



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Work-Book No. 2 : Commencing Anno 1759 / Franklin and Hall

1759-1766, 1782-1789

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Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

Summary

Creator: B. Franklin and D. Hall (Firm)

Title: Work-Book No. 2 : Commencing Anno 1759 / Franklin and Hall

Date: 1759-1766, 1782-1789

Size: .1 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Edward S. Harkness, 1929

Abstract: Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, was a printer, writer, scientist, and statesman. David Hall (1714-1772) was a Scottish-American printer, bookseller, and stationer. The printing partnership of Benjamin Franklin and David Hall of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania existed from January 1748 through January 1766. Work-Book no. 2 (1 volume) is an account book of the Philadelphia printing firm of Benjamin Franklin and David Hall, dated 1759 August 2-1766 January 30. Charges for printing include advertisements in the Pennsylvania Gazette, legal and business forms, political items, and proclamations and other notices for the Pennsylvania government. The volume also contains a list of jobs, 1782-1789, arranged alphabetically by first initial of the account name and chronologically within, presumably created by the successor firm of Hall and Sellers.

Preferred citation: Work-Book No. 2 : Commencing Anno 1759 / Franklin and Hall, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

Creator History

Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, was a printer, writer, scientist, and statesman. David Hall (1714-1772) was a Scottish-American printer, bookseller, and stationer. The printing partnership of Benjamin Franklin and David Hall of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania existed from January 1748 through January 1766.

David Hall, a Scottish journeyman printer working in London, emigrated to Philadelphia in 1744 for employment with Benjamin Franklin as a printer. The men became partners in 1748, enabling Franklin to devote himself chiefly to scientific and public affairs. Franklin was abroad for several years during

their partnership, acting as agent for the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly in Great Britain. He resided in London from July 1757 to late summer 1762, when he returned to Philadelphia for a two-year stay, arriving November 1. He left once more for London on November 7, 1764 as agent of the Assembly, and later acted for other colonies as well. Franklin sailed for America in March 1775, on the eve of the Revolution. David Hall ran the business and also edited and published Franklin's newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. Franklin sold his share of the business to Hall in February 1766. Hall brought in his journeyman printer William Sellers as his partner, establishing the firm of Hall and Sellers that same year. After David Hall's death in 1772, his sons continued the operation of the firm with William Sellers.

Scope and Content Note

Work-Book no. 2 (1 volume) is an account book of the Philadelphia printing firm of Benjamin Franklin and David Hall, dated 1759 August 2-1766 January 30. Charges for printing include advertisements in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, legal and business forms, political items, and proclamations and other notices for the Pennsylvania government. The volume also contains a list of jobs, 1782-1789, arranged alphabetically by first initial of the account name and chronologically within, presumably created by the successor firm of Hall and Sellers.

Printing jobs for 1759-1766 are listed under entry numbers 1597 to 1936, reflecting rough chronological order. Most entry numbers list multiple jobs, which may cover more than one day. Job entries briefly identify the customer, item supplied, and amount charged.

Entry numbers 1840 (1764 March 31) and 1842 (1764 April 18) contain charges to Benjamin Franklin, Esq. for a "Petition to His Majesty." Entry 1842 also includes a charge on April 12 to the Province of Pennsylvania for 3,000 copies of "Explanatory Remarks of the Assembly's Resolves." These are related to the political campaign by Franklin and others to change the government of Pennsylvania from proprietary to royal authority.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Account books

Geographic Names

Pennsylvania -- History -- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775

Subjects

Printers -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Publishers and publishing -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Names

Franklin, Benjamin, 1706-1790

Hall, David, 1714-1772

Hall & Sellers