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'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht'

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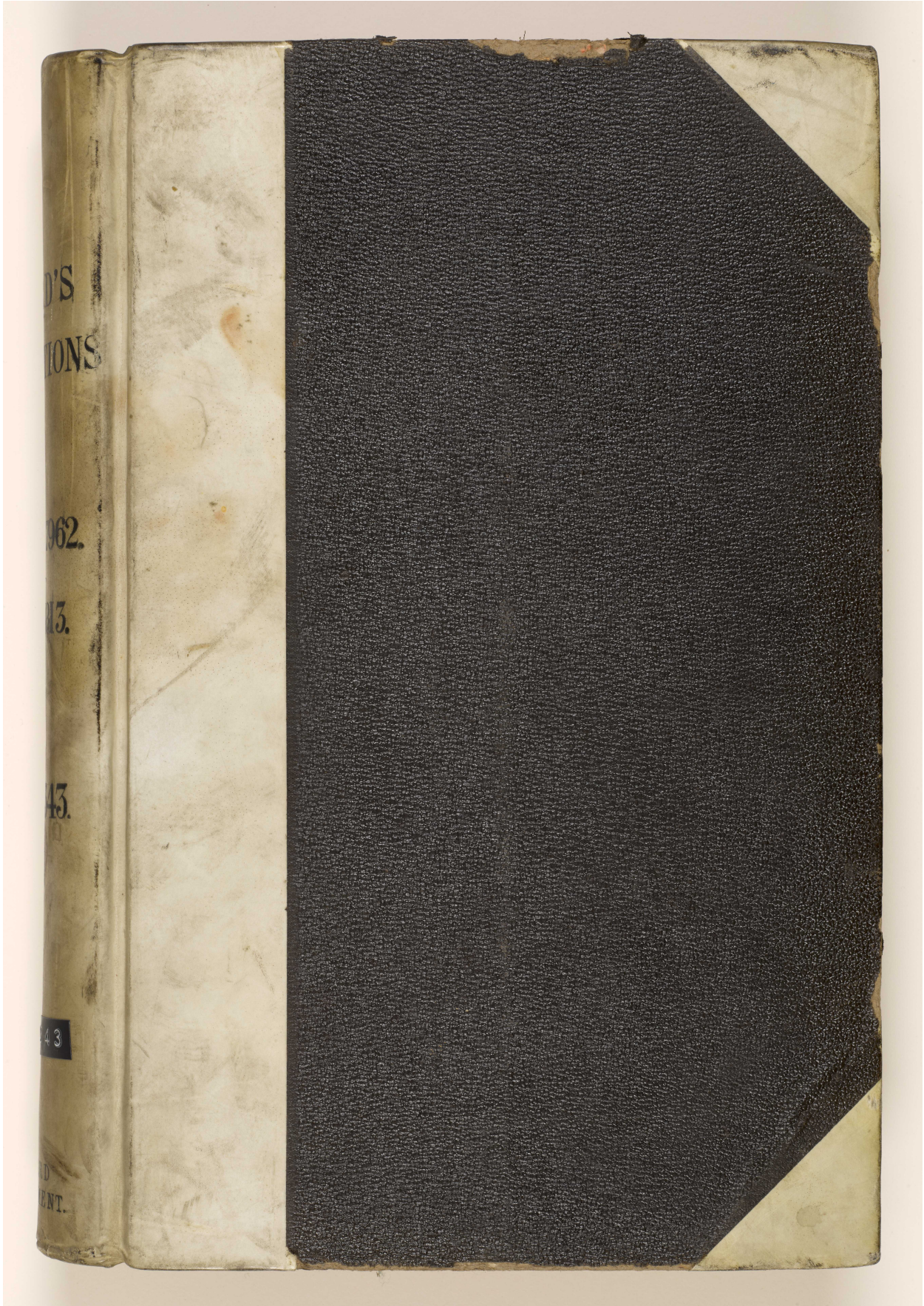
About this record

This item consists of copies of correspondence and resolutions cited in, or enclosed with, political letters from the Government of Bombay. The correspondents are the Government of Bombay and the British Resident in Muscat, William Chichely Bunce.

