

Money, money, money

Historic collections of archives, manuscripts and rare printed books held by Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham offer great potential for research into business and financial transactions covering the past six centuries.

The family and estate collections held by the university, including the papers of the Dukes of Portland and Dukes of Newcastle contain extensive sources relating to their business dealings, the workings of their companies, and land management of their extensive estates in Nottingham and across the world. Leading figures in these families played central roles in many of the important political and financial developments of the past, including the stock market crash and South Sea Bubble of the eighteenth century, the development of the Bank of England and the national debt, and growing global trade and imperialism in the nineteenth century.

An extensive collection of local business archives complements the family and estate resources, with papers of Nottingham lace and textile companies alongside light industry and the archives of local power generating and water companies.

More information on all of our business collections, as well as resources explaining how to understand and use historical financial and business records can be found on the website of Manuscripts and Special Collections: www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss.

**Partially used cheque book issued by Messrs. Thomas Coutts & Co., London,
belonging to Henry P.A.D. Pelham-Clinton 7th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne, 1809**

The Newcastle Collection contains rich archives relating to the business interests of the dukes of Newcastle and the management of large and complex estates in Nottinghamshire and further afield. Ref: Ne A 837



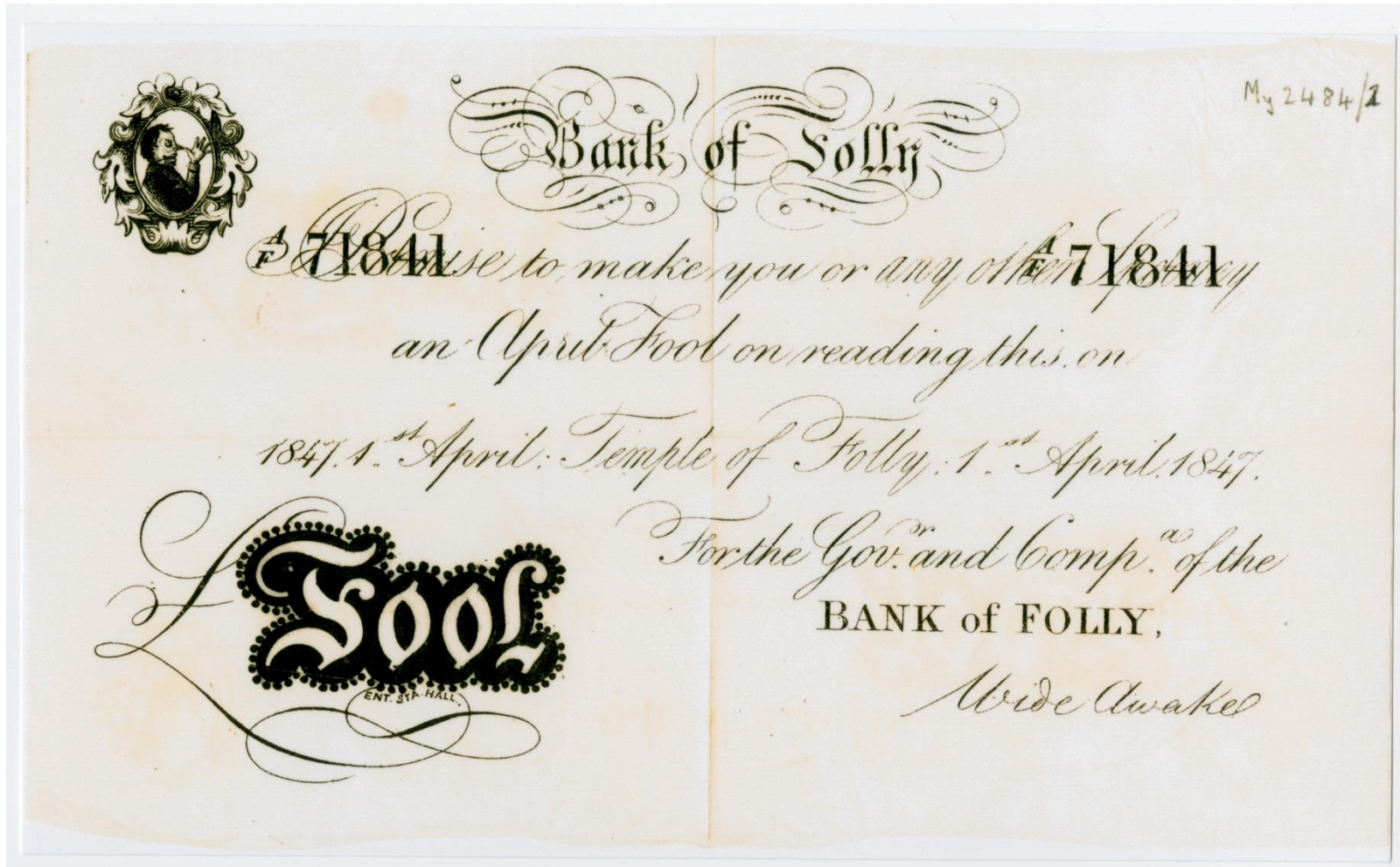
Promissory note of John A. Bentinck for £400 payable to Richard Hoare Esq., of Hoare's bank, presumably as repayment for a loan, 11 Apr. 1774

