

The Search for the Missing Diaries of George Langton (1647-1727)

The mystery of George Langton's missing diaries haunts our family. He lived what may be the most well-recorded life in the history of the Langton family, dating back over 300 years – a life of high society in London, filled with connections in business, political and professional circles. Unfortunately all we currently know of his life story is drawn from a few fragmented pieces of his writings held in various museums. ***We have a great opportunity to complete this rich Langton story by assembling the remainder of his work. And we need your help to do that.***

We know from the following 1861 auction announcement (item #200) that the missing diaries were once part of a complete collection, and are highly likely to still exist today, probably in private collections and perhaps other archives.

Auction catalogue, books of Guglielmo Libri, 25 April to 8 May 1861 – S. Leigh Sotheby & John Wilkinson (London).

4006

OF THE
Mathematical, Historical, Bibliographical and Miscellaneous
PORTION OF
THE CELEBRATED LIBRARY
OF
M. GUGLIELMO LIBRI,
INCLUDING
MANY SCARCE PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO AMERICA;
HABE JUNTA AND AULDINE EDITIONS;
Ancient Musical Treatises; Books written in various Dialects;
IMPORTANT WORKS RELATING TO ITALIAN HISTORY & TOPOGRAPHY:
A large Collection of early Italian GIOENALI, and other Works illustrating the Literary History
and Bibliography of Italy; scarce English Books printed abroad; French Facsimile;
FINE HORÆ AND OTHER MANUSCRIPTS UPON VELLUM;
Numerous Publications relating to the History of the Sciences;
AN EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION OF THE RAREST TREATISES IN EXISTENCE RESPECTING
ANCIENT ARITHMETIC, ALGEBRA, ASTRONOMY AND GEOMETRY,
Comprising original Editions of the scarcest Writings of TYCHO BRAHE, BOMBELLI, BORELLI, CARDANUS,
CATALDI, GALILEO, GHETALDI, GHALIGAI, KEPLER, BENEDETTI, PACIOLI, CAVALIERI, TORRICELLI,
GRIMALDI, FERMAT, EULER, LAGRANGE, LAPLACE, GAUSS, ABEL, JACOBI, CAUCHY, LEGENDE,
DELAUNAY, COPERNICUS, LEIBNITZ, HUYGENS, &c. &c.
VERY COMPLETE AND UNIQUE SERIES OF WORKS RELATING TO GALILEO:
AND
A most Interesting Collection of Books with Autograph Annotations,
Written by Illustrious Men; including GALILEO, KEPLER, FERRARI, TORRICELLI, BORELLI,
HENRICUS STEPHANUS, MELANCTHON, CAMPANELLA, RAMUS, FLAMSTEED, LA MONNOYE,
DEFFON, HUYGENS, &c. &c.

PART THE FIRST, A—L.

200 ALMANACS (by Goldsmith, Saunder, Gallens, Rider, Coley, &c.) for 1676, and from 1690 to 1739 inclusive (but not quite consecutive), 27 vol. interleaved, and filled with the AUTOGRAPH DIARIES OF GEORGE LANGTON, ESQ. OF LANGTON, including Records of Political Events, Local News, Births and Deaths in his own Family and Circle, Farming Operations on his own Estates (with Memoranda of Leases, Fines, Rents, Wages, and incidental Expenses in Journeys to London and Return), Disbursements and Receipts, Recipes, &c. &c.
12mo. London, 1676-1739

George Langton in 1700 was chosen by the House of Commons one of the five Commissioners for stating the Debt due to the Army, Navy, &c. and was Father of the celebrated Bennet, Bishop of Cloyne, whose name frequently figures in these memoranda. With this lot will be sold eleven other Almanacs between 1754 and 1766, filled with MS. memoranda by one of his descendants.

If you have knowledge of the existence of any of these diaries, please contact Joel Langton at: contact@lostlangtons.co.uk

Continued...

