

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF DR JOHN FOTHERGILL WITH SIR JOSEPH BANKS

Dr John Fothergill (1712-1780) was one of the leading physicians of eighteenth century London. Born in Wensleydale, Yorkshire in 1712, the son of a ministering Friend¹, he graduated in medicine in Edinburgh in 1736, moving to the capital soon afterwards. A prominent Quaker throughout his life, he was to be Clerk to the Yearly Meeting on three occasions. A noted philanthropist, he was also a Fellow of the Royal Society and an enthusiastic botanist. Linnaeus named an American witchhazel after him, the *Fothergilla* of today's gardens. During the years covered by these letters, his London home was in Harpur Street, Bloomsbury. In addition, however, he maintained a garden at Upton in Essex which was said by Sir Joseph Banks, the recipient of these letters, to be second only to Kew in the whole of Europe².

Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820) was from the highest echelons of English society. Educated at Harrow, Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, he early established himself as a natural historian. In 1768, at the age of twenty five, he accompanied James Cook on his expedition around the world in the *Endeavour*, returning to London in 1771 with valuable natural history collections which formed the basis for the museum he established in Soho Square. Dr Daniel Solander (1735-1782), a favourite and brilliant Swedish student of Linnaeus, who had been with him on the *Endeavour*, was secretary and curator³. Joseph Banks became President of the Royal Society in 1778, during the period covered by these letters, and he served for 42 years. He was made baronet in 1781⁴.

Banks and Fothergill were friends before he embarked on the *Endeavour* voyage. Fothergill sent provisions to Banks as he was preparing for his departure. For the voyage, he sent six gallons of lemon juice evaporated down to less than two gallons, another vessel containing seven gallons of orange juice and a gallon of brandy and a small cask of lemon juice and brandy⁵. These were intended to prevent the scurvy. In addition, he sent a barrel of American apples which survived so well during the voyage that Banks was able to enjoy a pie made from them after a year on board, when the *Endeavour* was approaching Tahiti⁶. Banks also took a negro servant of the doctor, one Richmond, who sadly died of exposure during a

shore trip with Banks in Tierra del Fuego when they were delayed in their return to the ship by snow.

Sydney Parkinson (1745-1771)⁷, a talented Quaker artist, was employed by Banks to make drawings for him of the natural history specimens that he collected during the voyage. Born in Edinburgh in 1745, Parkinson came from a Quaker family who moved to London when he was twenty years old. Already known as a promising artist, he was introduced in 1766 to James Lee, who in partnership with Lewis Kennedy ran a nursery in Hammersmith⁸. Through Lee, Parkinson met the youthful Joseph Banks who was pursuing a Miss Blossett who he had met at Lee's home. Parkinson was employed by Banks to make drawings of the specimens he had collected in Newfoundland and Labrador, much to his satisfaction, so it is not surprising that Banks should invite Parkinson to join his party on the *Endeavour*.

All went well until, to repair damage to the ship sustained on the Great Barrier Reef, the *Endeavour* put in to Batavia, where so many of the crew were to succumb to fever and dysentery. From Batavia Parkinson wrote a long letter (dated Batavia 16 October 1770) to Dr Fothergill giving an outline of the voyage⁹. It was from this letter that Fothergill learnt of the death of his "faithfull servant Richmond" in Tierra del Fuego. "I feel his loss very much", wrote Parkinson to his "Honoured Friend". Parkinson fell ill at Batavia, as did so many other unfortunates. Banks himself survived a severe illness but Parkinson sadly died soon after sailing for the Cape of Good Hope. He was buried at sea. As he lay dying, he had asked Dr Solander to ensure that his papers and drawings should go to his London patron, James Lee.

On the return of *Endeavour* in July 1771, however, there was considerable controversy over the ownership of Parkinson's journals and papers which included the earliest drawings ever made of the Australian landscape, as well as the first portrayals of the aboriginee and the kangaroo. Banks himself claimed them but Parkinson's wayward brother Stanfield thought that they were his. Fothergill attempted the role of mediator and allowed Stanfield Parkinson to see Sydney's journals, Stanfield having promised to make no use of them himself. The authorities did not want anything published other than the official publication of the story of the voyage, then being prepared by Hawkesworth. With the help of a hack writer, however, Stanfield Parkinson produced a volume of the journals, with a malevolent preface written by himself, in which he denounced both Banks and Fothergill¹⁰. The first of Fothergill's letters to Banks refers

to the alternative preface written by Fothergill for a second edition of Parkinson's journal. That, however, did not appear until 1784, after Fothergill's death, with an explanation by Fothergill's protégé and biographer, the Quaker physician John Coakley Lettsom¹¹.