A promissory note is a written promise by one person to pay money to another. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there were two main forms of promissory note which were either payable to a named person, on or after a specific date, or payable to the bearer, 'on demand'. They often circulated without being cashed by a party and from this the modern bank note evolved. Bank notes still contain the words 'I promise to pay the bearer on demand the sum of...'. Ref: MS 376/3

11 April 1774 MS 376/3
I promise to pay to Richard Hoare Esq.
Order Four Months after date Four hundred Pounds
for Value received at his Request, John A. Bentinck
£400

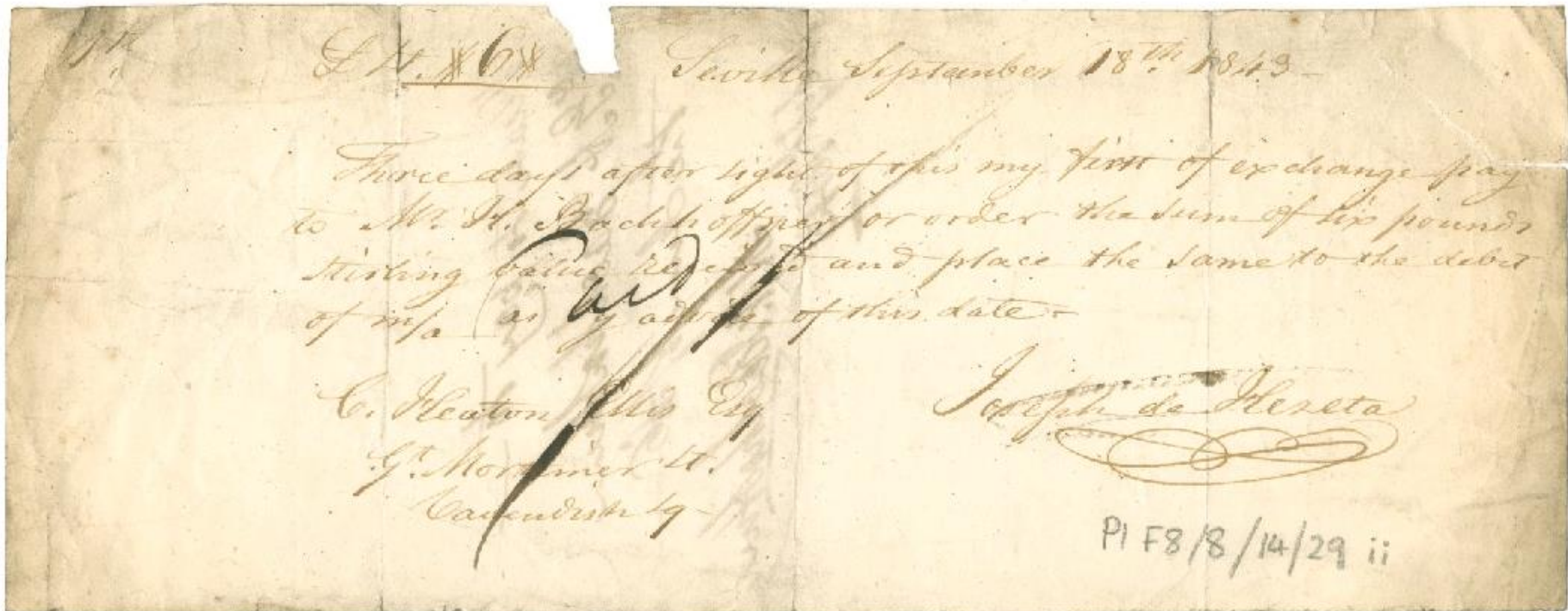
Fake bank note from the 'Bank of Folly', 1847

