

TOWNSHEND (Thomas) Papers

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The Townshend Papers are primarily letters written between 1741 and 1800 to Thomas Townshend, Viscount Sydney of St. Leonards. A few are written to his elder son John Thomas Townshend, 1764-1831, who succeeded him. One is written to Robert William Elliston, the actor and theatre manager, from Philip Graves in 1820.

Many of the letters were written to Townshend between 1784 and 1786 after he was made Baron Sydney and when he was secretary of state (1784-1789) in the Pitt government. Many of these letters ask for political favours. The letters are from family, friends, political colleagues, and people who had worked for him or served under him.

Correspondents include his cousin, Charles Townshend, Lord Bayning; George Townshend, Earl of Leicester; William Banford; the Earl of Berkeley; the Duke and Duchess of Bolton; Robert Boyd; William Bray; Sir William Cathcart; the Duke of Gordon; George Hardinge; John Hatsell; Richard Jackson; Sir Hercules Langrische; Sir John Prestwich; John Sandwich, Earl of Montagu; Thomas Thoroton; Francis Willis; Francis Wollaston. Letters to other people include one from Baroness Dynevor (his third daughter, Frances) to John Thomas Townshend, Viscount Sydney (her elder brother). A few correspondents such as Franklin Kirby wrote several letters to Sydney between 1784 and 1789. Another friend, B. Tollemache, wrote congratulating him on his having been made Viscount Sydney.

The papers are arranged chronologically. Undated letters are arranged alphabetically at the beginning of Box 1.

An alphabetical list of correspondents with date of letters is in the Townshend folder of the manuscripts file.

Extent: 2 boxes

Acquired in October 1984 from D. and E. Lake.

J. Ramlochan
E. Hajnal

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TOWNSHEND (THOMAS) PAPERS

- 222 CHRONOLOGY FOR THOMAS TOWNSHEND, FIRST VISCOUNT SYDNEY OF ST. LEONARDS
- 1732/3 Born February 24, son of Hon. Thomas Townshend (1700-1780) and Albinia Selwyn
- 1753 Graduated, M.A., from Clare College, Cambridge
- 1754-1783 M.P. for Whitchurch, Hampshire
- 1755 Clerk of the household to George, Prince of Wales
- 1760 Married Elizabeth (1760-1826), eldest daughter and co-heir of Richard Powys; had two sons and four daughters
- 1760-1762 Clerk of the Board of Green Cloth
- 1765-1767 A Lord of the Treasury
- 1767-1768 Joint-paymaster of the forces, and a member of the Privy Council
- 1782-1783 Secretary of State for Home Department
1783-1789
- 1783 Created Baron Sydney of Chislehurst
- 1788 Sydney, New South Wales, named in his honour
- 1789 Retired; created Viscount Sydney; became governor of the Charterhouse
- 1793 Was deputy-lieutenant of Kent
- 1800 Died, June 13, in Chislehurst.