When a selection of the letters of Dr John Fothergill was published in 1971¹², the existence of these letters to Sir Joseph Banks, preserved in the Mitchell Library in Sydney, New South Wales¹³, was unknown to the editors. Had they been available, some would undoubtedly have been included. They are therefore published now to add to the collection. Also included are three letters to Sir Joseph from Ann Fothergill, the doctor's much loved sister and housekeeper, who looked after him devotedly and who took care of his affairs after his death in December 1780¹⁴. They refer particularly to the remarkable collection of flower paintings, now beyond price, by artists such as G.D. Ehret and Christine Lee, more than a thousand in all, that the doctor had amassed during his lifetime. These were sold to the Empress Catherine the Great of Russia through the intermediary of Baron Dimsdale (1712-1800), the famous Quaker physician who had been called to inoculate the Empress and her children in Moscow in 1768¹⁵. The paintings are preserved today in the Komarov Botanical Library in St Petersburg where, hidden since their arrival in 1781, they were rediscovered by the Chief Librarian¹⁶ in 1987.

THE LETTERS

The letters have been transcribed as they were written, with the exception of certain changes in punctuation to ensure easier reading. Most of the letters appear to have been penned hurriedly and they lack the precision of his correspondence with Friends in Philadelphia, to whom he wrote representing London Yearly Meeting. There are some occasions where the interpretation of the manuscript requires the inner light of the letter writer to comprehend. These parts have been left hyphenated. On many of the letters there are also scribbled dates not in Fothergill's handwriting. These too have been given in parenthesis. For example, on a separate page referring to the first two letters, is a note: "These two must have been written in the summer of 1773 as the book it refers to (Parkinson's Journal) was published during the course of that year"¹⁷.

1. *Dr Fothergill writes from his London home in Harpur Street, Bloomsbury. He is shortly going to his country retreat, Lea Hall in Cheshire, where until his death he spent the summer months after acquiring*

the property in 1765. He refers to the projected second edition of Parkinson's journal.

(1773)

Dr Fothergill presents his respects to his Frd Banks and requests his acceptance of a few more specimens from - Aublet¹⁸.

Dr F wishes much for an opportunity of a few minutes conversation on a subject in which they are both interested viz. Parkinson - as Dr F proposes to go into Cheshire the 22nd Inst - and much wishes to take the papers with him, and such further instructions as may be necessary, to finish the Apology which Dr F hopes to have ready for publication early in the autumn.

Dr F will wait on his Frd Banks any morning he will please to appoint.

Harpur' Street 2d Inst. -

(Respecting Remarks to ye Preface to Parkinson's Voyage to the South Seas)

2. A further note referring to the Preface to Parkinson's Journal.

(1773)

At length I have committed our Apology to the Printer and this is a Revise. I have been much puzzled about a proper title, and have rather chosen the present than any other for the following reasons.

To call it a justification or Vindication would imply a charge or accusation - but the Preface is a malevolent narrative. Not a formal accusation - Any other title must have brought our names together with Parkinsons - this I thought an indignity.

I think the title I have chosen tho' not perhaps the best, is yet not very exceptionable - Be so obliging as to return this revise as soon as may be as the printer now intends to proceed with it diligently.

I am with much respect

Thy assured Frd

J Fothergill.

Harpur Street 25th Inst

3. Two years later, a note about collecting. The proposed submission to the Royal Society was presumably the paper sent to Dr Fothergill from India by James Kerr, surgeon in Bengal.

(1775 Jan 24)

Respected Friend,

This accompanys a box of specimens, which I have received from JAAublet¹⁹, who collected them in Guinea, and is publishing a description

of these and other vegetable productions of that country.

If they are acceptable, add them to thy own collection. I am promised some more, and if they arrive, they shall likewise be added. A good Botanist owns there are many new plants amongst them which are entirely new. - What can I say for myself who love plants, - confess that I have not been able to borrow one half hour to look them over! The chief satisfaction they afford may be that if they are of value, they are going to be where they ought to be and if I live I may one day perhaps have pleasure of seeing them with better judges.

If the inclosed - which if the subject is not an improper one is intended to pass through the hands of so good judges to the R.S. pretty much in the form I have sent it. - But if the circumstance is improper or below notice - suppress it. The writer of it is inquisitive, seems to be a tolerable good classic Botanist - so far as I know a faithful observer - he has sent me the account of making the Terra Japonica²⁰ and description of the tree &c.