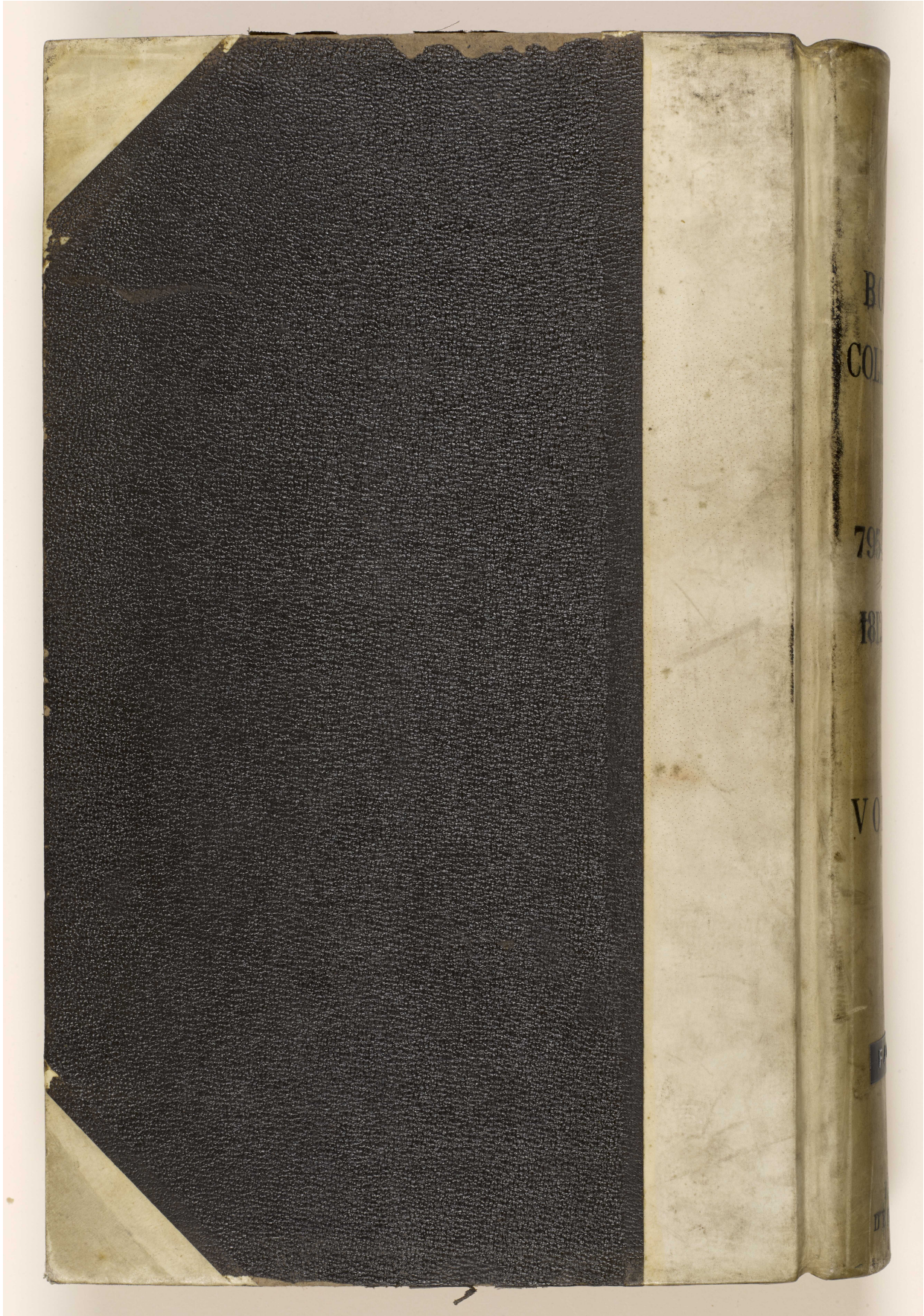
The item concerns the appointment of Bunce as British Resident at his own urging, and paying him an extra allowance to allow him to maintain a yacht. This is because of the unhealthy climate of Muscat, which has contributed to the deaths of the previous Residents. The death of Bunce is recorded. A search for a new site for the Residency has been started.

The title page of this item contains the following references: 'Political No. 13, Draft 33, Season 1812/3, Examiner's Office February 1811'.

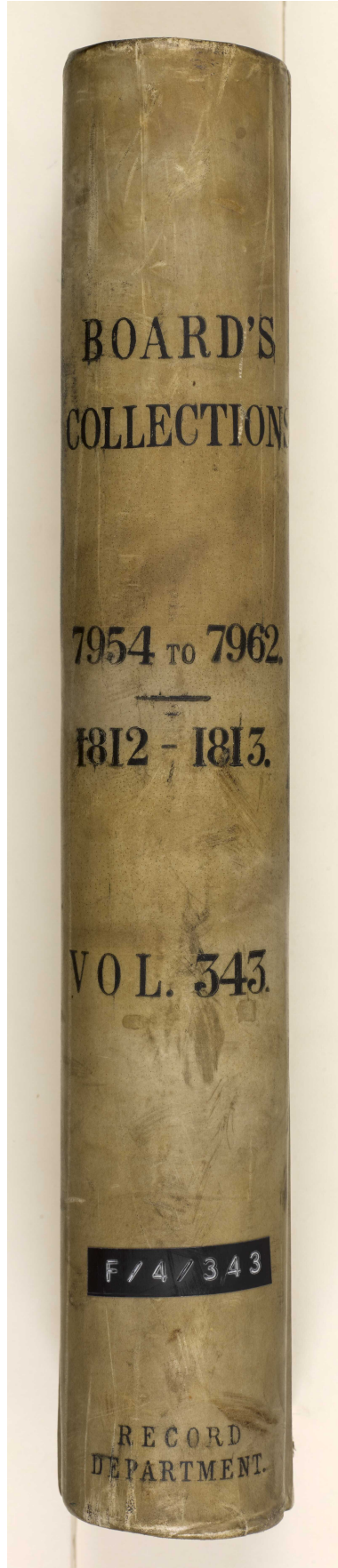
'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [front] (1/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [back]
(2/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [spine] (3/24)



