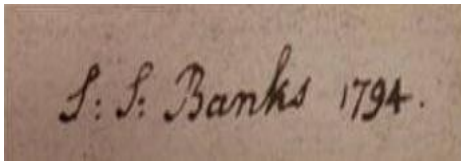


Banks, Sarah Sophia

(1744-1818)



Biographical and Other Notes

Virtuoso collector of “antiquarian items which documented the social history of her age”: coins, medals, tokens, numismatic books and printed works. Pioneer collector of printed ephemera. On her death, her brother Sir Joseph Banks presented her coins to the BM and any books and prints they lacked. Others went to the Royal Mint Museum. The ephemera, about 19,000 items, went to her sister-in-law and ultimately the BM.

There is an unflattering Gillray print showing her as a formidable character!

Sources and References

HEM Encyclopædia 1 – Auction.

HEM Encyclopædia 4 – Biographical.

R. J. Eaglen, ‘Sarah Sophia Banks and her English hammered coins’ BNJ vol. 78 (2008), 200-15.

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