



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to MS 2126 Joseph Henry
Hendon Holmes papers, drawings, and
maps of British Guiana, 1803-1820

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1300
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical Note	2
Scope and Contents	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Manuscripts	3
Drawings and maps	4

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 2126 Joseph Henry Hendon Holmes papers, drawings, and maps of British Guiana
Date:	1803-1820
Identifier:	NAA.MS2126
Creator:	Holmes, J. H. H. (Joseph Henry Hendon)
Extent:	1.5 Linear feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): MS 2126 Joseph Henry Hendon Holmes papers, drawings, and maps of British Guiana

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was acquired by David Ives Bushnell, Jr. and donated to the Bureau of American Ethnology prior to 1909.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center Repository at the College of William and Mary holds additional material created by Holmes and collected by Bushnell in the David Ives Bushnell, Jr. Papers (Mss. 65 B96).

Processing Information

The items in this collection were originally cataloged by the National Anthropological Archives under MS 2126 (drawings and maps; previously titled "Sketches") and MS 2127 (manuscripts; previously titled "Old manuscript from British Guiana"). In 2023, the collection was reprocessed and all items were incorporated into a single collection under MS 2126.

Citation

MS 2126 Joseph Henry Hendon Holmes papers, drawings, and maps of British Guiana, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.
Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

Joseph Henry Hendon Holmes (1794-1831) was born in Lincolnshire, England. In British Guiana, he served as Advocate of the Bar of Demerara, Proctor of the Vice Admiralty, and Judge Advocate to the Forces of Demerara and Essequibo.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of material, including manuscripts, drawings, and maps, created and collected by Joseph H. H. Holmes in British Guiana (now Guyana). Sketches are of various subjects including botanical specimens, birds, and landscapes.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 2126

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Carib [Guyana]

Cultures:

Carib [Guyana]

Types of Materials:

Drawings
Manuscripts
Maps
Works of art

Places:

Guyana
South America

Container Listing

Manuscripts

Scope and Contents: Includes four (4) manuscripts related to British Guiana written or collected by Holmes.

Box 1, Folder 1	Some Miscellany & Desultory Observations on some of the objects of nature as they are found here, 1803 Notes: A notebook entitled: Some Miscellany & Desultory Observations on some of the objects of nature as they are found here, 47 numbered pages [49 pages total.] The notebook was probably written by James Glen, a Scottish man who settled in Demerara and is best known as a follower of the Swedish scientist and mystic, Emanuel Swedenborg.
Box 1, Folder 2	British Guiana, 1820 Notes: A manuscript on British Guiana, divided into several chapters (labeled "Letters"). Contains: Letter I: Localities, pages 1 to 41. Letter II: Boundaries, Rivers, Lakes, etc., pages 42-75. Letter III: Berbice, pages 76-101. Letter IIII [sic]: Indians, etc., pages 101-120. Letter V: Indian poisons, pages 121-137. Letter VI: Indian dwellings, colonial maladies, pages 138-162. Indian Language, List of words and sentences of the Caribs and Arrowauks, and their meaning in English, 2 inserted pages.
Box 1, Folder 3	British Guiana (Typescript) Notes: Typescript copies of Letters IIII [sic], V, and VI.
Box 1, Folder 4	Negroes, 1821 Notes: A report on the slave trade, entitled "Negroes," 25 pages in a notebook.
Box 1, Folder 5	On Sea Voyage, undated Notes: Diary written on a voyage from England to Demerara entitled, "On Sea Voyage," 32 pages.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Drawings and maps

Scope and Contents: Includes pencil, ink, and watercolor drawings of plants, birds, fish, frogs, European colonial settlements and Indigenous people, as well as maps of British Guiana and the surrounding areas. Many of the drawings and maps are signed and dated by Holmes; some are also annotated by unidentified individuals.

