

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-00904-1 - Historical Account of the Substances which have been used to Describe Events, and to Convey Ideas, from the Earliest Date, to the Invention of Paper

Matthias Koops

Frontmatter

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Historical Account of the Substances Which have been Used to Describe Events, and to Convey Ideas, from the Earliest Date, to the Invention of Paper

Matthias Koops was a pioneer of mechanical paper-making. He invented new processes for making paper from wood pulp rather than from rags, and for recycling paper itself to a condition in which it could be used for printing. The first edition (1800) of this book was printed entirely on paper which he had produced from straw, but the paper has darkened over the years, making reproduction difficult. The second edition of 1801, dedicated like the first to King George III, was printed partly on a better type of straw paper and partly on recycled paper; the Appendix was 'printed on paper made from wood alone, the produce of this country, without any intermixture of rags, waste paper, bark, straw, or any other vegetable substance'. Koops's aim was to overcome the problem of the scarcity of rags for paper-making, which he believed was a restraint on the development of commerce and of science, by producing paper from natural sources which were almost inexhaustible. However, the factory which he established for manufacturing his papers went bankrupt after only one year, and it was to be nearly two centuries before his ambition to print new books on paper made from recycled old ones became a practical possibility for the industry.

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*The Egyptian Papyrus, or Paper Rush;
Taken from Prosper Alpinus.*

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WHICH HAVE BEEN USED TO

DESCRIBE EVENTS, AND TO CONVEY IDEAS,

FROM THE

EARLIEST DATE

TO THE

INVENTION OF PAPER.

SECOND EDITION.

PRINTED ON PAPER RE-MADE FROM OLD PRINTED AND
WRITTEN PAPER.

By MATTHIAS KOOPS, *Esq.*

LONDON:

PRINTED BY JACQUES AND CO. 30, LOWER SLOANE STREET.

1801.

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TO
HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
GEORGE THE THIRD,
KING
OF
THE UNITED KINGDOMS
OF
GREAT-BRITAIN
AND
IRELAND.

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MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN.

SIRE,

YOUR MAJESTY having been Most Graciously pleased to grant me Patents for extracting printing and writing ink from waste Paper, by reducing it to a pulp, and converting it into *white Paper*, fit for writing, printing, and for other purposes; and also for manufacturing Paper from Straw, Hay, Thistles, waste and refuse of Hemp and Flax, and different kinds of Wood and Bark, fit for printing, and almost all other purposes for which Paper is used,

And

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And YOUR MAJESTY having in September last year condescended to permit me to lay at Your feet the first useful Paper which has ever been made from Straw alone* without any addition of rags; the Gracious Reception it has met with from YOUR MAJESTY, the approbation of the Publick, and the encouragement which the Legislature has given me by passing an A&t of Parliament in its favour has engaged me to reprint these lines on Paper-manufactured from Straw solely in a more improved state, although not yet brought to such a state of perfection as it will be made in a regular manufacture, which must be entirely

* Part of this Edition is printed on Straw Paper.

constructed

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[v]

constructed for such purpose, and which I most humbly flatter myself will now much sooner be established by the indulgence which YOUR MAJESTY'S Parliament has granted me. This new Effay proves, there cannot be any doubt that good and useful Paper can be made from Straw alone.

The favourable manner in which YOUR MAJESTY has deigned to look on these my humble attempts of discovery shall be a constant incitement to future exertions, and the prospect of meriting commendation of a KING, always ready to countenance the most humble endeavours which tend to the common welfare, and who has proved
Himself

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Himself the Illuftrious Patron and Protector of Arts and Sciences, obliges me to unremitted perfeverance to bring my attempts to perfection, in the profpect of meriting YOUR MAJESTY'S commendation, which will be the greateft pleasure I can be fenfible of.

With the moft ardent wifhes for YOUR MAJESTY'S health and longevity, and with all poffible deference and humility, I beg leave, MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN, to fubfcribe myfelf,

YOUR MAJESTY'S

moft devoted,

moft obedient,

and moft humble Servant,

i 7, James-ftreet.
Buckingham-gate,
August 30, 1801.

MATTHIAS KOOPS.