

**George Ord Collection**  
**1831-1864**  
**Mss.B.Or2**

American Philosophical Society  
2001  
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Philadelphia, PA, 19106  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Ord, George, 1781-1866
<b>Title</b>	George Ord Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1831-1864
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.B.Or2
<b>Extent</b>	0.25 Linear feet
<b>Extent</b>	0.25 linear feet
<b>Location</b>	LH-MV-C-14
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Container</b>	1
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>George Ord made important contributions as an ornithologist and writer but is also famous for his contempt of fellow ornithologist John James Audubon. Throughout his life he published numerous scientific articles and assisted in completing Alexander Wilson's life's work, <i>American Ornithology; or, The Natural History of the Birds of the United States</i>. Ord also left his mark as a member of the American Philosophical Society and as the president of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia. The George Ord collection consists primarily of outgoing personal correspondence to Charles Waterton ranging from 1831 to 1866 that highlights Ord's professional as well as personal affairs, most notably his hostility toward Audubon. The collection is supplemented</p>

by correspondence of Ord's to and from various individuals regarding personal and business matters.

**Preferred Citation**

Cite as: George Ord Papers, American Philosophical Society.

## Background note

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George Ord (1781-1866, APS 1817) was a naturalist, ornithologist, and writer. He completed the eighth and ninth volumes of Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology* after Wilson's death, and he described and formally named several of the specimens returned by the Lewis and Clark expedition. However, Ord is perhaps best known for his animosity towards ornithologist John James Audubon (1785-1851, APS 1831).

Ord was born in 1781 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His father George Ord, a retired sea captain, was a ship chandler and rope maker. His mother was Rebecca Lindemeyer. Ord joined his father in his business in 1800 and continued in the business after his father's death in 1806. He retired in 1829, wealthy enough to allow him a comfortable life devoted to the pursuit of his scholarly interests. While there is no reliable record of his early formal education, he evidently became interested in the study of science and literature at a young age. In 1804 Ord married Margaret Biays, daughter of the Baltimore rope maker and shipbuilder Joseph Biays. Before Margaret died in 1808, the couple had two children, only one of whom survived to adulthood. Ord apparently remarried; however, information about this marriage is lacking.

Shortly after his first marriage, Ord made the acquaintance of the Scottish poet and naturalist Alexander Wilson (1766-1813, APS 1813), who had lived in Pennsylvania since 1794. The two men became close friends, and Ord accompanied Wilson on some of his expeditions around Philadelphia and New Jersey. When Wilson died in 1813, Ord was left to finish the final two volumes of Wilson's illustrated nine-volume *American Ornithology*.

Ord contributed numerous articles that appeared in the scientific periodicals of the day, including the *British Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, the *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, and the *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*. His essay on American zoology in William Guthrie's *New Geographical and Commercial Grammar* (1815) imposed, for the first time, binomial scientific names on several species of American birds and mammals. In this "first systematic Zoology of America by an American," Ord described several of the specimens from the Lewis and Clark Expedition that Meriwether Lewis had deposited at Peale's Museum at Thomas Jefferson's behest. Moreover, Ord was able to draw on information furnished by Henry Brackenridge that came from the journals of Lewis and Clark. Ord eventually wrote the first scientific taxonomies of ten specimens returned by the expedition, more than any other individual. They included the black-tailed prairie dog (*Arctomys ludoviciana*) and *Ursus horribilis*, better known as the grizzly bear.

Ord himself undertook only one extended scientific expedition. In 1817 he joined Thomas Say (1787-1834, APS 1817) and Titian Ramsey Peale (1799-1885, APS 1833) on a trip led by William Maclure (1763-1840) and funded by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia to collect specimens in Georgia and Florida. The "Florida Party," as the group was frequently called in Academy records, undertook what would be the first private, museum sponsored exploration in the United States. The aim was to collect specimens, make them available for study, and publicize the findings in lectures and the Academy's new journal. The Academy hoped that this would put the institution on par with its European counterparts.

In addition to his interest in the natural sciences, Ord also had a passion for literature and philology. This is reflected in the assistance he gave to Noah Webster (1758-1843, APS 1827) in the completion of his dictionary. In addition, Robert Gordon Latham used an extensive manuscript completed by Ord in his revision of Samuel Johnson's dictionary in 1870. Ord also wrote biographies of fellow naturalists Thomas Say and Charles A. Lesueur.