**'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [edge]
(4/24)**



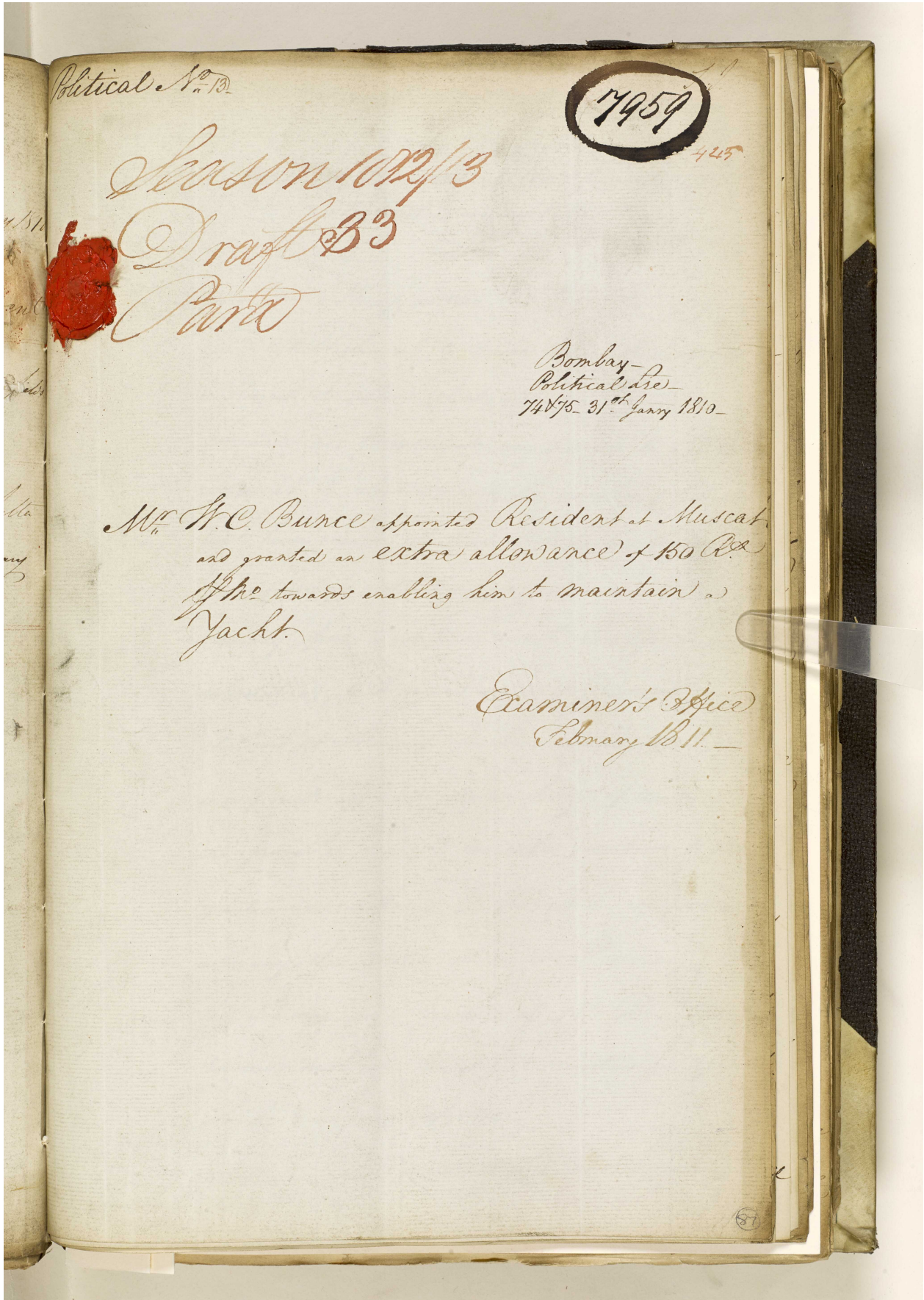
'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [head] (5/24)



