- Fuller, Andrew. 1754-1815.
ALS to John Sutcliff. 1808 Jan. 4. 3p.
With references to several Baptists and translations of the Bible.
ALS to J. Edwards. 1814 Nov. 21. Kettering. 3p.
Concerning collections for the Baptist Missionary Society and giving news about William Carey's efforts in India.
Memorandum, holograph, concerning the Baptist Missionary Society. [1814]. 2p.
Accompanied by partial minutes of a Baptist Missionary Society meeting.
- Hall, Robert. 1764-1831.
ALS to John Webster Morris. 1808 July 28. 2p.
Explaining why he has abandoned plans for his publication.
- Henry, Philip. 1631-1696.
Sermon notes, holograph fragment. [17th century)] 2p.
- Gibbons, Thomas. 1720-1785.
[Poems on several occasions]: holograph, containing original verses and comments on poetry. ca. 1744-1750. 33p.
Incomplete, lacking leaves at beginning.
ALS to Mr. Baker. [1750] Dec. 30. Bunhill. 2p.
Letter to a man facing death.
- Huntington, Ebenezer. d. 1821.
Memorandum, holograph. n.d. 1p.
Endorsed by Isaac Mann.
- Kilpin, Samuel, fl. 1820.
2ALS to John Cocks. [ca. 1815]. 4p.
Urging him to preach to a man soon to be executed, and discussing the cost of building chapels.
4ALS to William Paxon. 1817 Oct. 2 to 1820 Mar. 27. 11p.
Enquiring about magazine proofs and mourning the death of a mutual friend.
- Marshman, Joshua. 1768-1837.
ALS to Joseph Ivimey. 1827 Mar. 27. 1p.
Returning a letter.
- Morison, John. 1791-1859.
ALS to Thomas Thomas. 1833 May 23. Hans Place. 1p.
Declining an invitation to preach.

- ALS to William Paxton. 1836 Jan. 23. Hans Place. 1p.
Declining an unstated request.
- Noel, Baptist Wriothsesley. 1798-1873
2ALS to unidentified recipients. 1841 Feb. 10 and n.d. 2p.
Responding to requests to preach.
- Orme, William. 1787-1830
ALS to Isaac Mann. 1826 May 19. Grove Lane. 1p.
Sending two or three autographs (now missing) of men "who will probably be remembered when the hand which now writes this will be mouldering in the dust."
- Owen, John. 1766-1822.
ALS to the Rev. John Clayton. 1816 Apr. 29. 1p.
Asking him to second the resolution of thanks to the Vice President at an upcoming meeting, possibly of the British and Foreign Bible Society.
AL, third person, to Messrs. Cadell and Davies. [1796] Nov. 25. Fulham. 1p.
Requesting them to send 25 copies of his *Travels* to John Bacon, Esq.
- Pearce, Samuel. 1766-1799.
ALS to William Steadman. 1795 Mar. 20. Birmingham. 3p.
Reporting news he has received from William Carey in India on Baptist Missions.
ALS to Andrew Fuller. 1799 May 2. Tamerton. 3p.
Sending recommendations for advice to be sent by Baptist Missionary Society to their missionaries.
- Pike, John Deodatus Gregory. 1784-1854.
ALS to unidentified printer. 1827 Feb. 22. Derby. 2p.
Concerning the printing of an edition of his *Persuasions to early piety* being executed by Richard Baynes.
- Priestly, Jonathan fl. 1707.
ALS to Ralph Thoresby. 1707 Sep. 22. Winteredge. 1p.
Sending information of antiquarian interest. Notes by Thoresby on reverse.
- Raffles, Thomas. 1788-1863.
2ALS to Isaac Mann. 1820 June 17 and 1831 Jan. 27. Liverpool. 5p.
Sending the autograph (still present) of Thomas Spencer, "the fifth edition of whose Life goes to press . . . on Monday", and commenting on Mann's autograph collection.
ALS to G. B. Kidd. 1821 Jan 22. Liverpool. 1p.
Expresses willingness to conduct service.
ALS to Moses Fisher. [1824]. 1p.
Invitation to dine.
- Reed, Andrew. 1787-1862.
ALS to Isaac Mann. 1826 Oct. 23. 1p.
Arranging a time for Mann to preach.
- Rippon, John. 1751-1836.
2ALS to Benjamin Lepard. 1817 Jan. 27 and 1823 Feb. 10. 3p.
Concerning the need for a grant from the Particular Baptist Fund for the church at Uffenham.
- Robinson, Thomas. 1749-1813.
ALS to John Ryland. 1790 Nov. 16. Leicester. 2p
Regarding copies of the second volume of his *Scripture Characters*. With notes, possibly for a sermon, by Ryland.
- Ryland, John. 1753-1825.
ALS to John Sutcliff. 1795 Jan. 28. 3p.
Enquiring into Sutcliff's activities, with comments on various Baptist divines and articles in the *Evangelical Magazine*.
ALS to unidentified recipient. 1796 June 25. 2p.
Commenting on Robertson's *Historical Disquisitions*. Accompanied by sermon notes on various scripture passages, 1783 to ca. 1800.
ALS to John Webster Morris. [1804 May 30] 7p.