Box 2, Folder 1	The Frog-Fish 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 9.75 x 7 inches)
Box 2, Folder 1	Pacamah 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink and watercolor; 9.75 x 7.25 inches)
Box 2, Folder 1	Quereman 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink and watercolor; 14.25 x 10.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 1	Red-beaked Toucan; Powese or Bush Turkey; Warracabba or Trumpet Bird; White or Grey Curlew 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 10.5 x 13.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 1	Pittacus Ararauna and Hibiscus Mutabilis 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink and watercolor; 9.25 x 11.5 inches) Notes: Sketch of leaf on verso
Box 2, Folder 2	Buck Shot Plant, or Indian Shot 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink and watercolor; 8.5 x 12.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 2	A Sprig of Vegetable Pepper 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink and watercolor; 8.25 x 11 inches)
Box 2, Folder 2	Mispel Apple or Strawberry 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, pencil, watercolor; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 2	Sapodilla Tree 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink and watercolor; 8.25 x 11 inches)
Box 2, Folder 2	Water lemon or Bele Apple 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 2	Garcinia Carmbogia 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 9.25 x 11.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 2	Common mango 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 2	Water Lemon or Bell Apple 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink, pencil, watercolor; 6.5 x 9.75 inches) Notes: Unfinished drawing

Box 2, Folder 2	Weida (Wieda) or Calabash Tree 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 10 x 7.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	Cashew Nut 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	The Camacou or Acowaysche Nutmeg 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	Coffee 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 6.5 x 8.25 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	Branch of a Cotton Shrub 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	La Barra. Snake Root and Quassia Bitter or Amara 1 Drawings (visual works) (ink and watercolor; 6.75 x 4.5)
Box 2, Folder 3	Ricinus Communis Palma Christi 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	Palmeta Regia. Cabbage Palm 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 7 x 10 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	Bread Fruit Tree 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 7 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	Priapus Palm 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 7.75 x 11 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	[Unidentified flowering plant] 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, watercolor, ink; 7.25 x 9.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 3	Ipecacuanhas Plant 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 4.5 x 7.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	Parimaribo. Surinam. Previous to the Fire in 1821. Dutch 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 11.25 x 9 inches) Image(s): Parimaribo. Surinam. Previous tot he Fire in 1821. Dutch
Box 2, Folder 4	Mocha. The Plantation Residence of S. W. Gordon, Esq. 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink ; 11 x 8.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	East Point of Rio Demerara from within the River [...] 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 8.5 x 6.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	Garrison Demerara 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 9.75 x 6 inches)

Box 2, Folder 4	Town Guard House, Demerara Built 1822. Old President's Office, Abandoned 1823 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 9.75 x 6 inches) Notes: Sketch of flying fish on verso.
Box 2, Folder 4	Hopetown Cottage 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 9.25 x 7.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	Sarapapa Essequibo 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 10 x 7.25 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	River Essequibo 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 10 x 8 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	Government House Berbice 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 11.25 x 9.25 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	A Creole Lady Taking an Airing, Without Prejudice to her Dignity! 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 11 x 8.5 inches)
Box 2, Folder 4	Mahaica Ferry 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 9.75 x 6 inches)
Box 2, Folder 5	An Indian Village. Essequibo 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 11 x 8.25 inches)
Box 2, Folder 5	An Indian Village. Essequibo 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 10 x 7.5 inches) Image(s): An Indian Village. Essequibo
Box 2, Folder 5	Indians in their Corial or Korrial 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 11 x 9 inches)
Box 2, Folder 5	Indian Korrial at Demerara 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 11 x 8.75 inches)
Box 2, Folder 5	Watchman's Family 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 9.75 x 6 inches)
Box 2, Folder 5	Chiefs 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil and ink; 10 x 7.25 inches)
Box 2, Folder 5	Sketch of Indian Weapons 1 Drawings (visual works) (pencil, ink, watercolor; 11 x 8.25 inches)
Box 2, Folder 6	Caart van Guiana 1 Map (16.5 x 10 inches)
Box 2, Folder 6	Caart van Berbice en Canje

1 Map (16.5 x 10 inches)

Box 2, Folder 6

[Guiana and Spanish America](#)
1 Map (20 x 11 inches)

Box 2, Folder 6

[Demerara](#)
1 Map (17 x 10 inches)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)