Despite these publications, Ord is mostly remembered for his less than friendly relationship with John James Audubon. In fact, Ord detested Audubon, calling him a "impudent pretender" and "neither a scholar nor philosopher." He described Audubon's book *Birds of America* as "stupid" and thought that his illustrations were "vile." After Audubon's death, Ord wrote that he believed his autobiography was a "fable" and that "little reliance can be placed on his [Audubon's] narrative." Audubon was not the only ornithologist to receive harsh words from Ord. Ord once wrote that the botanist and naturalist Thomas Nuttall was a "presumptuous ass" who deserved the "lash." Ord was known for his unkind words and strong opinions. His efforts to discredit Audubon in particular may have stemmed from his desire to preserve the claim to preeminence for Wilson. Indeed, Ord published a tribute to his late friend and mentor, titled *Sketch of the Life of Alexander Wilson*, in 1828, just when Audubon was beginning to publish his *Birds of America*.

Ord's scientific contributions were widely recognized. In 1815 he became a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, serving as curator of their collections (1815-1817), vice-president (1816-1834), and on their publications committee (1817-1821, 1832, 1833). In 1817 he was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society, serving as secretary (1820-1827), vice president (1832-1835), councilor (1839), treasurer (1842-1847), and librarian (1842-1848). He was also a member of the Linnaean Society of London. He was president of the ANS from 1851 to 1858, a position that he "never sought after." He accepted the election despite of his age and "infirmities," and his "habits of retirement," which had rendered him "averse to company and the turmoil of life." In his later life he plunged further into the life of a recluse with each passing year. His health was not always good; he suffered from poor eyesight and regular bouts of influenza. He died in 1866 in Philadelphia and is buried in Philadelphia next to his friend and mentor Alexander Wilson.

## Scope & content

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The George Ord Collection is a significant resource for the study of the life of George Ord, an important figure in the field of ornithology during the 19th century. The collection is primarily comprised of outgoing correspondence from Ord to Charles Waterton between 1831 and 1864, regarding fellow ornithologists, Ord's everyday activities, and his personal affairs. Letters by Ord and from various individuals, including Titian Ramsay Peale, who struggled with his career after the 1848-52 Wilkes expedition, are also part of the collection. This collection clearly draws a picture of Ord's personality as an outspoken, opinionated individual.

Ord's animosity towards John James Audubon is well represented throughout the collection. He calls Audubon an "impudent pretender" and his book "stupid" (23 April 1832). He complains that Audubon was a fake and unworthy of the high esteem that he received as an ornithologist from colleagues, contests numerous aspects of Audubon's writings and detests his drawings. His close personal relationship with Waterton is also illustrated in this collection. Through his correspondence with Waterton a clear picture is drawn of his close but at times distant relationship with Charles Lucien Bonaparte, an influential ornithologist and nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte. Other natural scientists who experienced Ord's critical opinion included Thomas Nuttall, a "presumptuous ass" who "deserved the lash" (29 September 1835).

In addition to his quick temper and strong opinions, other aspects of Ord's personality are revealed in the letters. He mistrusted paper money and believed that the United States bank had "probably committed more frauds, and has been the occasion of more mischief and suffering, than any similar corporation that ever was erected." Although at times mistrustful, Ord was generally optimistic about emerging technologies, such as photography, steam-power, and telegraphic communication, feeling that he lived "in an age of wonders."

Many of the letters discuss Ord's feelings on everyday matters and many of the issues that concerned ornithologists of the day, such as the description of rattlesnakes and avian taxonomy. Most of the material relating to his membership at the APS and the ANS are found not in his correspondence to Waterton but in the correspondence from various individuals.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

American Philosophical Society 2001

## Provenance

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### Acquisition Information

Ord's correspondence with Charles Waterton was acquired in 1942 and 1975. Other letters to and from Ord have been acquired from miscellaneous sources..

### Processing Information

Catalogued by Leigh McCuen, 2001.

## Related Materials

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### Related Material

Ord appears as a correspondent in a number of manuscript collections at the APS including the papers of John Lawrence Le Conte, Charles Waterton, Isaac Hays, John Torrey, William Darlington and the Peale-Sellers Family correspondence. As a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Ord also appears in the Library Committee records of that collection.

The APS also houses a collection of the Papers of Charles Waterton and family.