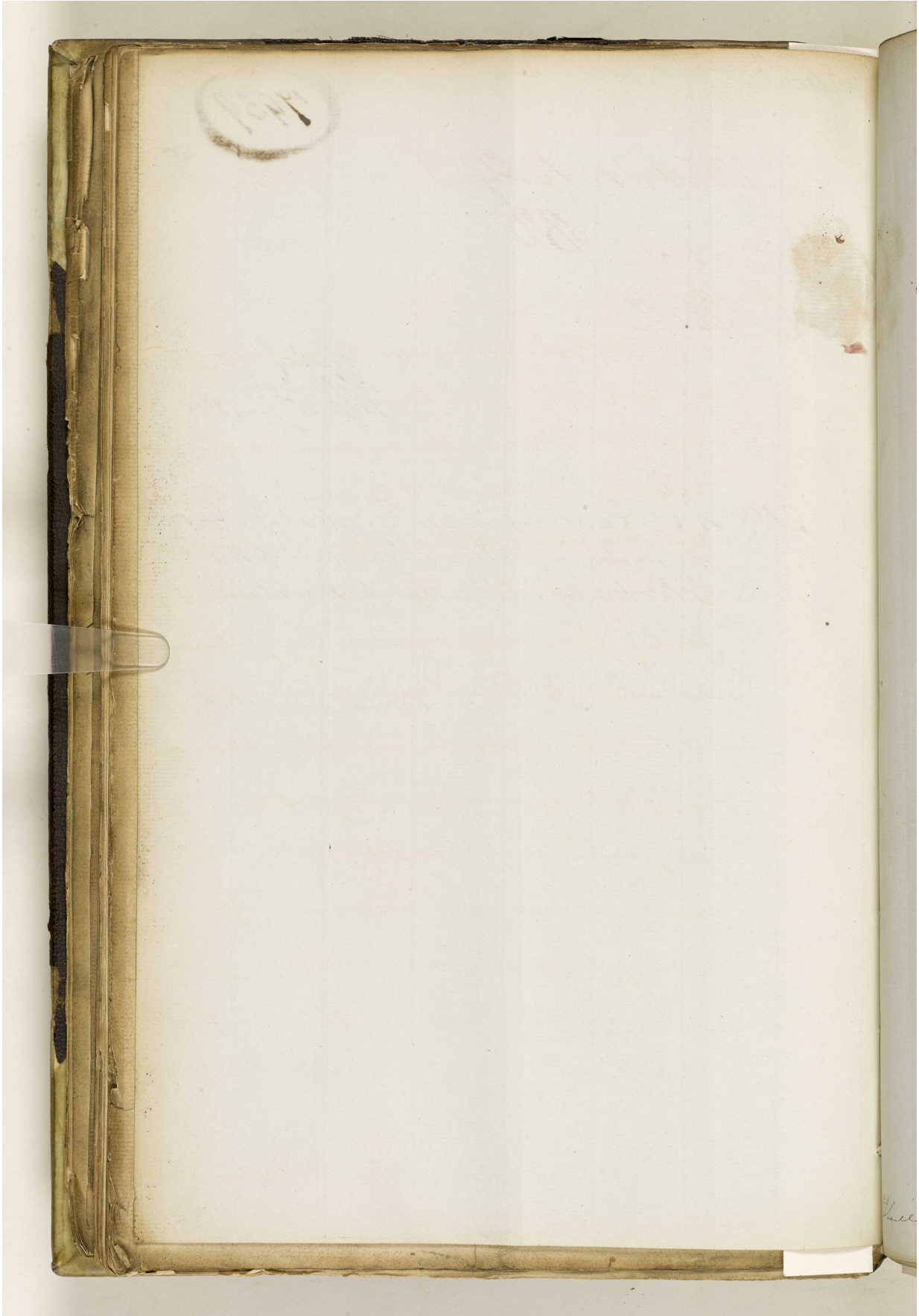
'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [tail] (6/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [87r] (7/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of
150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [87v]
(8/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [88r] (9/24)

Extracts of Political Letter from Bombay,
Dated 31st January 1810.

Part 74. We appointed Mr W. C. Bunce, of your Civil Establishment, to succeed to the Presidency of Muscat at his own solicitation, since we had determined not to nominate any successor to the late Resident, in consideration to the number of Casualties that have occurred at that Station, and though we found ourselves restricted, by urgent considerations of economy, from a compliance with this Gentleman's solicitations, to have a Cruiser permanently stationed at Muscat for his accommodation, in case of sickness rendering a change of air indispensable, we yet consented, in view to the greater unhealthiness of Muscat in comparison with any other Station under this Presidency, to his drawing an allowance of 150 Rs a Month towards enabling himself to maintain a Yacht which he already possessed.

75. Meanwhile we had it in contemplation

Chancellor

(as)

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [88v] (10/24)

(as your Honorable Court will find by 14th Part of our Instructions to the Commanders of the Expedition dispatched against the Soasmees, adverted to in a subsequent part of this Address,) to remove the Residency to a more salubrious situation should a favourable occasion present itself, leaving a Native Agent at Muscat, which would be sufficient for local purposes if his conduct were generally superintended by a Resident established in one of the Islands of the Persian Gulph.

46. Since writing the above we have received the melancholy intelligence of the death of Mr. Bunce in November last. This Gentleman being the third Resident who has fallen a victim to the insalubrity of Muscat within the short period of these two years, viz;

1st Lieutenant Watts of your Native Infantry, who died while acting as Resident in September 1808.

2^d Captain Soton, in July 1809 - and

3^d Lastly Mr Bunce, in December following.

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of
150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [89r]
(11/24)

Extract Bombay Political Consultations

the 18th August 1809.

Read the following Letter from
Mr W. C. Bunce of the Civil Service to the President
Sir,

The intelligence, which arrived
of the loss which Government have sustained
of their Resident at Muscat, induced me
to wait on you this morning, with the
intention of offering my services for that
Station, conceiving that the small local
knowledge I possess of that Country & its
inhabitants, may by my assiduity & exertion
be so employed as to recommend me the
favorable notice of Government, & ultimately
recommend me to that situation, which
the consolidating the Residencies of Bagdad