Background

George Langton, Esq. of Langton-by-Partney was the grandfather of one of the more famous members of the Langton family – Dr. Bennet Langton (1736-1801), friend of the famous writer Dr. Samuel Johnson.

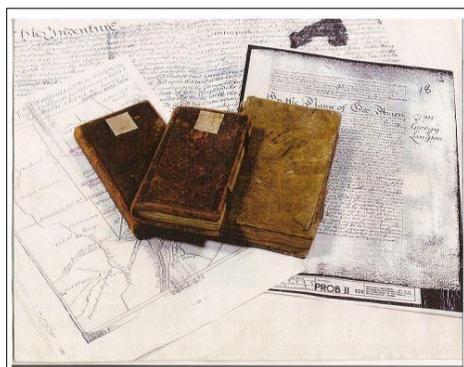


Dr. Bennet Langton (1736-1801)

Although not widely known, George was a successful businessman and landowner. He was also a prolific diarist. He began writing his diaries in 1670 and continued through 1725...fifty five years of recorded history from 290 to 345 years ago.

The Diaries We Have

The Lincolnshire Archives contain three of George's annual almanacs-cum-diaries, covering 1690, 1696 and 1725. David H. Hamilton published a book based on these three – "The Diaries of George Langton: Lincolnshire Landowner and Businessman", published in 1998.

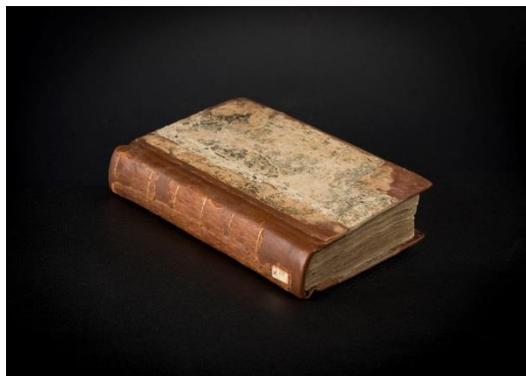


From the cover of David H. Hamilton's Book

David Hamilton discovered that another diary was located at The University of Glasgow, covering the year 1701. He wrote an as-yet-unpublished supplement to his book covering this particular diary.

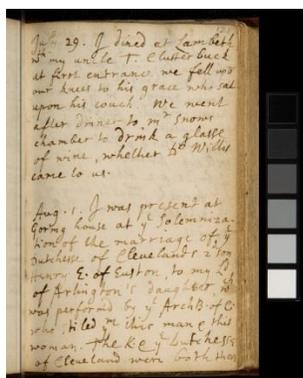
Continued...

David also discovered another diary existed at the National Library of Wales. This one covered the decade from 1670 through 1680.



1670-1680 diary at the National Library of Wales

The National Library was kind enough to prepare high quality digital images of each page of this diary, with fascinating snippets of George's life in London, like this one below.



This entry is for 1 Aug 1672, where George attends a wedding. He writes: "I was present at Goring House at the solemnization of the marriage of the Duchess of Cleveland's second son, Henry, Earl of Easton, to my Lord of Arlington's daughter, which was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who styled them "this man and this woman". **The King** and the Duchess of Cleveland were both there."

There is no known image for George, but we do have a portrait of his wife, Mary Tyndale:



The inscription reads: Mary, only daughter of Thomas Tyndale Esq. (2nd son of Thomas Tyndale of Eastwood Park in the parish of Thornbury Gloucestershire) & wife of George Langton in Lincolnshire. Simon Verelst (1644-c1721)

The painting was for sale and the description read: Portrait of Mary Langton (nee Tyndale), a cream and brown dress with blue shawl holding a pink rose. By: Simon Verelst Year: 1690. Dimensions: 50" x 40". It sold for ~29,000 British Pounds c2010.

Please...if you have knowledge of the existence of *any* of George's missing diaries, and can help us piece together this remarkable story, contact Joel Langton at: contact@lostlangtons.co.uk