## Indexing Terms

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### Corporate Name(s)

- Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.
- American Philosophical Society.
- British Association for the Advancement of Science.
- National Gallery of Art (U.S.)
- National Institute for the Promotion of Science

- Peale's Museum (Philadelphia, Pa.).
- Philological Society (Great Britain)
- Royal Society (Great Britain).
- Smithsonian Institution.
- St. Paul's Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)

### **Family Name(s)**

- Stout Family

### **Genre(s)**

- General Correspondence
- Scientific Correspondence

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Cuba--Insurrection, 1849-1851
- Great Britain--Foreign relations--Russia
- Harpers Ferry (W. Va.)--History--John Brown's Raid, 1859
- Italy--Revolution of 1848
- Italy--War of 1859
- Kagoshima-shi (Japan)
- Russia--Foreign relations--Germany-Prussia
- United States--Civil War 1861 1865--Participation Foreign
- United States--Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States--Civil War, 1861-1865--Economic aspects
- United States--Politics and government--1861-1865
- United States. President (1861-1865 : Lincoln).

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Audubon, John James, 1785-1851
- Bache, A.D., (Alexander Dallas), 1806-1867
- Biddle, Alexander, 1819-1899
- Bonaparte, Charles Lucian, 1803-1857
- Brown, David Paul, 1795-1872
- Brown, John, 1800-1859
- Darlington, William, 1781-1863

- Du Chaillu, Paul B., (Paul Belloni), 1835-1903
- Du Ponceau , Peter Stephen, 1760-1844
- Garibaldi, Guiseppe, 1807-1882
- Gray, John Edward, 1800-1875
- Herrick, E. C.
- Humphreys, A. A., (Andrew Atkinson), 1810-1883
- Hunter, John Dunn, 1798?-1827.
- Jardine, William, Sir, 1800-1874
- Kane, Paul, 1810-1871
- Merrick, S. V., (Samuel Vaughan), 1801-1870
- Nuttall, Thomas, 1786-1859
- Peale, Titian Ramsay, 1799-1885
- Raleigh, Walter, Sir, 1552?-1618.
- Roux de Rochelle, 1762-1849
- Sartori, John B.
- Tidyman, Philip, d. 1850
- Vaughan, William
- Wagner, Tobias
- Waterton , Charles, 1782-1865
- Wied, Maximilian, Prinz von, 1782-1867
- Wilkes, Charles, 1798-1872

## Subject(s)

- Abolitionists--United States--Attitudes
- Animals--Habits and behavior of
- Audubon, John James, 1785-1851. Birds of America
- Banks and banking -- United States.
- Birds--Study and teaching
- Birds.
- Cholic Acid
- Church buildings--Pennsylvania-Philadelphia
- Cicada (Genus)
- Columbidia
- Cuckoos
- Daguerreotypes
- Dictionary of the English language. Johnson, Samuel, 1709-1784
- Dove
- Early National Politics
- English language--Dictionaries
- Exploration.
- Famines--Ireland
- France--19th Century

- Frogs--United States
- Frost--Great Britain
- Geese
- Gold mines and mining--California--19th Century
- Heatstroke
- Immigrants--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia
- Influenza--United States
- Irish--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia
- Memorials--Great Britain
- Mercury
- Mexican War, 1846-1848
- Monk, Maria, d. 1850
- Natural History
- Partridges
- Peale, Charles Willson, 1741-1827--Art collections.
- Philadelphia History
- Potatoes
- Railroads--19th Century
- Rattlesnake
- Religion
- Reptiles
- Science and Technology
- Sea monsters
- Secession--Southern States
- Skin--Diseases-Treatment
- Slaves--Emancipation-America
- Smoking--Health aspects--United States
- Soap trade--Pennsylvania
- Steam-navigation--Atlantic Ocean
- Steamboat disasters
- Stowe, Harriet Beecher, 1811-1896 Uncle Tom's Cabin.
- Telegraph
- United States Exploring Expedition (1838-1842).
- Wilkes, Charles, 1798-1872. Narrative of the United States exploring expedition.
- Williams, Eleazer, 1787-1858

## Other Descriptive Information

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The Ord Collection contains a few items which may be of interest to naval historians:

