

Thistlewood family papers, 1748-1792
1748-1792
Mss.Film.1461

American Philosophical Society
105 South Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA, 19106
215-440-3400
manuscripts@amphilsoc.org

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Summary Information

Repository	American Philosophical Society
Creator	Thistlewood family.
Title	Thistlewood family papers, 1748-1792
Date [inclusive]	1748-1792
Call number	Mss.Film.1461
Extent	16.0 Microfilm reel(s)
Extent	16 microfilm reels.
Location	LH-RR-Media Rm-7
Language	English
Container	1-16
Abstract	<p>This collection contains diaries, weather records, and commonplace books of Thomas Thistlewood for the years 1748-1786. His diaries (37 volumes) cover two years in England (in London and in Lincolnshire) and the remaining time in Jamaica (1750-1786). This is a rich source for agricultural, daily routines, slave life, folklore, natural history, medical diagnosis and remedies, the intellectual world of an Anglo-Jamaican, his sex life, and the climatic history of Jamaica. There are also miscellaneous volumes, such as a list of slaves, 1758-1766. Included in the collection is the journal of his nephew, John Thistlewood, 1763-1765, describing his voyage to Jamaica and life on his uncle's plantation.</p>

Background note

Thomas Thistlewood left England in 1750 for Jamaica, becoming an estate manager of a cattle farm (Vineyard Pen) and then overseer of a sugar estate (Egypt). In 1767, he bought his own property (Breadnut Island Pen) and raised crops and livestock. He owned about thirty slaves. He died on his estate in 1786.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

American Philosophical Society

Provenance

Acquisition Information

Purchased from Lincolnshire County Archives, England, and accessioned, 10/31/1984 (1984 734mf).

Original Location

Originals in Lincolnshire County Archives, England.

Indexing Terms

Genre(s)

- Diaries.
- Microfilm Collection

Geographic Name(s)

- Jamaica -- Climate.
- Jamaica -- Social life and customs -- 18th century.
- West Indies -- Social life and customs -- 18th century.

Personal Name(s)

- Thistlewood, John
- Thistlewood, Thomas, 1721-1786

Subject(s)

- Agriculture -- Jamaica.
- Cattle.
- Culture, community, organizations
- Folklore
- Folklore--Jamaica
- Meteorology -- Jamaica -- Observations.
- Natural history -- Jamaica.
- Plantations
- Plantations -- Jamaica.
- Slaveholders -- Jamaica.
- Slavery -- Jamaica.
- Slaves, slavery, slave trade
- Sugar growing -- Jamaica.
- Traditional medicine -- Jamaica.

Other Descriptive Information

Of particular interest to scholars of African American history are the materials relating to Thistlewood's time in Jamaica (1751-1786), where he managed a cattle estate (Vineyard Pen) and a sugar plantation (Egypt).

Other Descriptive Information

This is a microfilm of an early American collection that may be of interest to researchers at the APS and may complement an original manuscript collection at the APS.