This bank note is decorated with an image of a man cocking a snook (thumbing his nose), and with the amount of money rendered cleverly as the word 'Fool'. It reads, 'I promise to make you or any other Spooney an April Fool on reading this on 1st April'. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word 'spooney' means 'a simple, silly, or foolish person; a noodle'. Ref: My 2481-2490



Bill of exchange, 1843

These were an instruction from one person to another party (often a bank) to pay a certain amount of money to a third party. In this way they precede the modern cheque. The recipient of the bill of exchange would be able to take it to the second party on the date agreed to claim payment of the money they were owed. This example shows Joseph de Hezeta, of Seville instructing Charles Heaton Ellis of London to pay £6 to Mr H. Backhoffner on 18 September 1843. On the reverse of the bill, a note signed by H.W. Backhoffner instructs Heaton Ellis to pay the money to Dr G.H. Backhoffner. The bill is struck through with the word 'Paid'. Ref: PI F8/8/14/29



Bank book of [Henry P.F. Pelham-Clinton 4th] Duke of Newcastle [under Lyne], 1838-1843

This document shows banking in an era before computerisation. The volume lists payments on the left hand page and receipts on the right hand page. Books would have to be returned to the bank frequently to allow them to be written up and the accounts reconciled. Volumes such as this allow researchers a way to scrutinise every minute transaction of an individual or business. Ref: Ne A 807

Billet de nécessité, c.1914-1918

At times of national crisis, financial systems can often break down. *Billets de nécessité* were a temporary currency issued by French municipalities in World War One due to ordinary currency being hoarded, buried or confiscated. This example comes from Cambrai and is printed on a small slip of very poor quality paper with a value of 50 centimes issued by the *Syndicat de communes de la région de Cambrai*, and appears to date from around 1916. The town of Cambrai was occupied by German troops for much of the conflict. Local traders would accept the tokens in exchange for goods and services. Very few now survive as they are so fragile and were generally destroyed after the war. This example comes from the Lawson collection. John Lawson was a businessman in Nottingham during the 1920s-1960s, working for Boots. His archive allows us to track the financial workings of an ordinary family in the early twentieth century as comprehensive financial records and account books have survived. Curiously, this note was found in a wallet belonging to John Lawson and as far as we know he did not visit France himself. Perhaps it was simply a souvenir given to him by a friend. Ref: Ln2/1/12/45



SYNDICAT DE COMMUNES DE LA RÉGION DE CAMBRAI

POUR
ÉMISSION DE BOIS DE MONNAIE
GARANTIS PAR LA RESPONSABILITÉ SOLIDAIRE
DES COMMUNES ADHÉRENTES

Série E N° 25,157

QUATRIÈME ÉMISSION DE QUATORZE MILLIONS DE FRANCS

CINQUANTE Centimes

LE VICE-PRÉSIDENT

LE PRÉSIDENT

LE SECRÉTAIRE

Yannick Helot J. Bouvier

IMP DELIGNÉ & C^o CAMBRAI