**Wilkes, Charles, 1798-1877. United States Exploring Expedition (1838-1842).**

- 1 Ord, George. Letter to Charles Waterton. 1838 March 27. Bartram's garden. Expedition for the purpose of exploring the South Seas (Wilkes), the United States Exploring Expedition. Peale's museum. 4 pages.
- 2 Ord, George. Letter to Charles Waterton. 1842 November 21. Concerning Audubon, Titian R. Peale, and the Wilkes Expedition (the United States Exploring Expedition), Smithsonian Institution and Charles Lucien Bonaparte. 3 pages.
- 3 Ord, George. Letter to Charles Waterton. 1844 August 25. Packets from Petty Vaughan for the American Philosophical Society. Mentions magnetic telegraph; Captain Wilkes' narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition. 3 pages.
- 4 Ord, George. Letter to Charles Waterton. 1845 June 22. Peale's museum in hands of scherriff. Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition. Visits from Audubon; his works. Copy of Audubon's Birds for the American Philosophical Society. 4 pages.

## Other Descriptive Information

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The collection of George Ord correspondence is a relatively small but significant collection. Most of the letters are from George Ord to Charles Waterton, a British naturalist, and reflect their shared interest in natural history, especially ornithology. The letters deal with Ord's rivalry with Audubon. Many of Ord's letters question the accuracy of Audubon's work. Other letters touch on Alexander Wilson and on new techniques for capturing images of animal life, such as the use of the Daguerre process.

The letters also discuss aspects of nineteenth century society. Mention is made of Peale's Museum (the Philadelphia Museum). One letter contains a detailed description of the museum's new quarters in 1838, another in 1854 describes its destruction. Other letters discuss the economy (including the California Gold Rush), politics (especially the election of James K. Polk and the Mexican-American War), and APS business. Ord also mentions Thomas Nuttall (described as a "presumptuous ass"), whose travel journal from 1810 the APS has. The collection contains a detailed description of many letters' content.

## Bibliography

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Robert McCracken Peck, "George Ord," *American National Biography* 16 (1999): 755-756.



## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Buckingham, Bucks, A.L.S. 3p. and add. Criticism of Audubon and his work; mentions also Alexander Wilson, Cuvier, Dr. Jones.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** July 16, 1834 10x8

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Buckingham, Penna., A.L. 4p. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Concerning sea-serpents, whales and snakes. Refers to Silliman and his journal and Jacob Bigelow.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Sept. 17, 1834 8" x 10"

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Buckingham, A.L.S. 4p., add. Ring doves; humming birds. Mentions Audubon.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Nov. 15, 1834 8" x 10"

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Mentions Mr. Vaughan of the Philosophical society, Prof. Jameson, Dr. Harlan, Hays, Titian Peale, Audubon, Harrison Hall, Nuttall, Maclure, Lesueur; death of Mr. Say.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** March 16, 1835 8" x 10"

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Buckingham, A.L. 4p., add. Cold weather. Egg laying. Catholicism.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** April 15, 16, 17, 1835 10x8

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Buckingham, Penna., A.L.S. 12p.end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Concerning Audubon, his reputation in England, Birds of America, especially the raven. Refers to rattlesnakes and fangs, T.R.Peale, eagles, hawks, Jameson. Expulsion from vice-presidency of ANS by Harlan et al, over his eulogy of Say read before APS.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Sept. 29, 1835 10x8

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Buckingham, Penna., A.L. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Concerning the ornithological works of Audubon, Nuttall and Wilson. His work on the cow bunting. Has been building on his home. Refers to the APS.

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## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Nov. 21, 1842 10x8  
 Letter to Charles Waterton, Wakefield,  
 Eng.;

Philadelphia, Typed L. 3p. Copy. (from original in possession (1968) of R.Milnes Walker, Wergs Copse, Kintbury, Newbury, Berks.) Formerly B Or2.1. Concerning Audubon, T.R.Peale and the Wilkes Expedition, Smithsonian Institution and Charles Lucien Bonaparte.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Dec. 25, Dec. 27, 1841 8" x 10"  
 Letter to Charles Waterton;

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Ord's paper on the tortoise. Bank situation in the U.S. Last illness of [John Vaughan ?].

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** March 17, 18, 1842 8" x 10"  
 Letter to Charles Waterton;

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Failure of the Bank of the U.S.; many suicides resulting. Death of John Vaughan; Ord his successor as librarian and treasurer of th A.P.S.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Feb. 5, 1843  
 Letter to Charles Waterton

In French. Extract of letter written to Charles Bonaparte. Discusses political situation; refers to Geological society, Academy of Natural Sciences, APS, and Franklin Institute.