I am with much respect
Thy Friend
John Fothergill

Harpur Street 24th Inst

P.S. I have not heard from W. Bartram²¹ almost of a year and a half. -

4. The Winterana aromatica was brought back to England from the region of Tierra del Fuego by Dr John Winter who sailed with Francis Drake in 1577. Dr Fothergill was interested in its therapeutic qualities and gave an account of what he called the Cortex Winteranus which was published in the Medical Observations and Enquiries in 1766²².

(This and the following were sent in 1775)

Esteemed Friend,

I spoke to a Sensible Nantucket Whalefisher about the practicability of getting some of this occupation to sail to the Straits of Magellan to procure us the Winterania. I proposed a reward of 100£ to the person who brought the plant alive to England.

He thinks it practicable - and that the reward will induce somebody to go in quest of this plant. Be kind enough to recollect any other in the same place that may be worth a search - and produce such a sketch and such a description as may enable even a fisherman to find what we want. -

The Winterania is engraved - I will get a few colour drawings and thy short description I fancy will suffice. That its bark and leaves have a very spicy smell and hot biting taste. I wish we could see one another on this

subject some day for half an hour - and as early as next week, if agreeable, at Harpur Street - about 8 at breakfast - the captain sails for Nantucket in about two weeks.

I am thy obliged Frd
J Fothergill. -

P.S. I have heard nothing of Parkinson's books²³ since I called but as I offered the price that was asked viz 10s per book, I have been daily in expectation of those who have the management of his affairs.-

Harpur Street 20th Inst

5. Dr Fothergill spent much time and resources in sending collectors to obtain botanical specimens from America and the wider world. This letter represents an example of his zeal.

Harpur Street 22nd

Esteemed Friend

(July 1777)

It gave me great concern that I was not at home when two such acceptable visitors called upon me - But I could not help it and I send () past to fix another opportunity, which I wish could be the same morning next week, or any other morning after it and partly to introduce a proposal of another kind.----- Shakespeare²⁴, the person who brought over so large a collection of seed &c from the West Indies, wishes to go out again in a similar employ - This he cannot do without money - Expense of travelling, conveying what he gets from place to place, boat hire & the like will call upon for money. - The sum of one hundred pounds would do everything of this kind amply - half to be paid down - the other half subject to his order.

To raise this sum I take the liberty to propose the following method. Jas. Lee and myself will be 20£ each - I have wrote to Dr Pitcairn²⁵ and shall mention it to Wm Malcom²⁶. I have some expectation that they will both embark upon it - if my Frd Banks will be a 5th, the business is done. - I hope to have Dr Pitcairn's answer in a day or two. He will be able to collect specimens in perfection - and to send us the seed.

I have occasion to write soon to a botanical correspondent in the Province of Bengal. Are there any Specimens particularly wanted from there - a list of what is wanted, or what is not wanted might be of use.

I am with much respect
Thy assured Frd
J. Fothergill

6. Always prepared to help the unfortunate or deprived, the Doctor here asks Joseph Banks to use his influence to persuade Lord Sandwich, First

Lord of the Admiralty, to intercede on behalf of a Friend whose testimony for Peace would not allow him to carry arms.

Esteemed Friend,

Near Middlewich
Cheshire 9th Inst
(1777 July)

I am under the necessity of intreating thy assistance on behalf of a poor man belonging to our profession who is impressed on board a man of war and I believe conscientiously refuses to fight.

The following is an entreaty from a letter signed by four reputable persons of our persuasion at Kingsbridge in Devonshire which will explain the whole matter. One Richard Wakeham²⁷ has lived with one of the subscribers several years as a servant and for five or six years has constantly attended our meetings. In the late war with France, he belonged to a man of war. The circumstance being made known to some of the men or officers in the Navy, they soon got intelligence where he was, and about a week ago (now about a month) one Mitchell, Lieutenant of the Spry Sloop of War now lying at Dartmouth for impressing men, took the said R. Wakeham out of his Masters Shop, conducted him to Dartmouth and put him on board the Spry. As soon as they had got him on board they used all the persuasion they could to prevail upon him to enter. They offered to make him a Quartermaster, as he had been formerly, or midshipman but all this he refused saying he could not even if they made him Captain. Upon his refusing their offer, they began to threaten him and treated him roughly putting him into the Hold &c.

The letter mentions several particulars of great cruelty exercised on the poor man which I do not transcribe as I am soliciting for nix but for his discharge as incapable of rendering any service for Government in the Station of a sailor.

