

Bligh, William, diary leaf

Lieutenant William Bligh diary leaf recounting his uncomfortable journey to London (for surveying the Coast near Dungeness in preparation of the Napoleonic Wars)

16-17 [December?] 1803

Title Statement

Bligh, William, diary leafGuide to the William Bligh diary leaf MSS 16499

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Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

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Notes

Gift of Clifton Waller Barrett, 11 January 1946. MSS. has been laid in a printed book (DU21 .B62 1792) donated by Clifton Waller Barrett 11 Jan. 1946, but in April 2021, it was decided that it would be better to catalog and shelve it separately as a MSS.

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:39:41 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16499

Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1007

Unit Date

16-17 [December?] 1803

Mixed Materials

Vault Accessions (box)

Container

1 (folder)

Language

English

Creator

Bligh, William, 1754-1817

source

Barrett, Clifton Waller, 1901-1991

Extent

0.03 Cubic Feet 1 letter folder

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection is a gift of Clifton Waller Barrett to the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 11 January 1946.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16499, William Bligh diary leaf, Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

The name of William Bligh (1754-1817)

"will for all time be associated with the incident of the Bounty Mutiny during his first mission of transporting the Bread Fruit to the West Indies. This was, however, but one episode in his eventful career in the Royal Navy. At various times he took part in scientific expeditions and voyages of discovery, commanded fighting ships, etc. Between 1797 and 1803 he fulfilled the duty of hydrographic surveyor and carried out a number of surveys of limited areas in the British Isles and adjacent coasts of Europe. These examinations, of which the River Humber, Dublin Bay, Dungeness and the mouth of the River Schelde are the most detailed, were valuable additions to hydrographic knowledge, coming as they did before organized surveying as we know it today had fully established itself."

Source: Robinson, A. H. W., "CAPTAIN WILLIAM BLIGH, R.N., HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYOR" Empire Survey Review, 1952. 11:85, 301-306, DOI: 10.1179/sre.1952.11.85.301

Content Description

Lieutenant William Bligh diary handwritten leaf recounting his uncomfortable journey to London (for surveying the Coast near Dungeness in preparation of the Napoleonic Wars) in 1803. He writes, Friday 16, 1803 "[Dear Wm?] At 4 this morning I got into the [Balloon] Coach [] Passengers [two] ladies, sisters called Miss Wear's.

Very much [destroyed?] by the frequent stopping of the coachmen.

Saturday 17, 1803 "D. [Wm] After a tedious & unpleasant nights traveling and equally so through the day I did not get home until [11] at night. This conveyance is cheap but very tiresome. We [might to have?] in London about 1/2 past 3 in the afternoon."

There is a note on the back of the leaf indicating that "this leaf is cut out of Admiral William Bligh's diary when sent to survey the coast when threatened with invasion by Bonaparte."

Keywords

Bligh William

Barrett, Clifton Waller, 1901-1991