

Foyle Reading Room User Guide

Journal Manuscript Collection

What is the Journal Manuscript Collection?

When founded in 1830, one of the Society's principal aims was to "collect, register, and digest, and to print for the use of its Members, and the public at large, in a cheap form and at certain intervals such new, interesting, and useful facts and discoveries as the Society may have in its possession, and may, from time to time, acquire".¹ The Journal Manuscript Collection consists of nineteenth and early-twentieth century communications and original manuscript material from authors hoping to have their geographical findings published in the Society's journal and/or read at one of the Society's evening meetings.

The Journal Manuscript Collection comprises around 224 boxes of manuscript material and its associated correspondence. There are thousands of records, arranged in 21 series by geographical region, country, and/or subject. Within each series, the records are ordered chronologically, and then alphabetically by author.

What information do the records contain?

The Journal Manuscript Collection is a diverse collection of published and unpublished manuscripts detailing various geographical knowledges and findings. Most records, although not all, contain the author's original handwritten or typed manuscript, they might then include all or a combination of the following:

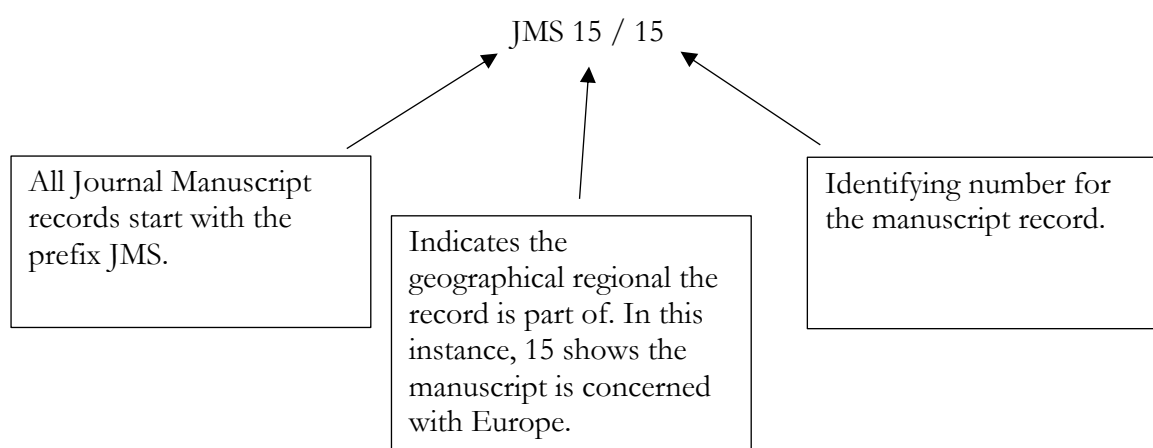
- Letters from authors
- Communications from editors
- Letters of recommendation from Fellows
- Reports or letters from referees asked to evaluate the manuscript's suitability, accuracy, or topicality
- Translated manuscript material with report from the translator
- Illustrations or other supplementary materials such as tables or maps

¹ Anonymous, "Prospectus of the Royal Geographical Society," *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London* 1, (1831): vii.

How do I search the records?

The records of the Journal Manuscript Collection are searchable on The National Archives Discovery database (see: <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/f6507016-0286-42bc-8cf6-330ddb3d0a1f>). A paper catalogue also exists in the Society's Foyle Reading Room.

The reference to Journal Manuscript records appear as follows:



