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# Guide to the Stair Papers

OSB MSS 24



by Beinecke Staff

May 1996

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(203) 432-2977  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 24

**CREATOR:** Stair, John Dalrymple, Earl of, 1673-1747

**TITLE:** Stair papers

**DATES:** 1722-1745

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of letters and a few miscellaneous papers documenting the last part of Stair's political and military career. There are 53 letters from Sarah Jennings Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, written to inform Stair of developments in London, 1737-1742. Subjects include the royal family; the illness and death of Queen Caroline; the political intrigues of the Prince of Wales and members of his court; Robert Walpole and the opposition to his government; foreign affairs, particularly relations with Spain and France; and the Duchess' family difficulties. Other correspondents include Eugene, Prince of Savoy; James Erskine, Lord Grange, and Henri, comte de Calenberg, whose two lengthy letters discuss the international political situation.

In addition, the collection contains several contemporary satires and portraits; notes of a 1733 speech given in Parliament by Lord Stair; and papers concerning the defense of Ostend in 1745.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.stair>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.stair>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Unspecified, please consult the appropriate curator.

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### **Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.

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### **Conditions Governing Use**

The Stair Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### **Preferred Citation**

Stair Papers. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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### **Processing Information**

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, this has been noted in the box-and-folder list.

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## **Scope and Contents**

This finding aid encompasses accessions of materials pertaining to John Dalrymple, 2nd earl of Stair.

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**Collection Contents**
**Correspondence, 1738 Mar 14, 1740 Jan 30**

|   |  |                             |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1                                    | Bath, William Pulteney, earl of, 1684-1764. 2 ALS to the Earl of Stair, London<br>On parliamentary affairs.  | 1738 Mar 14,<br>1740 Jan 30 |
| b. 1, f. 2                                    | Calenberg, Henri, comte de, 1685-1772. Letter (copy) to Comte de Harrach, Brussels<br>On the international political situation.  | 1744 Dec 19                 |
| b. 1, f. 3                                    | Chanclos, comte de. LS to [the Earl of Stair], Ostend<br>Requests supplies.  | 1745 Aug 8                  |
| b. 1, f. 4                                    | Eugene, prince de Savoie-Carignan, 1663-1736. LS to the Earl of Stair, Camp de Wisenthal   | 1734 Jul 19                 |
| b. 1, f. 5                                    | Grange, James Erskine, Lord, 1679-1754. 2 AL to the Earl of Stair, London<br>Sends detailed news of an intrigue involving the Prince of Wales and many members of Parliament and peers.  | 1740 Feb 11, 1740<br>Feb 27 |
| b. 1, f. 6-9                                  | Marlborough, Sarah (Jennings) Churchill, duchess of, 1660-1744. 53 letters to the Earl of Stair, [v.p.]<br><br>After losing his seat in the Lords in 1734, Stair retired to Scotland and devoted himself to organizing the opposition to Walpole there. These letters were written to inform Stair of developments in London. They contain gossip about Walpole, George II (his quarrels with the prince of Wales and the death and funeral of Queen Caroline), the Duke of Argyle, and other members of the opposition. The Duchess also writes at length about parliamentary and foreign affairs in a more general way and discusses difficulties with her own family. One letter contains an interesting passage on Jonathan Swift. | 1737 Jan-1742<br>Jan        |
| Stair, John Dalrymple, 2nd earl of, 1673-1747 |  |                             |
| b. 1, f. 10                                   | ALS to Calenberg, Henri, comte de<br><br>Draft of a response to Comte de Calenberg's letter on the international situation.  | [1745]                      |
| b. 1, f. 11                                   | <a href="#">"Notes of a speech in Parliament"</a><br><br>Holograph.  | 1733                        |
| b. 1, f. 12                                   | Memorandum on the defense of Ostend<br><br>Holograph.  | 1745                        |
| b. 1, f. 13                                   | Stewart, John. 2 ALS to the Earl of Stair, Prince Rupert's Bay and Kingston<br>Affairs in the West Indies.   | 1740 Dec 23, 1741<br>Sep 10 |
| b. 1, f. 14                                   | Villeroi, François de Neufville, duc de, 1644-1730. LS to the Earl of Stair, Paris   | 1722 Apr 7                  |
| b. 1, f. 15                                   | Unidentified correspondent<br>Describes combat with the Turks.   | 1738                        |

**Manuscripts, n.d.**

|             |  |            |
|-------------|--|------------|
| b. 1, f. 16 | Anonymous 18th century verse satire, in the form of a Greek tragedy  | n.d.       |
| b. 1, f. 17 | "A Character of Her Highness the Princess . . . attempted by Richard Hollings, M.D.", autograph ms.  | [1737]     |
| b. 1, f. 18 | "A Character of Queen Anne," by the Duchess of Marlborough   | [1738]     |
| b. 1, f. 19 | "An Epitaph of Cardinal Mazarin," anonymous manuscript   | n.d.       |
| b. 1, f. 20 | "Protest against rejecting the motion for and address to his majesty to settle £100,000 per annum on his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales," anonymous manuscript | n.d.       |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Tally of the Division on a recent vote   |            |
|             | Originally enclosed in ALS from Sarah Jennings Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough   | 1738 Mar 3 |
| b. 1, f. 21 | A dissent to the vote, giving reasons  | 1738       |

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Anglo-Spanish War, 1739-1748  
Austrian Succession, War of, 1740-1748  
Women -- Political activity -- Great Britain

### Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Court and courtiers  
Great Britain -- Foreign relations -- 1727-1760  
Great Britain -- Politics and government --  
1727-1760

### Occupations

Politicians -- Great Britain

### Names

Calenberg, Henri, comte de, 1685-1772  
Caroline, consort of George II, King of Great  
Britain, 1683-1737  
Eugene, of Savoy, Prince of Savoy, 1663-1736  
Frederick Louis, Prince of Wales, 1707-1751  
George, King of Great Britain, II, 1683-1760  
Grange, James Erskine, Lord, 1679-1754  
Marlborough, Charles Spencer, Duke of,  
1706-1758  
Marlborough, Sarah Jennings Churchill,  
Duchess of, 1660-1744  
Neufville, François de, 1644-1730  
Stair, John Dalrymple, Earl of, 1673-1747  
Walpole, Robert, Earl of Orford, 1676-1745

### Families

Hanover, House of

### Corporate Body

Great Britain. Parliament -- 18th century