I communicated the letter to my hon Frd Bute of the Admiralty²⁸ who was so obliging as to lay it before the board - The secretary had informed me that enquiry will be made respecting the ill treatment he complained of but this is not the object I have in view. - I am perfectly satisfied that all the ill treatment they can exert upon him will not answer the purpose of forcing him to act and it is the severest form of persecution to be left in such circumstances to the mercy of the crew.

Be so good as to mention this fact, every circumstance of which I have reason to believe, to Lord Sandwich²⁹. I would have begd leave to wait upon him myself but the numerous engagements that surrounded when I left London prevented me. Say that Government has always favoured us on such occasions and that we never ask such unless we are morally certain they ought to be granted. In former wars we have sometimes had occasion

to ask in this way, I know not of another instance and Government may be sure that for our own sakes as well as theirs we shall ever be carefull for whom we petition. - I confess it has humbled me not a little to be refused such a request and when I reflect that the tens of thousands of our people in America were suffering in America for their attachmt to Government³⁰, and the disposition of the whole body in this country in their favour, are not deemed an equivalent for one man's redemption - I confess it irks me, and all I am connected with, into a state of great humiliation indeed. - I hope Lord Sandwich will view the matter in a higher light than the board has been able to do and I should be much better pleased to look up to him with grateful acknowledgements than to admit of sentiments of the opposite nature. - In a week or two more I hope to send the last sheet of our short preface which has slipt these four months because I could not possibly obtain one quiet hour in which it might have been finished.

It is only this morning that the thermomater within doors has rose one degree above 60. It has stood at 57, 58 and 60 ever since we got to this place and I write this by the fire side, yet easily warm The constant showery weather, the produce of the earth of all (sends ----) except for fruit which is all cut off in this country this dour month - It snowed all the afternoon, Froze hard in the night and killed not only all the fruit but the branches of most fruit trees.

Be kind enough to remind me to Dr Solander and believe that I am

Thy obliged respectful

J. Fothergill

(Dr Fothergill July 10 - 77)

7. Includes remarks about the preface to the second edition of Parkinson's voyage, and asks about whether his previous remarks have had any effect on Lord Sandwich.

(Referred to the Second Edition of Parkinson's voyage - 1777 -26 July)

Near Middlewich
Cheshire 26th Inst

I wrote to my honoured Friend from this place some time ago and have since sent up to the printer the conclusion of my remarks. I instructed him to send a proof sheet as soon as he could to Burlington Street³¹.

Since the papers were sent the inclosed remarks were put into my hands by Dr Morris, Physician to the Army in America³², soon after the Journal appeared. I did not at that time think the answer a sufficient one nor the means of diffusing it adequate to the occasion and therefore laid it aside. It fell in my way the other day at this place as I was sorting some papers and perhaps with an introduction like that which I have inclosed, it may not be

altogether unsuitable - except that he speaks of me in a manner that may cause a suspicion that vanity prompted me to publish it. But as it touches on some points which I have not directly mentioned - having avoided particulars as much as possible - it may perhaps not be altogether improper - If this should be thy opinion be so kind a to send it enclosed with the proofsheets after it has been looked over to Jas Phillips Printer in George Yard Lombard Street - with direction to send a revise to Burlington Street and another he may leave at my home which will be forwarded to me from thence. I have only three or four days longer to stay at this place and must then undertake a journey with some others thro parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire but my people at home will know generally where to direct to me. I should be very happy to know if thy request has had any effect on Lord Sandwich and that the poor man is released. I was obliged with this Solicitation by the Society and I should be very sorry to inform them that neither they nor I have weight enough to get one poor man discharged who cannot possibly be of use to them. They may indeed treat him as they please - if he loses his life they must answer for his blood, when those who have occasion'd it may possibly repent when it is too late. - Nor are they very certain that a time may come when they likewise may ask for assistance of those whom they seem to hold very cheap at present. But I want not to incense - wish to have my power to commend them moderation.

I gave leave for my Gardener John Morrison to come down to Oxford and to call upon me here. He returned well satisfied with his journey, brought with him some things he had not at home and even condescended to pick a few articles for my little stock at this place. Our soil culture here suits the hardier herbacious North American plants; they are so vigorous that he hardly knew many of his old acquaintance. Our soil is stiff clay. I add a large proportion of black turf earth, these together make a rich and not binding soil. The Eupatorium Canadense³³ is now about nine feet high and many others alike gigantick in their kind. - The thermometer got to 67 within doors, it has often been at 57 and seldom gets to 62, so that we are cold enough. Ice has been seen here within these 4 days a thing scarce remembered.

