



RECORD OF MONEY RECEIVED BY JOHN CARR FROM RALPH CARR WHILE IN ITALY, 1791 - 1794

REFERENCE: ZCE F/1/1/151 | SUGGESTED AGE GROUPS: KS2, KS3, KS4, LIFELONG LEARNERS | MONEY, THE GRAND TOUR

This is a note written by John Carr listing the money provided by his father, Ralph Carr, to fund the Grand Tour of John and his sister, Harriet.

Ralph Carr was a Newcastle based merchant with interests in banking, the import and export of goods to Europe and America, landholding, ship owning and underwriting. Ralph's financial success had allowed the

family to move from merchant to gentry status. Ralph was financially astute and was able to increase the family wealth considerably. When Ralph died in 1806 the value of his estate was about £200,000.



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The note records a total expenditure of £2910 over the entire period of the trip – August 1791-September 1794. The Bank of England Inflation Calculator suggests that this sum equates to about £412,000 today. The National Archives Currency Calculator suggests that £2910 was equal to 19400 days of skilled tradesmens' labour in 1790.

Bill Purdue, in his article *John and Harriet Carr: A Brother and Sister From The North-East On The Grand Tour* (Northern History vol. 30, no. 1, 1994) suggests that £2910 was a relatively modest sum for a three year Grand Tour for two people and their servants.

It was dangerous to carry cash whilst on the Grand Tour – there was a risk of robbery. Instead, tourists relied on letters of credit drawn on London banks. These were agreements that allowed the tourist to draw monies from the bank's agents in the major tourist centres. In the note John Carr makes reference to Messrs. Orsi, a bank in Florence. We know from other correspondence in the Carr-Ellison collection, for example, ZCE/F/1/1/1/132, that the Carr family was using the services of a London bank, Sir Robert Herries & Co. Ralph Carr, John and Harriet's father had his own banking interests. Around 1755 he and three partners set up the Old Bank in Newcastle, the first provincial bank in England. It seems likely that Ralph used his banking connections to ensure the transfer of funds for John and Harriet's tour. John Carr was on friendly terms with Sir Robert Herries. We know that he dined with him in London before setting off for Europe.

The Carr-Ellison papers do not include a detailed breakdown of expenditure on the tour. The major costs of the Tour were accommodation, food, and transport. John and Harriet travelled in a family carriage but removed the coat of arms that decorated the carriage prior to travel as a precautionary measure. This arrangement avoided the purchase of a carriage on the mainland. Accommodation was required for four people - John, Harriet and their servants, Dolly and Stephen. Travel costs included the hire of a postilion or guide who was familiar with the route and stabling and food costs for horses. Tourists also spent money on clothing and entertainment. If the Tour was a long one, replacement clothing may be required, and tourists were expected to dress well with some being keen to follow local fashions. Entertainment, for example, theatre and opera, were generally inexpensive.

TRANSCRIPT



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1791	After leaving England recd. [received] Rome Decr. [December] 10 th	500 0s 0d
1792	Florence June 6 th recd. [received] in notes Do. Octr. 6 th 6 th recd. [received] in do. Credit on Jenkins at Rome for	200 0s 0d 300 0s 0d <u>200 0s 0d</u> £700 0s 0d
1793	Feby 19 th Credit on Messrs. Orsi & Co. Florence for Sept. 19 th recd. Credit on Orsi & Co. for	500 0s 0d <u>500 0s 0d</u> £1000 0s 0d
1794	Rome April 9 th recd. [received] Credit On Rome, Florence, Munich for Florence Florence Augt. 1 drew for Do. Do. 5 drew for Recd. [received] in Circular Notes from Sir. R.H. Inspruck [Innsbruk] Aug. 13 th London Sepr. 8 recd. [received] of Sir. R.H.	400 100 50 100 50



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Dunston Hill Sepr. 13 recd. recd. [received] 10
Do. Oct. 26 recd. [received] £25 paid [?] for horse £710

Of the Credit for ~~£400~~ 400
drawn for at Rome in May 100
at Florence in July 180
recd. [received] in London 120
400

FURTHER READING

THE GRAND TOUR AND THE CARR FAMILY

Art Treasures in the North: Northern Families on the Grand Tour by Anne French (Unicorn Publishing Group, 2000)

John and Harriet Carr: A Brother and Sister from The North-East on The Grand Tour by Bill Purdue (Northern History, vol. 30, no. 1, 1994)

The British Abroad: The Grand Tour in the Eighteenth Century by Jeremy Black (The History Press, 1992)

Italy and the Grand Tour by Jeremy Black (Yale University Press, 2010)

Ladies of the Grand Tour by Brian Dolan (Flamingo, 2010)