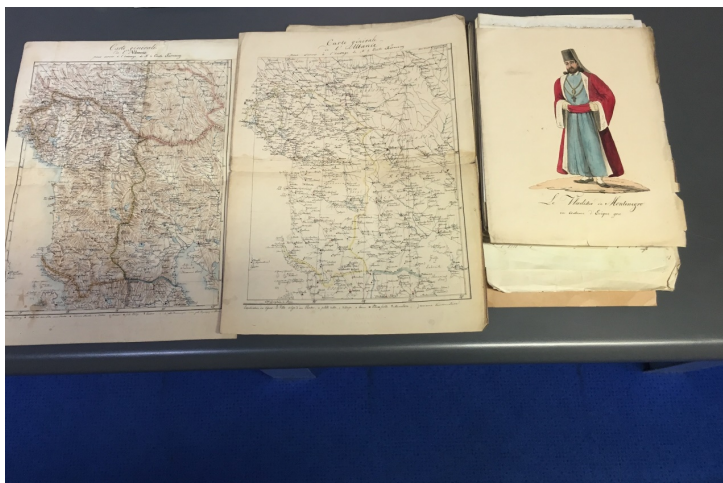
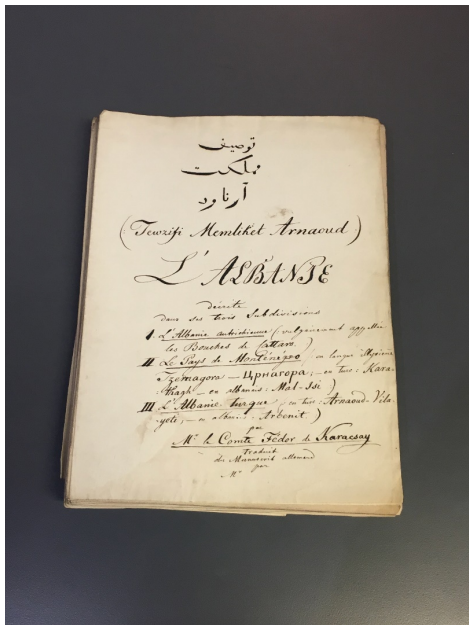
The Journal Manuscript Collection is divided by region as follows:

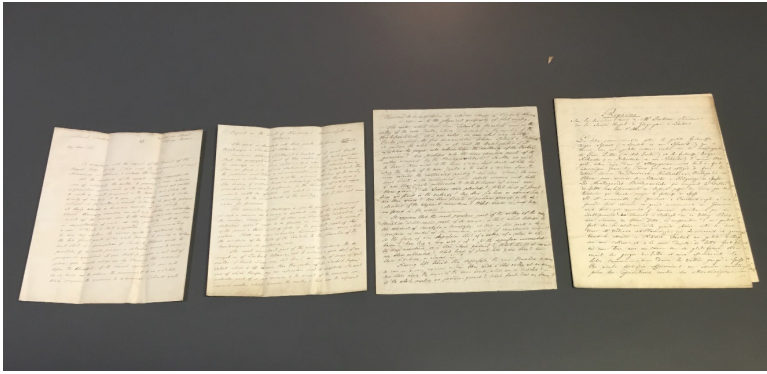
<u>Series</u>	<u>Region/Subject</u>	<u>Series</u>	<u>Region/Subject</u>
JMS 1	North and West Africa	JMS 12	Japan
JMS 2	South, Central, and East Africa	JMS 13	Australia
JMS 3	Africa (Nile)	JMS 14	New Zealand
JMS 4	North America	JMS 15	Europe
JMS 5	Central America	JMS 16	Antarctic
JMS 6	South America	JMS 17	Arctic
JMS 7	Central Asia	JMS 18	Islands
JMS 8	South East Asia	JMS 19	Maps
JMS 9	Near and Middle Asia	JMS 20	Physical Geography
JMS 10	China	JMS 21	Miscellaneous
JMS 11	India		

How you search the collection will depend upon the information you are attempting to find out, but you might find it helpful to know one or a combination of the following:

- Author's Name
- Date of submission to the Society
- To have an interest in a particular geographical region (i.e. Africa (Nile)/Central America)
- Whether the manuscript was published in the journal
- The name(s) of the referee

What do the records look like?





The above images show an example of the contents of a Journal Manuscript record — in this instance, JMS 15/15. The folder contains three parts:

- an extensive handwritten manuscript authored by Count Fedor Karazcay and written primarily in Italian.
- Illustrative material including pictures of local dress and maps of the region.
- Communications from the referee and translator William Wittich.

Useful Collections/Resources

When examining the Journal Manuscript Collection, you may also want to consult the Society's correspondence blocks for any other communications from editors/authors about publications. You may also find printed copies of the journal — available in the Foyle Reading Room and available online via JSTOR (see: <https://www.jstor.org/journal/jroyageogsocilon>) — useful for seeing the transition from script to print.

The following publications may also be helpful:

Unpublished PhD Thesis, Benjamin Newman, *Geography in Print: Cultures of Periodical Publishing at the Royal Geographical Society, 1830–1900*.

Benjamin Newman, “Authorising Geographical Knowledge: The Development of Peer Review in *The Journal of the Royal Geographical Society*, 1830–c.1880,” *Journal of Historical Geography* (Forthcoming).