Bunce

and

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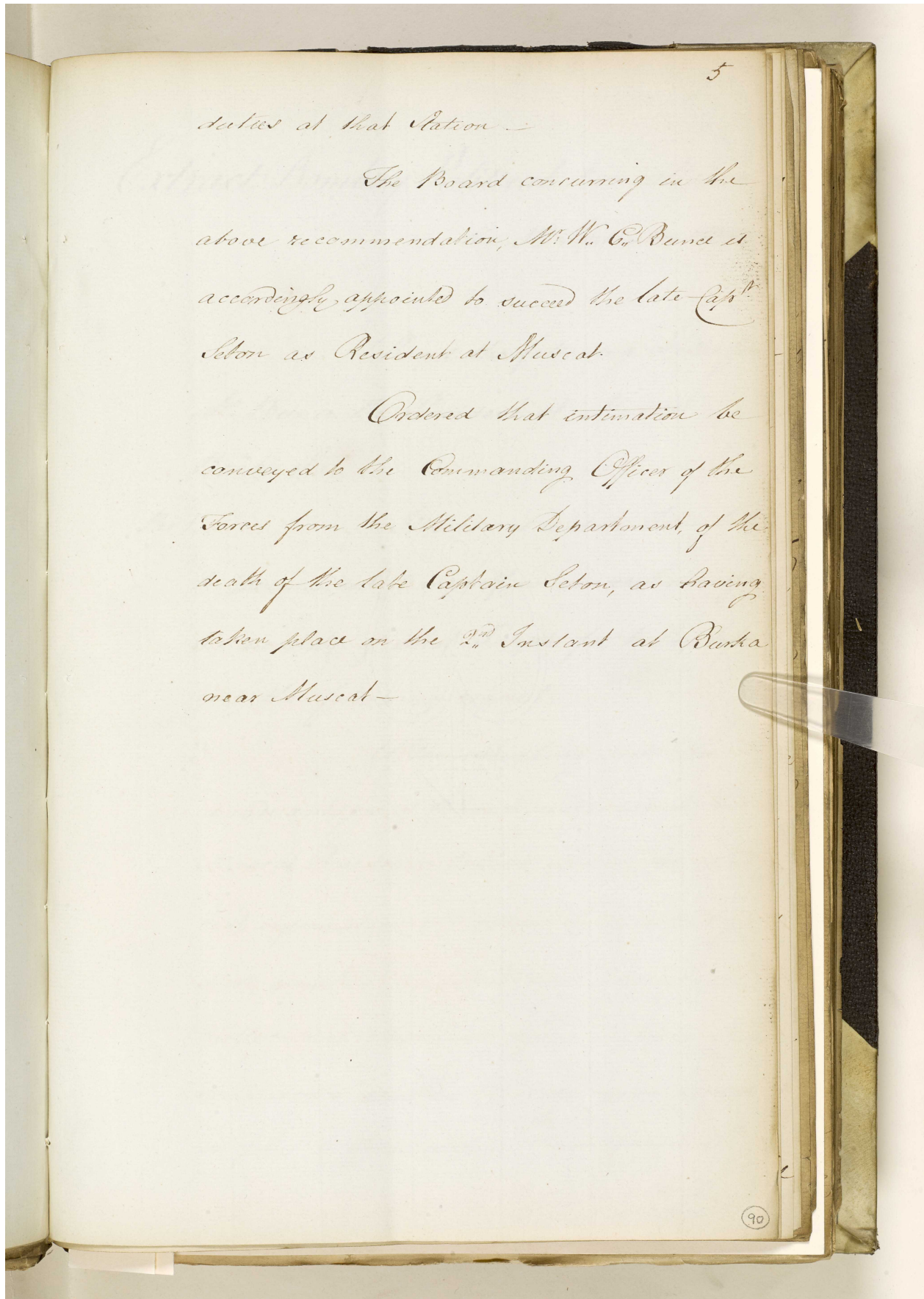
'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [89v]
(12/24)

and Bafora has for the present deprived
me of the prospect of, or to some other with
an equally extensive political field.

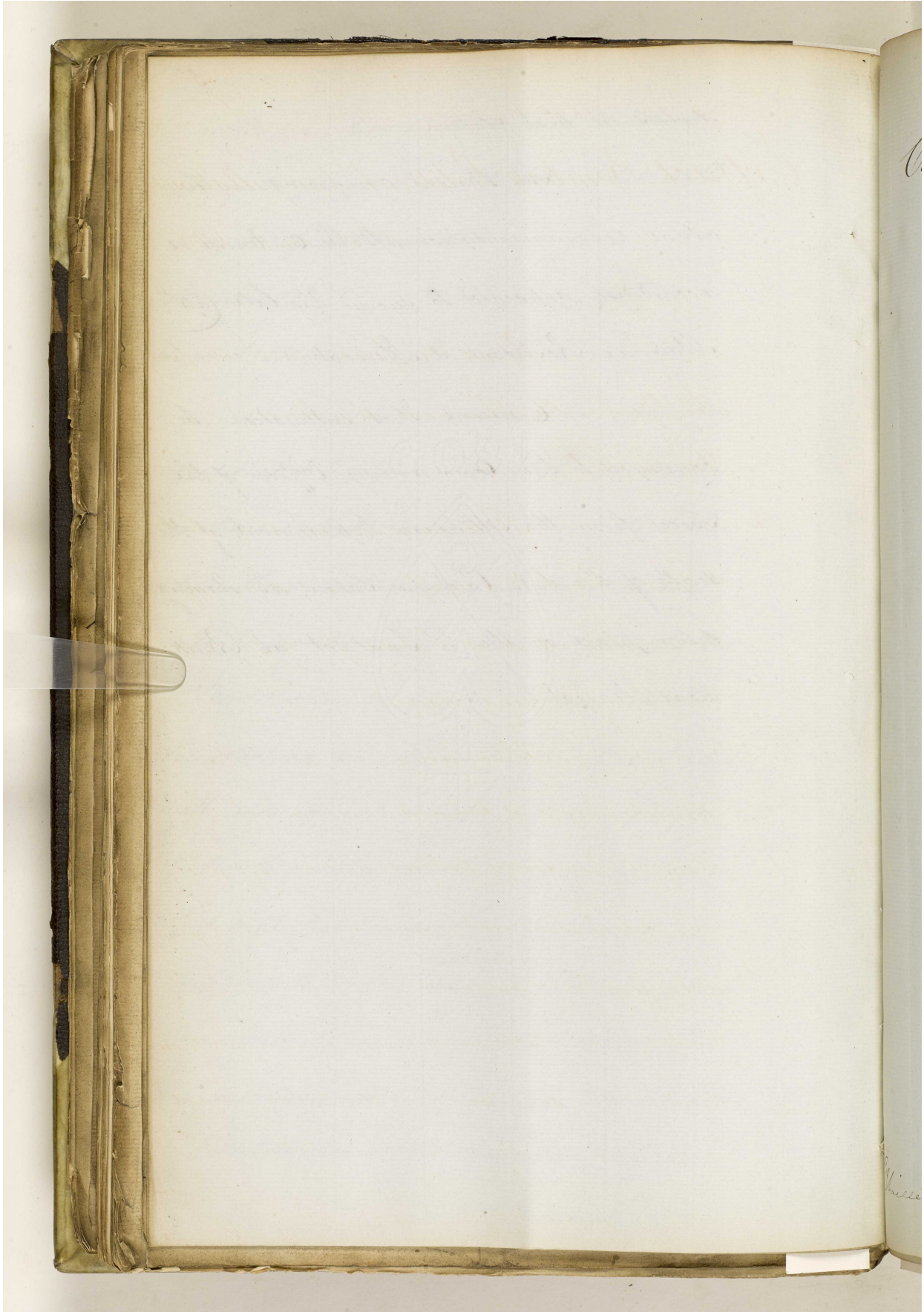
Bombay 13th } I have &c
August 1809 } (Signed) W. C. Bunce

