

Isaac Butler's Journal 1744: notes and extracts

Repository Code: IE LHA

Collection Reference Code: PP00008/

Title: Isaac Butler's Journal 1744: notes and extracts

Dates: 27 Jun 1891 – 16 Dec 1921

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent: 15 items

Name of Creator(s): Isaac Butler and John Ribton Garstin

Admin/Biographical History: In an article entitled 'Irish Astrologers' in the Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science (Vol IV Aug-Dec 1847), Isaac Butler (1689-1755) was described as 'surgeon, astronomer, almanac maker and botanist'. He was also interested in archaeology. He succeeded John Whalley in his business as almanac maker. Between 1740 and 1750, Dr John Rutty and the Medico-Philosophical and the Physico-Historical Societies employed Butler to research rare plants and gather botanical specimens. Dr Rutty was working on publications of natural history. Butler's remit was County Dublin and this was then extended out to Meath, Westmeath, Louth, and Longford. He later carried out similar work in Cork, Tipperary, Wexford, and Wicklow. Butler was also selected by the Dean and Chapter to write a history of the Cathedral of St Patrick. His name frequently occurs in the minutes of the Physico-Historical Society, which are preserved among the MSS of the Royal Irish Academy.

Dr John Rutty (1697-1775), a physician and naturalist, was the author of many texts including 'A methodical synopsis of the Mineral Waters of Ireland' (1757) and 'A Natural History of the County of Dublin' (1772).

John Ribton Garstin (1836-1917) who compiled the notes in this collection was an archaeologist and antiquarian expert. He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal Dublin Society, the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and vice-president of the County Louth Archaeological Society.

- Archival history:** The extracts were made by Mr J Deane, assistant librarian in Armagh Library, where the original MS is preserved, for the County Louth Archaeological Society who published a copy in their Journal of Dec 1922 (Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 93-108). The notes were produced by John Ribton Garstin (1836-1917). County Louth Archaeological & Historical Society deposited the collection in Louth County Archives Service in 2001.
- Scope and Content:** Manuscript extracts from Isaac Butler's Journal, 1744, being the portion relating to County Louth and notes on the journal made by John Ribton Garstin (1836-1917). Also includes two letters from Patrick Traynor, bookseller, Dublin, and J Deane, assistant librarian, Armagh.
- Subject index:** Abbeys; Butler, Isaac (1689-1755); Deane, J, assistant librarian (Armagh Library); Dolan, Joseph, vice-president of the County Louth Archaeological Society; Fore (County Westmeath); Garstin, John Ribton (1836-1917); Louth; Ruty, Dr John (1697-1775); Traynor, Patrick, bookseller, Dublin.
- Accruals:** No accruals are expected.
- System of Arrangement:** The collection is arranged chronologically
- Conditions of Access:** Open Access, by appointment
- Conditions Governing
Reproduction:** Items may be subject to copyright. Contact Louth County Archives staff regarding copying; copying fees apply.
- Language/Script of Material:** English
- Physical Characteristics:** Paper. Good condition: there are a few tears
- Technical Requirements:** Careful handling required
- Finding Aids:** Descriptive list can be found on on-line catalogue available at <http://www.louthcoco.ie>
- Existence & Location of Originals:** Armagh Library
- Existence & Location of Copies:** Some digitised documents may occasionally be found on <http://www.louthcoco.ie>
- Related Material:**
- Royal College of Physicians of Ireland: IE RCPI/MPS Medico-Philosophical Society, 1756-1939
- Publication Note:**

- 'Extracts from Isaac Butler's Journal' in *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Dec., 1922), pp. 93-108
- Stokes, GT, 'Isaac Butler' in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Fifth Series, Vol. 2, No. 4 (Dec., 1892), p. 431
- Butler, Isaac, 'A Journey to Lough Derg' in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Fifth Series, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Apr., 1892), pp. 13-24
- Butler, Isaac, 'A Journey to Lough Derg (continued)' in *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Fifth Series, Vol. 2, No. 2 (Jul., 1892), pp. 126-136

Repository Home Page: <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

Source Material: <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

Date of Description: January 2012 by Lorraine A McCann, Louth County Archives Service

Descriptive List

PP00008/001

Handwritten letter from Patrick Traynor, new & old bookseller, 29 & 30 Essex Quay, Dublin to Major General Stubbs, Dromeskin (Dromiskin), Co Louth regarding his unsuccessful search to find information on Isaac Butler or his work. He surmises that his work was probably only written in 'manuscript' and for the series of works published by the Dublin Physico-Historical Society. He suggests that the Royal Irish Academy or the library of the Royal Dublin Society may know something about the MS.