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**Peale, Titian Ramsay, 1799-1885** March 14, 1843  
 Letter to George Ord

Refers to lack of support for completion of late expedition. Many specimens are missing. Expects to be penniless soon. Asks about Society and Museum.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Aug. 23, 1843 8" x 10"  
 Letter to Charles Waterton;

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Audubon's work on the quadrupeds. Positive view of inventions. Mentions Dr. Bachman; the A.P.S. Sale of building housing Peale's museum.

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**Du Ponceau , Peter Stephen, 1760-1844** Jan. 13, 1844

## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Letter to George Ord

Refers to Roux de Rochelle's letter and donation of a book.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

Feb. 24, 1844

10x8

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Concerning Audubon's Birds and Quadrupeds. Olfactory nerves of buzzards, with comments on Audubon by Smith, Pollock, Owen, and Bachman. Refers to APS and William Jardine. Refers to Yarrell and Audubon.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

Aug. 25, 1844

8" x 10"

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Phila., A.L.S. 3p. and add. Packets from Petty Vaughan for A.P.S. Mentions magnetic telegraph. Capt. Wilkes' Narrative of the Exploring Expedition.

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**Wagner, Tobias**

Sept. 30, 1844

Letter to George Ord

Regarding a meeting of the British Association in London. Reports on several lectures, including by Lyell, Liebig, and Rope.

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**Peale, Titian Ramsay, 1799-1885**

Nov. 26, 1844

Letter to George Ord

Dislikes his job, poorly paid, is painting his new birds and animals in oil.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

Dec. 4, 1844

Letter to Titian Ramsey Peale

Will use influence at Peale's behalf. Mentions Kane and Dr. Patterson. Peale's best friends are attached to the party that has lately won the presidency.

**Original Location**

Copy. Orig. at HSP.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

June 22, 1845

8" x 10"

Letter to Charles Waterton;

## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Phila., A.L. 4p., add. Peale's museum in hands of sheriff. Narrative of the Exploring Expedition. Visits from Audubon; his works. Copy of Audubon's Birds for A.P.S.

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**Bache, A.D., (Alexander Dallas),** Feb. 16, 1845  
**1806-1867**

Letter to George Ord

Refers to Patterson, Kane and Nulty.

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**Peale, Titian Ramsay, 1799-1885** April 7, 1845  
Letter to George Ord

Letter of introduction for the botanist William Rich, Esq. who would like to consult botany libraries in Philadelphia.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Aug. 23, 1845 8" x 10"  
Letter to Charles Waterton;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p., add. Letter from the Prince of Canino. Pennsylvania state debt.

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**Merrick, S. V., (Samuel Vaughan),** May 20, 1845  
**1801-1870**

Letter to George Ord

Note asking Ord to deliver a copy of Dobson's Encyclopedia to the Franklin Institute.

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**Peale, Titian Ramsay, 1799-1885** May 20, 1845  
Letter to George Ord

Copy. Refers to a partridge. Mentions Col. Lewis and Peale's Museum. Refers to engravings of animals.

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**Brown, David Paul, 1795-1872** May 28, 1845  
Letter to George Ord

Brown would like to rent office space below Athenaeum.

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**Brown, David Paul, 1795-1872** June 4, 1845  
Letter to George Ord

## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Brown decided not to rent office space below Athenaeum.

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**Peale, Titian Ramsay, 1799-1885**                      July 3, 1845

Letter to George Ord

Copy. Regarding planned breakup of organization under which remnant of Wilkes expedition is working. Refers to Dr. Pickering.

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**Humphreys, A. A., (Andrew Atkinson), 1810-1883**                      July 7, 1845

Letter to George Ord

Requests forwarding of packages.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**                                      Oct. 24, 1845                                      8" x 10"

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Economic and political aspects. Prince of Canino.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**                                      Dec. 21, 1845

Letter to Titian Ramsey Peale

Copy. APS is sued for the executors of Dunn for a debt of \$10,000. Ord is thinking of retiring as treasurer.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**                                      Feb. 22, 1846                                      8" x 10"

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. The Canada goose. Thinks Cuvier ventured beyond his depth in his Regne Animal. Sale of Philadelphia museum.