I have only to repeat my best wishes
J. Fothergill

Joseph Banks
New Burlington Street
London.

8. *He writes to Banks whilst on a ministering visit to Friends Meetings in the North of England with his sister Ann. He also writes at length about the Militia Laws and their effects on Friends.*

My honoured Friend

I received thy obliging letter a few days ago and I write this in sight of Penley Hill in Lancashire and yet am so circumscribed for time that I cannot possibly look at a single plant upon it. I must meet with many mortifications of this kind in a tour of two months without having it in my power to see anything but in the highways & hedges which have been searched for a ().

I have recd the proof sheet and shall return it to the printer in a short time with a few necessary corrections. -If the postscript I sent up just before I set out from Lea Hall seems not improper to be added to be so obliging as to make such corrections as appear necessary, and send it to Phillips the Printer George Yard Lombd Street who will order a proof to be left at my house.

I thank thee very cordially and acknowledge my gratitude likewise to Lord Sandwich for interesting yourselves so far you have done on behalf of the poor man on whose behalf I once more must intreat Lord Sandwich's interposition. It is well known to the publick that the people called Quakers have always refused to bear Arms either by land or Sea. And the Legislature is so far convinced of their sincerity as to allow them a particular indulgence in this respect.

In the Militia Laws now in force³⁴ it is provided that if the lot falls upon a Quaker and he refuses to serve, the Lieutenants hire a substitute and make distress on the Quakers goods for their money.

If the lot falls upon a poor quaker who has nothing on which distress can be made, the law is silent with respect to further proceedings. If the Lot falls upon one who is not a Quaker, and he refuses to serve, he is ordered to be impressed. - The Legislature humanely judging that the Quaker had no other plea for not serving than a conscientious persuasion that he ought not and that to force any mans conscience was a degree of persecution repugnant to the constitution. Soon after the Militia Act was passed the lot fell upon several of our profession. Distress was made where there was property and a substitute provided. In Cheshire the lot fell upon one honest poor man a servant, who could neither bear arms nor could assets be found (indeed he had them not) to hire a substitute. The officers not observing the distinction made, committed the poor man to Chester Goal. The Society was made acquainted with the circumstance, Councel's opinion was taken, who declared the officers had exceeded the bounds of their authority, a supersedeas was granted and the poor man discharged. - This is as much a paralel circumstance as can be aduced and I rather think by parity of reasoning a Habeus Corpus might be obtained and a trial had which we do

not wish for. We would rather be obliged to the moderation of our superiors than contest the point. I once more therefore request Lord Sandwich will be so obliging as to reflect that, by compelling a man conscientiously refusing to bear arms at sea & continuing in the service, is acting contrary to the spirit of your Laws, and the principles of toleration.

I am very sorry to give so much trouble on this account - But as I must answer for the trust reposed in me I cannot avoid using every effort in my power to obtain his discharge and hope when Lord Sandwich is acquainted with the provision made, at least the door is left open for us by the Laws. I may hope that it will not in this instance be shut against us. -

I am pleased that my Garden has afforded any little addition to that Vast treasure of Botany, now I suppose properly ranging in Soho Square. If the seeds lately sent from Bengall, amounting to 149 different parcels, and a still larger quantity which I purchased from - - Shakespeare, chiefly Jamaica plants, should succeed we may possibly supply in a future season a few more recruits. - I may possibly at my return be made acquainted with the water lily - I had hopes it might have proved the *Nymphaea Nelumbium*³⁵.

I am with much gratitude and esteem

Thy Frd

John Fothergill.

4/8 1777

P.S. I will add my name at full length to the Preface - - - and a line sent to me at Harpur Street will find me somewhere.

9. (1778 - March 27)

My much esteemed Friend

Harpur Street 7th Inst

I have just learnd this evening that an assistant to Dr Solander is wanted at the Museum and at the same time receivd the Mortifying intelligence that the place was almost provided for.

Could not Dr De Ponthieu³⁶ fill it up with propriety? He loves natural history, has been long conversant in it, has made a tolerable proficiency, is a Gentleman - capable of conversing with foreigners intelligibly on the subject - will not probably wish for higher preferment than within those walls, is not much past the time of instruction and may continue a usefull service to community in a line of life more pleasurable to him than the possession of his former fortune - 100,000£ a least.