As in view to the approaching
expedition to the Gulf some qualified agency
on shore on that part of the Coast of Arabia
where the operations are chiefly intended,
will be necessary, the Governor proposes that
Mr Bunce may be appointed to succeed the
late Captain Selou, Resident at Muscat, which
will also operate a saving of 100 Rupees
per Month in the public expenditure, being
what that Gentleman now draws as an
Assistant to the Resident ^{to the Residency} at Bafora, which
there will be no occasion to fill up under
the arrangement made by the Honble. Court
of Directors for conducting the public
affairs

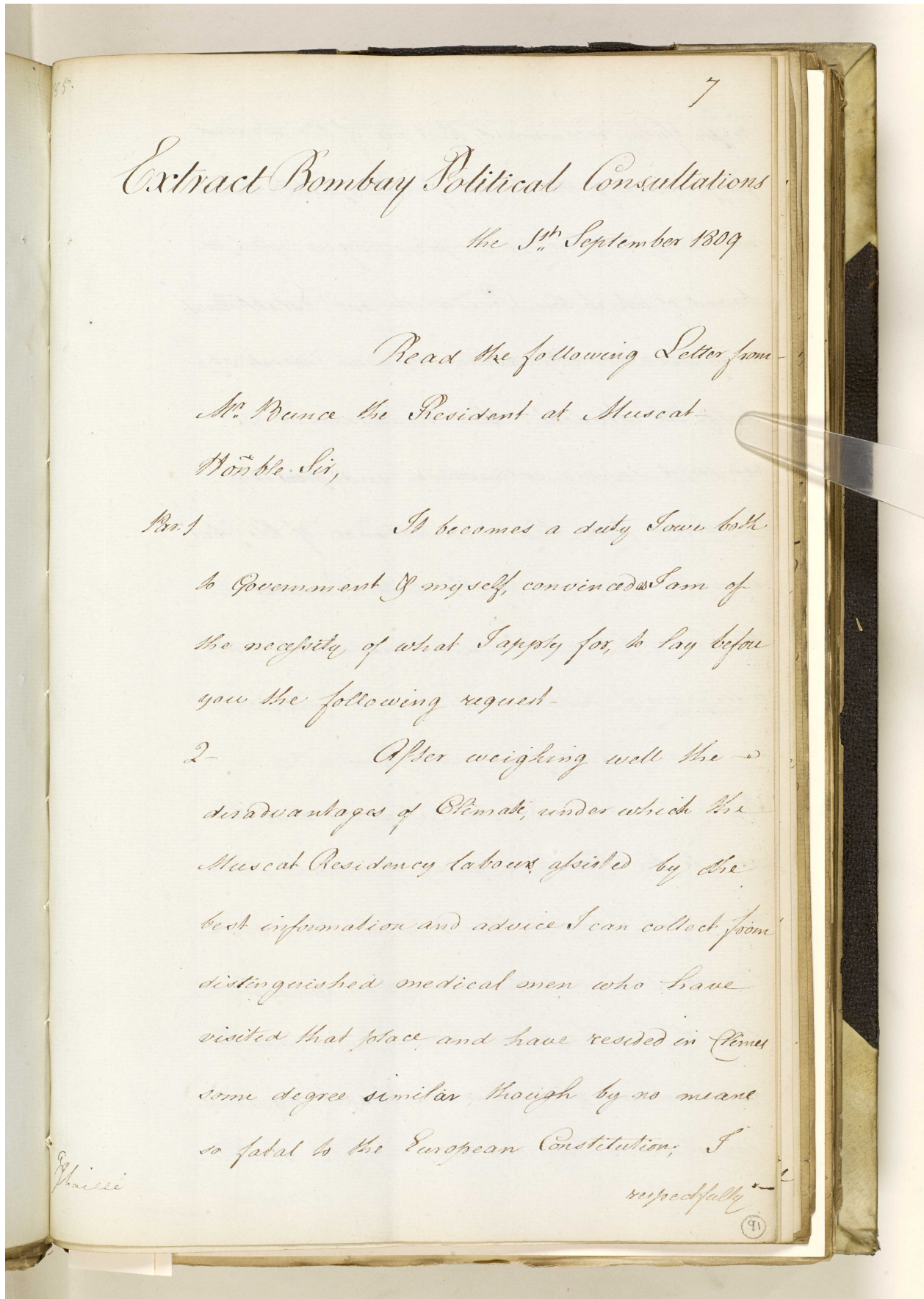
'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [90r] (13/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [90v]
(14/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [91r] (15/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [91v] (16/24)