- Requesting back issues of a periodical on Baptist missions and chronicling religious meetings.
- ALS to Joseph Tyso. [1809 or later]. 2p.
Concerning efforts to find another church for Mr. Tyso.
- ALS to William Burls. 1813 Apr. 26. [Bristol]. 3p.
Sending Bristol Petitions (now absent) to be placed before Parliament by Richard Hart Davis and Edward Protheroe.
- ALS to Mr. Wilcocks. [1821 Jan. 19]. 1p.
Regarding a collection for poor ministers, with the money to go Mr. Cocks of Culstock.
- ALS to (John Rippon). [1825 May 10]. 1p.
Giving his opinion of the case between the Barnstaple Baptist Church and Mr. Johns.
- ALS to unidentified recipient. n.d. 1p.
Letter commending the ministry of Mr. Bradley, Baptist divine. Also signed by John Sharp.
- Shaler, Thomas. fl. 1790.
Petition to the Managers of the Particular Baptist Fund: signed as Deacon on behalf of the church at Cardington, Bedford. 1790 Oct. 24. Cardington. 3p.
Soliciting further aid and claiming greater need on account of the death of John Howard, who had contributed to their church.
- Shore, James. fl. 1849.
ALS to John Blackburn. 1849 Mar. 13. Exeter. 3p.
Writing from the Exeter Gaol, where he had been imprisoned for his actions in trying to effect the "liberation of religion from secular influence."
- Simpson, David. 1745-1799.
Sermon notes, holograph. [ca. 1790]. 1p.
Endorsed by Isaac Mann.
- Simpson, Robert. 1764-1817.
ALS to John Hirst. 1789 Oct. 26. Bolton. 2p.
Responding to queries of Hirst about Baptist meetings in Bolton.
- Smith, John Pye. 1774-1851.
ALS to Thomas Blundell. 1827 Aug. 7. London. 1p.
Recommending Mr. Tompkins to the Committee of the Stepney Baptist Academy.
- Stearne, Edward. fl. 1827-1838.
ALS to Samuel Davis. 1827 Aug. 7. Camberwell. 1p.
Invitation to preach.
ALS to William Paxon. 1838 Aug. 8. Fen Court. 1p.
Letter of introduction.
- Stennett, Joseph. 1692-1758.
LS to the Church of Christ meeting in Little Wild Street, London. 1757 Nov. 30. Bath. 4p.
Dictated and signed by Joseph Stennett, and written by Samuel Stennett. A farewell letter to his congregation before his death.
- Stennett, Joseph. fl. 1808.
ALS to Mr. Clark. 1808 Mar. 25. Bampton 2p.
Answering a query about the Baptist Church in Little Wild Street.
- Stennett, Samuel. 1728-1795. ALS to the Church of Christ meeting in Little Wild Street. 1758 May 5. Bartholomew Close. 3p.
Accepting their call to be minister.
- ALS to Gilbert Pudner. 1765 Apr. 29. Muswell Hill. 1p.
"We are much obliged by the fine Salmon you so kindly sent us . . ."
- Stennett, Samuel 1780?-1841.
ALS to T. Griffin. 1829 Nov. 7. 3p.
Applying for support and enquiring about a church in which to serve.
- Thomas, John. 1757-1801.
ALS to James Smith. 1789 Aug. 29. Leominster. 1p.
Giving facts about the career of Joseph Stennett.

- ALS to Andrew Fuller. 1796 Sep. 2. 4p.
Report to Baptist Missionary Society on his efforts in India.
- Tomkins, Benjamin. fl. 1798.
Letter, copy, to Thomas Linford. 1798 Dec. 13. 1p.
Enquiry on behalf of the managers of the Particular Baptist Fund about whether Linford believes moral law to be the rule of a Christian's moral conduct. Copy in handwriting of Abraham Booth.
- Waugh, Alexander. 1754-1827.
ALS to James Churchill. 1817 Oct. 18. 1p.
Regrets that he is unable to preach at Dillon and sends sympathy to Churchill during his (unspecified) distress.
- ALS to John Ross. 1821 Feb. 17. 1p.
Recalling his religious experiences as a child. Accompanied by a copy in another hand.
- Winslow, Octavius. d. 1878.
ALS to William Paxon. 1831 Dec. 6. 2p.
Announcing a sermon on the American revival.
- Woodd, Basil. 1760-1831.
ALS to Joseph Ivimey. 1813 Apr. 6. Paddington. 3p.
Discusses possibility of interdenominational approach to missionary work.

T. CRIST

Reviews

Internationale Zeitschriftenschau für Bibelwissenschaft und Grenzgebiete: International Review of Biblical Studies: Revue Internationale des Etudes Bibliques. Band XX. 1973/74. Düsseldorf. Patmos-Verlag. Pp. xiv + 464. No price.

This international review magazine continues its valuable service to scholars and students of Biblical studies and of related fields of research. Over the years this publication has grown in size so that the present volume contains no less than 3,217 entries derived from some 600 periodicals, *Festschriften* and other books, representing the contribution of some 2,500 authors. It has been prepared by a team of 64 scholars. These figures speak for themselves, and there is no doubt that this truly international review has become an essential bibliographical aid and an extremely useful guide for students of Biblical problems. Each bibliographical entry usually provides a very concise summary or outline of the article or book referred to, but it is not