27 Jun 1891

1p

PP00008/002

Document briefly describing Isaac Butler's journal of his journey from Dublin to Lough Derg through Meath, Cavan and Fermanagh, made approximately 1745. It briefly compares this journal to his previous journal of 1744 held in Armagh Library.

[1890s]

1p

PP00008/003

Document describing the manuscript of Isaac Butler's Journal 1744 held in Armagh Library. It explains in detail the size, format, and arrangement of the manuscript.

[1890s]

1p

PP00008/004

Notes on the nature and archival history relating to Isaac Butler's journal of 1744.

[1890s]

1p

PP00008/005

Notes on the inscriptions in Isaac Butler's journal of 1744 in Armagh Library, including Colonel Vigors having them printed in the Reports of the Fund for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland. Also includes some biographical notes on Isaac Butler. Notes that 'some of his work was used in Archdall's Lodge's Peerage of Ireland'.

[1890s]

1p

PP00008/006

Document on Isaac Butler's journey to Lough Derg from Dublin (post 1744) providing a summary of route and monuments with page numbers. Counties include Dublin, Meath, Cavan and Fermanagh.

[1890s]

1p

PP00008/007

Itinerary compiled by JR Garstin of Isaac Butler's journey in 1744 for County Louth and Drogheda detailing page numbers, places as spelled and modern spelling, inscriptions, and chief matters described.

1904

1p

PP00008/008

Notes on Isaac Butler's journal 1744 regarding the entries which relate to abbeys. States that it provides notes of their names, dedications, religious order, name of founder, date and situation. Provides a list of the places mentioned.

1906

1p

PP00008/009

Notes on Isaac Butler's journal 1744 regarding several entries which are corrected, parish clergy, locomotion, lodging, weather, and date of Butler's other journal which Garstin explains as being 1744-58.

[1900s]

1p

PP00008/010

Notes on Isaac Butler's journal 1744 regarding handwriting, indications of time, nature of descriptions, and the personal element of the journal.

[1900s]

1p

PP00008/011

Index summary of second part of Isaac Butler's journal (1744) providing page numbers, places, monumental inscriptions, and topics.

[1900s]

6pp

PP00008/012

Note on Isaac Butler and John Ruddy explaining how a letter inserted on p45 of the journal signed by John Ruddy in 1747 indicates that Butler's work referring to water was in connection with that of Dr Ruddy.

[1912]

1p

PP00008/013

Account of Isaac Butler's journal 1744 with particular reference to Fore (County Westmeath) and predominantly the Abbey and Hermitage.

1912

2pp

PP00008/014

Handwritten letter from J Deane assistant librarian (Armagh Library), 4 Vicars Hill, Armagh to Joseph Dolan, vice-president of the County Louth Archaeological Society, Ardee, regarding the arrangement of page numbers and fullness of pages and other details in Isaac Butler's journal (1744). He comments on the fly-leaf being in the same handwriting as the rest of the journal.

16 Dec 1921

2pp

PP00008/015

Manuscript extracts from Isaac Butler's Journal, 1744, being the portion relating to County Louth, transcribed from the original MS preserved in Armagh Library by Mr J Deane, assistant librarian. The Journal of Isaac Butler is an account of the tour made in 1744 through North Dublin, Meath, Louth, and other counties. The account describes the country and records inscriptions in churches visited. A copy of these extracts was published in the Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society, Vol. 5, No. 2 (Dec., 1922), pp. 93-108.

The extracts include notes on Julianstown (p12), St Peter's Drogheda (p13-16), Millmount Drogheda (p16-17), 'Dullagh' (Tullyallen), Mellifont, Cullein Moore (Collon) (all p25), Melicks Town (Millockstown), Ardee, Derrycama (all p26), Ardpatrick, Louth, (all p27), Knock Town (Knockbridge, p28), Dundalk (p29), Faughor (Faughart), Carlingford (all p30-32), Grange, Templetown, Ballugg Castle, Rock Marsh (Rockmarshall) (all p32-33), Ballymascanlan, Dundalk (all p33), Drumisky or kin (Dromiskin), Ballyheney (Heynestown), Lurgan Race (Lurganrace), Garlands Town or Castlebellingham, Milltown (all p34), Kilsaran (p35-36), Greenmount (p36), Dunleere (Dunleer), Aghclare, Bokaragh (Moylary) (all p37-38), Termonfeckin, Beaully (all p39), and Chord Cemetery Drogheda (p40).

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Another journey from Dublin to Lough Derg through Meath, Cavan and Fermanagh, made approximately a year later, is recorded in another MS which was published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries for 1892. This Journal notes the inaccuracies of some of Butler's translation of burial inscriptions. Butler's descriptions on his journeys were meant to provide material for a book by Dr John Ruddy (1697-1775), whom Butler was employed to assist.

1921

22pp & 4 attached notes