respectfully recommend, that one of the means for preserving the health of those public Servants who may be there, is the providing a vessel, on board of which the Resident and Establishment may occasionally reside when on necessary duty at Muscat; this arrangement is rendered in my estimation indispensably necessary from the circumstance of the place usually occupied by the late Resident in the Town, being literally a Horse Stable, with a temporary shelter erected on its top, & situated in the very worst part of the Town—

3. I have calculated that the cost to the Honble Company of a Yacht of the description I propose, built in the Bombay Marine Yard; would not exceed in amount, the sum of Ten thousand Rupees, and that the maintenance of the crew at Muscat, would not cause a disbursement exceeding five hundred Rupees

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [92r] (17/24)

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Rupees per Month, while the advantages to be derived from this increase of expense would be the preservation of the health of those who were then, and of course their more constant services; and in the event of intelligence of consequence the Resident through the means of this Vessel could command a speedy communication with either the Presidency, or any other part, without the expense attending the hire of private Vessels on the public Service. To suppose it possible that the Resident at Muscat may possess himself of Political Intelligence of consequence, it is only necessary to read over some of the late communications with that Residency.

¶ If the duties of the station are considered of consequence enough to authorize the present Establishment, it would authorize the additional expense of five hundred Rupees p^r Month, if it only enabled the Residents

to

(92)

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [92v] (18/24)

to remain there two Months more in the year than he otherwise would be able to do; for it is evident from your paying the Resident 1500 Rupees p. Month you judge his Services there worth that sum, and of course if you allow him to be driven away from his Station, for the want of requisite means of preserving health, the Salary which you are then in common justice obliged to continue to him, is I contend during his absence from his Station, so much Money expended without your receiving an equivalent of Service of it, independant of his being after every sickness usually less & less capable of the active discharge of his duties.

5- If the Honble the Governor in Council will look over the disbursements of the other gulphs Residencies, he will discover that charges of a similar nature have in some

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [93r] (19/24)

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some instances been sanctioned, though in more where it was more requisite than in the present, and at no place where the Vessel would be more likely to be of any other public Service, on any occasion than that of a mere pleasure boat; the increase of what you may term dead stock in these economical times may be an argument against the first Cost; but on a comparison of that Muscat Account with the Bafora one, it will be perceived that with the addition of the Ten thousand Rupees Disbursement I propose; it will not increase its amount to more than equal to one sixth part of the Bafora dead stock, and will consist of a Vessel which it is highly probable will be found of much service to the Company.

O— On contrasting my present application with the one made by the late Resident, in a Letter dated Bombay January 7th 1809 (93)

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [93v] (20/24)

1st BUN. The arrangement then proposed will be found to be one on a much more expensive footing than what I now suggest; but to prove this assertion it will be only requisite for Government to inform themselves of the sailing charges of the *arrua*, the ship then alluded to: - The Commencement of the Letter above mentioned, & its general tenor, is a plain ground for supposing that the Hon^{ble} the Governor was then convinced of the necessity of having some Vessel at Muscat, and after the most minute enquiry ^{I can} discover nothing which can have induced him to alter so good a determination.

I Trust Government will immediately give the necessary Orders for the building of the Yacht I propose, in which case I understand she may be ready to sail hence in the course of three Months, when
she

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [94r] (21/24)

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she will be capable of conveying to me any
 Packets Government on any ^{large} for Europe or the
 Gulph, to be forwarded by such means as I
 then may be able to Command, a Service
 which, judging by the sum usually paid for
 the conveyance of Packets, or by the sailing
 charges of a Cruiser employed on such Service,
 may fairly entitle the Vessel to a credit of
 least 2000 Rupees: I hope till this Yacht is
 ready, the Government will make a point
 of employing in her place the best Vessel
 they can procure of a similar description
 &c. To the Honble Board whom
 I now address, I urge not the plea of the
 humanity of the arrangement I suggest; it
 will naturally have all the weight it
 can have on your decision without being
 more pressed on your attention

