



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Alexander Johnston papers

1643-1817

MssCol 1578

Summary

Creator: Johnston, Alexander, Sir, 1775-1849

Title: Alexander Johnston papers

Date: 1643-1817

Size: .3 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift, Henschel, Albert E, 1900

Abstract: Alexander Johnston (1775-1849), British statesman, was advocate-general of Ceylon. Collection consists of papers concerning the government, history and customs of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), especially the establishment of land revenue, 1800-1817. Includes letters to Johnston as chief justice; transcripts of rules and orders of the Dutch consistory at Batavia, 1643; memorial, 1740, by Gustaaf van Imhoff to the new governor; letters, 1790s, to William Jacob van de Graaf, Governor of Ceylon; journals describing the exploration of Tangella, 1800, and a journey from Colombo around Ceylon, 1805; minutes, 1817, of the governor relating to land tenure and agriculture; and seven slips of palm leaf containing writing in Tamil and Telugu characters.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Alexander Johnston papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Alexander Johnston (1775-1849), British statesman, was advocate-general of Ceylon.

Scope and Content Note

Collection consists of papers concerning the government, history and customs of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), especially the establishment of land revenue, 1800-1817. Includes letters to Johnston as chief justice; transcripts of rules and orders of the Dutch consistory at Batavia, 1643; memorial, 1740, by Gustaaf van Imhoff to the new governor; letters, 1790s, to William Jacob van de Graaf, Governor of

Ceylon; journals describing the exploration of Tangella, 1800, and a journey from Colombo around Ceylon, 1805; minutes, 1817, of the governor relating to land tenure and agriculture; and seven slips of palm leaf containing writing in Tamil and Telugu characters.

Key Terms

Subjects

Agriculture -- Sri Lanka
Colonies -- Asia
Land tenure -- Sri Lanka
Law -- Indonesia -- Jakarta
Tamil language
Telugu language

Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Colonies -- Asia
Netherlands -- Colonies -- Asia
Sri Lanka -- Description and travel
Sri Lanka -- Economic policy
Sri Lanka -- History -- 1505-1948
Sri Lanka -- Politics and government
Sri Lanka -- Social life and customs

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Palm leaf

Occupations

Statesmen

Names

Johnston, Alexander, Sir, 1775-1849
Graaf, William Jacob van de
Imhoff, Gustaaf Willem, Baron van, 1705-1750