

Accession number: 1992-24/39a/f

Description: Large sheet of paper, watermarked 'E SMITH 1822' with a seated figure of Britannia. Copy of a letter from T. Carr to [probably to G. Beltz, one of the executors of Mrs Garrick's will, with Thomas Rackett] of 26 March 1823.

Transcript: Copy

Dear Sir,

Notwithstanding I wrote a letter to M^r Dawson Monday immediately after I left your Chambers informing him the meeting was not to take place next Day and the letter was then left at his Chambers, which was sometime before he left Town on that Day, I find by a note just received * [* 5 o'clock aft. 26th March] from him, he went to Hampton and actually delivered the Tree the next day to the king's Gardiner – this is only an additional proof of the presumptuous and irregular conduct of M^r Dean, who has throughout this Affair, acted from personal Views of his own, regardless of the responsible situation of the Trustees and indeed without ever reflecting on the Consequences. Had he been influenced by anything but his own Views, he would have condescended to consult me as to the propriety of the measure, never failing to do so on matters of the most trifling nature, and he knows full well (for he has already excited M^r Protheroe's Jealousy) that the next of kin are watching every Movement at Hampton, and will know all that is passing about this tree. It is indeed impossible that it should be otherwise, for I find he is making a public Exhibition of it, and I have no Doubt it will be inserted in all the Newspapers. I feel myself very delicately situated, having the Confidence and being employed by the personal Representatives of two of the next of kin to whom I must represent what has occurred both in justice to the Trustees and myself, and I now feel it necessary to caution them against allowing M^r Dean to act any further, as I am persuaded from his wilful disregard of the notice I gave him their Characters (any more than my own) will not be exempt from reproach, if he is permitted to arrogate their authority I have written this hastily to you from M^r Dean's having desired me to meet you and M^r Rackett tomorrow at 2 when I am apprehensive I shall be engaged in court as my Petitions are appointed to be heard tomorrow and there are a great many –

I remain

Dear Sir

Yours &c

T. Carr

John Street

Monday Afternoon

26 March 1823

P.S. I observe on reading M^r Dean's letter that the Tree is not to be removed till^{next} Tuesday, when he pretends there is to be a great Assemblage, which I am convinced is all a pretext, for obtaining the Sanction of the Trustees to what he has not dared to carry into Effect. I am therefore glad the project may be put an End to.

Notes:

Mr Dawson: unidentified

Mr Dean: James Dean, agent to the Garrick Trustees, 34 Tavistock St., Covent Garden, see **1992-24/39e/d**

T. Carr: *Mr Carr:* Thomas Carr, Mrs' Garrick's solicitor; his wife was a close friend of hers. After Mrs Garrick's death he bought the Hampton house estate and put it in repair.

Richmond Libraries Local Studies Collection 'local_history_garricks_villa.pdf'. p.5

Mr Protheroe: John Evans later known as John Protheroe, who had married David Garrick the nephew's widow, Emma. London Metropolitan Archive ACC/0527.