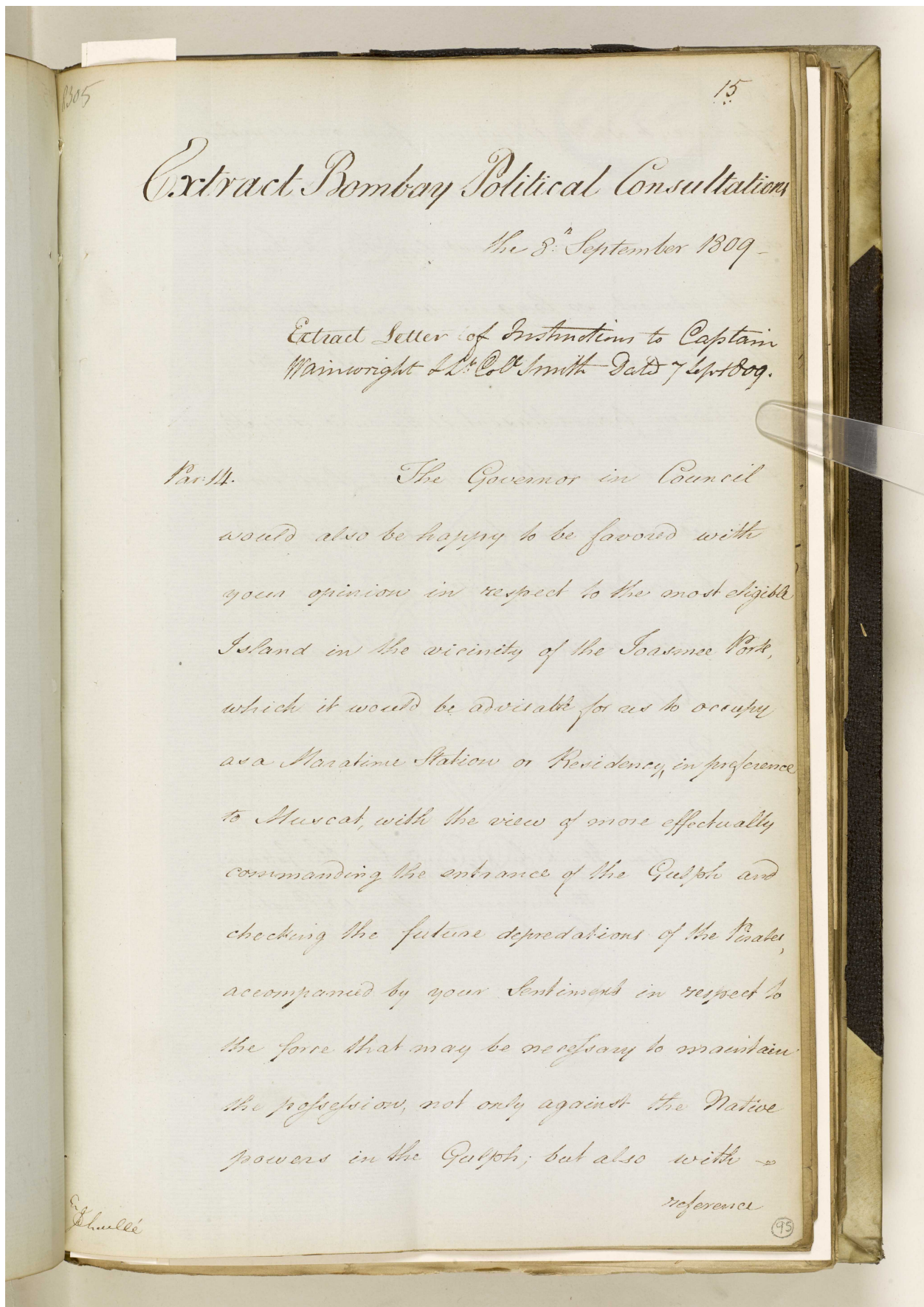
Bombay
 29th August
 1809.

I have &c
 (Signed) W. C. Bunce
 Resident
 94

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [94v] (22/24)

Although Government cannot
sanction the permanent Establishment of any
Vessel at Muscat for the purpose adverted
to by Mr. Bunce, the more especially as the
frequentation of that Port by so many British
and Native Vessels must afford so many opportunities
of quitting it, in the event of his health
requiring a change of air, of which he may
under that circumstance at all times avail
himself; still Government will, in consideration
of the reputed greater unhealthiness of Muscat
than any other Station in the Gulf, make
an allowance of Rupees (150) one hundred &
fifty p. Mensem, for the purpose of enabling him
to keep upon his own account such a small
Manshime conveyance as may enable him
to leave Muscat for a change of air, in the
event of his being overtaken by sickness.

'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [95r] (23/24)



'Mr W. C. Bunce appointed Resident at Muscat and granted an extra allowance of 150 R p m [Rupees per mensem] towards enabling him to maintain a yacht' [95v] (24/24)

No
reference to such European force occasionally
visit that quarter, & which it is not to be
supposed will ever exceed two French Frigates
at the utmost, so long as we maintain our
Maritime superiority; the removal of the
Residency from Muscat, is the more detriable
from the lamentable casualties that have
occurred at that insalubrious Station; at
which perhaps every object we have in
view, would be attainable thro' the agency
of the Native Broker, controlled by the presence
of the Resident at a vicinal Port.

Mem- It will be perceived from the following
Collection that W Bunce is dead & that
the Residencies of Muscat & Bushire
have been consolidated -