If my opinion of the man and his fitness coincide with thy own opinion, move everything to get him elected - I will make the Speaker. I know not De Ponthieu's own sentiments - it is a notion of my own. I would not mention it to him till I knew the sentiments of a much better judge than I am

- and I would endeavour to hold the scales as equal as possible between want and fitness, tho I would give it against want and necessity if fitness does not seem to preponderate. - When shall I have done with persecuting my Friend? When I think his patience Is quite worn out and I have not another () to ask for. Consult Dr Solander on the subject - It is of much consequence to know the abilitys, the defects, the temper of his colleague. I would not make him unhappy by endeavouring to provide for a person whose chief recommendation to me is his being unfortunate.

I am
The obliged Frd
J. Fothergill

Dr Fothergill died from prostatic obstruction in December 1780. His sister Ann was responsible for settling his affairs. One of her problems concerned the disposal of the Doctor's priceless collection of flower paintings made by the leading artists of the day. These three letters describe how Joseph Banks helped her and how she obtained a remarkable sum, in modern terms more than two hundred thousand pounds, for the paintings.

She sold the Harpur Street house and moved to a smaller home in Great Russell Street. She died in 1802 at the age of 84. She was buried at the Friends Burial Ground at Winchmore Hill, where she lies beside the brother with whom she shared her life.

1. (Dr Fothergill died Dec 1780)

A.Fothergills respects wait upon her Friend J. Banks & begs his acceptance of the few dry'd plants that accompany this. - She took the liberty of consulting Dr Solander on the propriety of sending them not being a sufficient Judge herself how far they might be worth her Frd Banks' notice. Along with them she sends a piece of Fearn Treet which she understands was a gift to her late Brother Dr Fothergill and which she wishes to deposit again in his much esteem'd friends hands.

The letter which accompanys this came to A. Fothergill's hands yesterday - and as J Banks' name is mentioned in it, she takes the liberty of sending it to his care as she is not now interested in the intelligence it conveys nor will have any way of disposing of seeds &c that may be sent. AF is proposing to dispose of all her concerns at Upton as soon as possible - she finds from accounts that have fallen under her inspection that upwards of fifty pounds has already been advanced on (Boass's) for his wife's account.

Harpur Street 3rd Inst Evning

(This letter is in the hands of an amanuensis).

2. Russell Street 11th Inst 1781

Ann Fothergill presents respects to Sir Joseph Banks and with diffidence solicites his further Friendly aid with respect to his opinion what sum she should ask Baron Dimsdale for the Drawings which remain intire as he saw them and of which there are in no^r 1184. They cost Dr F at a moderate computation £3306 upwards and as AF has (in a former privat Contract)³⁷ suffered both loss and blame she would wish to avoid the like now, especially the latter. AF wishes simply to do right to propose what is Just and equitable. She knows none so capable of advising her in this (to her important affair) as Sr J. Banks & his Frd Dr Solander. Baron Dimsdale is of the same sentiment and if it would not Be asking too Great a favour of Sr J B, should be glad it would suit him to call in Russell Street on Fryday morning Betwixt 10 & 11 o'clock (the hour the Baron proposes being here). If this is inconvenient a line from Sir Joseph expressing his Sentiment what is proper to propose wou'd be esteemed and additional favour By his already obliged

AF.

3. Ann Fothergill presents respects to Sr Joseph Banks and Dr Solander & gratefully thanks them for the very kind and careful part they have took to assist & serve her in her affairs, which she is perfectly satisfied with and has no doubt that their dicisions are Judicious and Just. She thinks it Incumbent to express her acknowledgements for their friendly offices done her and that she Chearfully acquiesces with their opinion - and has agreed with Baron Dimsdale accordingly to propose the termes to the Empress by the first opportunity³⁸ -

Russell Street 22nd Inst 1781

Christopher C. Booth Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London.