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**Tidyman, Philip, d. 1850**                                      May 1, 1846

Letter to George Ord

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**                                      May 24, 1846                                      8 1/4" x 10

Letter to Charles Waterton;

1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 3p. and add. Mentions Sir Charles Menteach; Charles Bonaparte; Titian Peale; Peale museum. U.S. at war with Mexico.

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## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

**Sartori, John B.** Sep. 20, 1846  
Letter to George Ord

Sends four pieces of fixed mercury for experiment.

**Darlington, William, 1782-1863** August 18, 1847  
Letter to George Ord

About the assertion that the potato had been introduced into England from Virginia by Walter Raleigh. Refers to Asa Gray.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Feb. 10, 1848 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 3p. and add. Prof. Wagner's criticism of Waterton's Essays. Has resigned as librarian and treasurer of the A.P.S.; criticism of certain members.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866** July 23, 1848 10-3/4x8  
Letter to Charles Waterton, Wakefield,  
England;

A.L.S. 4p., add. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. New Post-Office regulations. Would try to ship bull-frogs if possible. Political situation in Paris: comments on republics. Friendly letter.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Sept. 23, 1848 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Waterton's lawsuit over alkali. Titian Peale made assistant examiner in the Patent Office. Reasoning power of animals.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Dec. 17, 1848 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

A.L.S. 4p., add. Nuisance of unpleasant odors from nearby soap and candle manufactory. Political situation in Rome. Excitement caused by news of gold in California.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866** March 4, 1849 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Owner of soap and candle manufactory indicted. Gold rush. Ord's birthday. Mentions Charles Bonaparte and Agassiz.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	April 30, 1849	8 1/4" x 10
Letter to Charles Waterton;		1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Emigration to California begins to slacken. Political situation in Italy. Charles Bonaparte and Titian Peale convinced that several of Audubon's birds were "fictitious (?) representations."

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	Sept. 3, 1849	8 1/4" x 10
Letter to Charles Waterton;		1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Audubon's Quadrupeds. Charles Bonaparte. Marie Monk of the "Awful disclosures." Crops abundant.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	Oct. 22, 1849	10-1/2x8
Letter to Charles Waterton, Scarborough, England;		

A.L.S. 4p.,add.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Business. Friendly letter. Refers to C[harles] B[onaparte?].

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	Feb. 18, 1850	10-1/2x8
Letter to [Charles Waterton];		

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. His trial against a common nuisance. California fever for gold. Concerning the "so-called" wooley horse-a forgery.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	May 5, 1850	8 1/4" x 10
Letter to Charles Waterton;		1/2"

A.L.S. 3p. and add. Ord's illness. Return of the Pope to the Eternal City; Italian situation. Desires news of Charles B[onaparte]. Titian Peale still in Patent Office.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	July 8, 1850	8 1/4" x 10
Letter to Charles Waterton;		1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Waterton's accident. Gold in California. Ord's ill health. Audubon.

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## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Aug. 11, 18, 1850 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Bonaparte's part in conspiracy against the Papal government. Garibaldi in U.S. British association for the advancement of science; similar association in U.S.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Oct. 6, 1850 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

A.L.S. 4p., add. His mind somewhat below par. American politics. Charles Bonaparte's collection now in possession of the Academy of natural sciences. Mentions Wilson, Owen, Audubon, and Titian Peale.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Aug. 24, 1851 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Maria Monk's "Awful disclosures" a tissue of falsehoods. Excitement due to recent events in Cuba.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Oct. 13, 1851 8 1/4" x 10  
Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 3p. and add. The cuckoo and its young, End to invasion of Cuba. Preparations, being made for arrival of Kossuth. The Crystal Palace.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Jan. 27, 1852  
Letter to Titian Ramsey Peale

Ord elected president of Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** May 13, 1852 10-1/2x8  
Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Concerning hybrids. Emigration, especially from Ireland. Kossuth and his fund raising. Squirrels placed in the parks.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Oct. 7, Oct. 8, 1852 10-1/2x8  
Letter to [Charles Waterton];

## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 5p.and end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1.  
Rattlesnakes. Concerning Audubon and his death. Was honored by Charles Bonaparte in Paris.  
Refers to T.R.Peale.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Dec. 4, 1852

Letter to Titian Ramsey Peale

Refers to Peale's unpublished book on the Wilkes' expedition.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Dec. 12, 1852 8 1/4" x 10

Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 2p. and add. Has had influenza. Cuba situation settled. Mentions Charles Bonaparte.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** April 17, 1853 10-3/4x8

