



Collection #: MSS 841
Name: The Sir Hans Sloane Letters Received
Dates: 1704-1740
Size: .05 cubic feet
Processed: March 2008 by JMW
Restrictions: None
Citation: The Sir Hans Sloane Letters Received, MSS 841,
Waring Historical Library, Medical University
of South Carolina, Charleston

Biographical Note: Hans Sloane was born in England in 1660. He studied chemistry at Apothecaries' Hall, and botany at the Chelsea Physic Garden. He went on to apprentice in medicine under Sydenham, and took over the practice when Sydenham became too ill to work. Dr. Sloane traveled to Jamaica as the physician of the second Duke of Albemarle in 1688. While in Jamaica, he collected and brought home to England more than 800 species of plants. He published two books on his experience and discoveries in Jamaica. After returning to England, he became the secretary of the Royal Society, and edited its Philosophical Transactions. He eventually became the physician to the King of England, and also President of the College of Physicians. Dr. Sloane was an avid collector of many different types of materials, and his personal collections were the foundation of the collection of the British Museum. Dr. Sloane was married to Elizabeth Rose, and died in 1753.

Scope and Content Note: The Sir Hans Sloane Letters Received, 1704-1740, .05 cubic feet, consists of typed transcriptions of 21 letters received by Sir Hans Sloane. The original letters are in the collection of the British

Museum in London. The letters are written from South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and Rhode Island, on the subject of material medica. The letter writers include Joseph Lord, Robert Ellis, Thomas Pinkney, and John Lawson. The writers are reporting their findings to Sir Sloane, and collecting plant specimens to send back to England. Letters also contain requests for medical advice, and one includes an account of the illness, treatment, and death of the Duke of Albemarle.

Subject Headings:

Sloane, Hans, Sir (1660-1753)

Botany -- history -- South Carolina

History of Medicine, 18th Cent -- South Carolina

Materia Medica

South Carolina--History-- Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775