Acknowledgements

I particularly thank the late Mrs Betsy Corner, my guide and mentor during our editing of Dr John Fothergill's letters, for advice and encouragement through many years. I would wish to dedicate this paper to her memory. I also thank the Mitchell Library, Sydney, New South Wales for permission to publish these letters from their Joseph Banks papers. To David Sox, author of *Quaker Plant Hunters*, thanks for encouraging the editing of these letters.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- ¹ John Fothergill. *An Account of the Life and Travels in the Ministry, of John Fothergill. To which are added divers epistles to Friends in Great Britain and America, on various occasions.* London, Luke Hinde, (1753).
- ² R Hingston Fox. *Dr John Fothergill and his Friends. Chapters in 18th Century Life.* (London, Macmillan and Co, Ltd, 1919).
- ³ Daniel Carl Solander (1735- 1782), son of a country clergyman in Sweden, was a favourite pupil of Linnaeus. See: H.C. Cameron. *Sir Joseph Banks, The Autocrat of the Philosophers.* (London, Batchworth Press, 1952).
- ⁴ H.B. Carter. *Sir Joseph Banks.* (London, British Museum (Natural History), 1988).
- ⁵ Letter, N. Hulme to J. Banks. Dated Hatton Garden Aug 10 1768. W. R. Dawson, *The Banks Letters. A Calender of the manuscript correspondence of Sir Joseph Banks preserved in the British Museum, The British Museum (Natural History) and other collections in Great Britain.* (London, 1958), p. 342.
- ⁶ Carter. *Sir Joseph Banks* p. 84. See note 4.
- ⁷ D.J. Carr Ed. *Sydney Parkinson. Artist of Cook's Endeavour voyage.* (London, Croom Helm Limited, 1983).
- ⁸ James Lee (1715-1791) was born in Selkirk but came to London where he became a gardener to the Duke of Northumberland at Sion House. In 1760 he set up as a Nurseryman at the Vineyard, Hammersmith, in partnership with Lewis Kennedy. He introduced a number of exotic plants into this country, including the *fuchsia*. *Dictionary of National Biography*, XXXII; 357-358. See also Carr, *Sydney Parkinson*. Note 7.
- ⁹ Ms autograph letter, Sydney Parkinson to John Fothergill, Batavia 16 of October 1770. Library of the Society of Friends, London.
- ¹⁰ Stanfield Parkinson. *A Journal of a voyage to the South Seas in her Majestys Ship Endeavour, Faithfully transcribed from the papers of the late Sydney Parkinson, draughtsman to Joseph Banks, Esq...Embellished with views and designs, delineated by the author.* (London, 1773).
- ¹¹ «J.C. Lettsom Ed. *Sydney Parkinson's Journals of a Voyage to the South Seas.* (London, Charles Dilly, 1784).
- ¹² Betsy Copping Corner and Christopher C. Booth. *Chain of Friendship. Selected Letters of Dr John Fothergill of London, 1735-1780.* (Cambridge, Massachussets, Bellknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971).
- ¹³ The letters are now published by kind permission of the Mitchell Library, Sydney, New South Wales.
- ¹⁴ Christopher C. Booth. Ann Fothergill. The Mistress of Harpur Street. *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* (1979) 122: 340-354.
- ¹⁵ On Thomas Dimsdale see: I. M. Gardner. "Two Hertfordshire Doctors". *Transactions of the East Hertfordshire Archeological Society* (1952), XIII Part 1: 44-54.
- ¹⁶ Tamara A, Tchernaja, The Komarov Botancial Library, 197376, Prof Popova Street 2, St Petersburg, Russia.
- ¹⁷ See note 10.
- ¹⁸ M. Fusee Aublet was the author of *Histoire des Plantes de la Guiane Francaise, rangees suivant la methode sexuelle, avec plusieurs memoires. Sur differens objets interessans, relatives a la culture & au commerce de la Guiane Francaise, & une notice des plantes de l'Isle de France...*(Londres, Paris, P.F. Didot jeune, 1775). Aublet was clearly known to both Banks and Fothergill for a letter to Banks written by J.H.

de Magellan from Paris in October 1774 states that "Monsr Aublet put in my hands two new plants intended as a present to ye RI Society, which I have forwarded already along with other things of ye kind to Dr Fothergill". W. R. Dawson. *The Banks Letters*. (See note 5).