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. His health.  
Current craze for lecturing, and sends greetings from one lecturer Thackeray. Refers to Lea's house  
burning. Coments on Charles Bonaparte's rise in the world.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** June 26, 1853 8 1/4" x 10

Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 2p. and add. Emigration from Europe. Mentions Charles Bonaparte and Padre Gavazzi.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** July 31, 1853 8 1/4" x 10

Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Railroad travel in U.S. Mrs. Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." New York Crystal  
Palace. Mentions Gavazzi, Achille, Kossuth, Prof. Wilson, Sir Charles Lyell, and Lord Elsemere.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** March 19, 1854 10-3/4x8

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. His health.  
Crimean War news: his ideas on the war.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Dec. 7, 1854 8 1/4" x 10

Letter to Charles Waterton; 1/2"

## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Phila., A.L.S. 4p., add. Destruction of Peale's museum; dispersal of specimens and portraits.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	Aug. 22, 1858	8 1/4" x 10
Letter to Charles Waterton;		1/2"

Phila., A.L.S. 3p. and add. Marvels at speed of communication; transmarine telegraph completed. Reported death of Sir William Jardine. Monument to Alexander Wilson.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	April 3, 1859	10-3/4x8
Letter to [Charles Waterton];		

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Natural history. Comments on dictionaries in England and the U.S. Refers to proposed monuments for Wilson and Latham. Friendly letter. Refers to academy of natural sciences.

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Letter to George Ord	May 27, 1859	
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Walton Hall, A.L.S. 3p.and add.,end. On war in Europe and foreign affairs. Gorilla. Frosty weather destroyed fruits and vegetables, but summer birds are here.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	March 4, 1860	10-3/4x8
Letter to [Charles Waterton];		

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Describes his ageing self. Story of John Brown. Free Negroes in Philadelphia. Mesmerism in vogue and proffered experiments by members of the APS.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	June 3, 1860	10-3/4x8
Letter to Charles Waterton, Wakefield, England;		

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 2p.and add. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Has been ill. Is failing so badly that he forgets familiar names and the spelling of simple words. Knows nothing of the young doctor who, he presumes, graduated from pennsylvania.

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<b>Ord, George, 1781-1866</b>	Nov. 29, 1860	11-1/4x9-1/2
Letter to [Charles Waterton];		



## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Concerning the Civil War. Friendly letter.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

July 27, 1862

10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Monument to Wilson. News of local events. Has met some Scotsmen and read of Scotland recently.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

Aug. 4, 1862

10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 2p. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Asks him to forward a letter to Sir James Menteith. His health. Friendly letter.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

Nov. 3, 1862

10x8

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 2p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. His health. Civil War: England should not aid the South.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

Jan. 18, 1863

10x8

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Ill again. Concerning T.R.Peale. Civil War. Friendly letter.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

March 11, 1863

10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 3p.and end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Friendly letter. Surprised at the marriage of his son. News of friends in Philadelphia.

**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

May 23, 1863

10-1/2x8-1/4

Letter to Charles Waterton, Wakefield,  
Eng.;

## Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

Philadelphia, A.L.S.with initials. 3p.and add.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. His health. Civil war. Friendly letter. Glad Edmund is married.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Aug. 23, 1863 10-1/2x8-1/4

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. News of his health. Friendly letter. Civil war news.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Oct. 24, 1863 10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 3p.and end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. News of the war. European events.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Dec. 19, 1863 10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Compares British outrages in Japan with Civil War news of New Orleans. Concerning J.E.Gray.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** March 20, 1864 10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. His health. Increase in use of tobacco and its injurious effects. Friendly letter.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** May 8, 1864 11-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 3p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Friendly letter. Garibaldi and Italy. News of the war.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** July 17, 1864 10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to [Charles Waterton];

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 3p.and end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Friendly letter. Illness and death of Stout.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866** Sept. 25, 1864 10-3/4x8-1/4

Comments on Audubon's book [Birds of America];

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Letter to Charles Waterton, Walton Hall,  
Eng.;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 3p.and end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Death of Stout and his other friends. News of the war. Friendly letter.

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**Ord, George, 1781-1866**

Oct. 2, 1864

10-3/4x8-1/4

Letter to Charles Waterton;

Philadelphia, A.L.S. 4p.,end. (see Ord-Waterton correspondence.) Formerly B Or2.1. Harvests in the U.S. News of the war.

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