- ¹⁹Dr Fothergill may have been mistaken in Aublet's initials. See note 18.
- ²⁰The writer was Mr James Kerr, an assistant surgeon in Bengal. The *Terra Japonica* was an extract of a tree known as Coira or Caira by the natives of Bahar. It was an integral ingredient of ointments used for the treatment of sores, wounds and venereal ulcers. John Fothergill. An Account of the Tree producing the Terra Japonica. *Medical Observations and Inquiries* (1773); Vol V: 148-152.
- ²¹William Bartram (1734-1823) was the son of the early American botanist, John Bartram (1699-1777) of Philadelphia. In 1773, supported by Fothergill, William embarked on a journey through the southern American States which took him through the wilds of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida. He did not return to Philadelphia until January 1778. His *Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, E & W Florida, etc...* were published in Philadelphia in 1791, in London the following year and in Dublin in 1793. A French translation came out in 1799.
- ²²John Fothergill. Some Account of the *Cortex Winteranus or Magellanicus*, with a Botanical Description by Dr Solander FRS and some Experiments by M. Morris MD FRS. *Medical Observations and Inquiries* (1779); Vol V: 41-46.
- ²³Dr Fothergill had arranged to purchase all the remaining copies of the volume of Sydney Parkinson's Journal of his voyage on the *Endeavour* from Stanfield Parkinson, who was becoming incurably paranoid. He was taken in to St Luke's Hospital but died soon afterwards.
- ²⁴Roger Shakespear was a collector who sent plants from Jamaica and the Americas to Joseph Banks. Information kindly provided by Dr David Allen
- ²⁵William Pitcairn (1711-1791) MD Rheims, was physician to St Bartholomews Hospital and President of the College of Physicians from 1775 to 1785. He had a garden in Islington. *Dictionary of National Biography*, XLV; 334-335.
- ²⁶Unidentified but presumably, like Fothergill, a botanical collector.
- ²⁷Consultation of Kingsbridge Monthly Meeting records for 1776 and 1777 reveals no mention of Richard Wakeham (Information kindly provided by Miss J P M Halloran, Devon Record Office). Nor are there any Wakehams in the records of Devon births, deaths and marriages at Friends House Library, London.
- ²⁸This presumed Admiralty official has not been identified.
- ²⁹George Martelli. *Jemmy Twitcher. A Life of John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich 1718-1792*. (London, Jonathan Cape, 1962).
- ³⁰Following their conscience, Quakers in Philadelphia had refused to bear arms during the American Revolution. Because of their religious scruples they also refused to take an oath or make affirmations of allegiance to the State. After 1777, many Philadelphia Friends were interned at Winchester, Virginia. Corner and Booth. *Chain of Friendship* p 482. (See note 12).
- ³¹Joseph Banks' home was in Burlington Street.

- ³²Michael Morris (1729-1791) MD (Rheims) FRS was for many years physician to the Westminster Hospital and Physician to the Army. He provided Fothergill with information on the *Cortex Winteranus* (see note 22). P. J. and R. V. Wallis. *Eighteenth Century Medics*. (Newcastle, Project for historical bibliography, 1988); p 421. See also: William Munk. *Roll of the Royal College of Physicians of London*. (London, The College, Pall Mall East, 1878); p 232.
- ³³*Eupatorium* is a largish genus belonging to the daisy family.. A contemporary edition of Miller's *Gardener's Dictionary* lists fourteen different varieties, those from the southern American States being the most attractive but also the least hardy. *Eupatorium Canadense* is not listed but presumably may have been allied to hardier varieties such as *Eupatorium Novae-Angliae*. Philip Miller. *The Gardener's Dictionary*. The Sixth Edition. (London, John and James Rivington, 1752). Information also kindly provided by Dr David Allen.
- ³⁴The Militia Acts then in force dated back to the previous century. An Act of 1662 had given powers to Lord Lieutenants of Counties to raise men for local defense. Later Acts passed during the Seven Years War (1756-1763) fixed the numbers raised to 30, 650 nationwide. Individuals had to provide for their own arms but it was always possible to provide a substitute. The Act in force in the 1770s dated from 1761. Charles Arnold-Baker. *The Companion to British History*. (London and New York, Routledge 1996) (Paperback edition 2001).
- ³⁵The *Nymphae Nelumbium* was the great water-lily of the Delaware and other deep waters. It had large flowers 10 to 12 inches across and, according to Fox, "No plant in North America excels it in grandeur, simplicity and beauty". It was highly esteemed by Dr Fothergill. R. Hingston Fox. *Dr John Fothergill and his Friends* p 195. (See note 2).
- ³⁶Henri de Ponthieu was a merchant of descent, born in 1730, who went bankrupt in 1774. Information kindly provided by Mrs Mary Bayliss, Secretary of the Huguenot Society and by the Librarian Dr Pohl.
- ³⁷The reference here is uncertain but may refer to advantageous sales, at less than valuation, to Dr William Hunter of Dr Fothergill's collection of shells and corals. See R Hingston Fox. *Dr John Fothergill and his Friends*. (See note 2).
- ³⁸According to Fox, it is said that the Empress Catherine paid £2300 for the paintings, perhaps a misquotation of the figure given by Ann Fothergill. R. Hingston Fox. *Dr John Fothergill and his Friends*. (See note 2). In modern money £3200 would now be worth more than two hundred thousand pounds. P. E. Harris. *A History of the British Museum Library* (London, The British Library, 1998). Appendix V. p 783.