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Guide to the Lady Sundon, Letterbook

OSBORN FC110



by Beinecke Staff

August 2005

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: OSBORN FC110

TITLE: [Letterbook]

DATES: [18th century]

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Manuscript, in more than one hand, of a collection of about 315 copies of letters to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon. Almost all the letters in the first volume are from Sarah Churchill, the Duchess of Marlborough, regarding the Duchess' involvement in secret political affairs and intrigues, including those surrounding the son of James II, whom the Duchess calls "the Pretender." The first volume begins with "A list of Papers the Dutchess of Marlborough gave Mrs. Clayton to read, and beg'd they might lye in her custody, which they did for twelve months not careing to trust them in any other hand, and being afraid to keep them in her own house," and "The Cypher the Dutchess of Marlborough (when she went abroad) left with Mrs. Clayton to write to her by." The second volume contains letters, dated between 1722 and 1732, by various correspondents including Mary, Countess Cowper, the Duchess of Kent, the Countess of Pomfret, and the Countess of Pembroke, and are of a primarily social nature; topics include visits in town and Mrs. Clayton's health.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.fc110>

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.fc110>.

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.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

For provenance information, consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Osborn fc110 is 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.

Preferred Citation

Lady Sundon, Letterbook. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing list or card set. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained; the volume may contain additional unlisted material.

Scope and Contents

The following finding aid is a complete inventory of the contents of Osborn fc110. This list was reformatted from previously existing cataloging.

Collection Contents

OSBORN FC110

ANNE, QUEEN OF GT. BRIT., 1665-1714

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Sophia, Electress of Hanover, consort of Ernest Augustus, 1714 May 19
 Elector of Hanover (1630-1714)
 St. James
 2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Asks that she "contribute to the
 security of the Succession".
 110/I/91

ANNE, QUEEN OF GT. BRIT., 1665-1714

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to George, king of Gt. Brit. and Elector of Hanover (1660-1727) 1714 May 19
 St. James
 2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Warns him not to disrupt the
 succession.
 110/I/92

[ANONYMOUS]

- b. 1 3 letters (copies) to Sarah (Jennings) Churchill, duchess of Marlborough 1714 Jun 5-11
 (1660-1744)
 Hanover
 4 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Concerns the proceedings of the
 Electoral Court and the death of
 Sophia, Electress of Hanover,
 consort of Ernest Augustus, Elector
 of Hanover (1630-1714).
 110/I/94-96

BENSON, W.

- b. 2 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) n.d.
 n.p.
 1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Expression of gratitude.
 110/II/314

BURNET, GILBERT, 1690-1726

- b. 2 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) n.d.
 n.p.
 1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Sends his sermon and a copy for
 Sarah (Jennings) Churchill, duchess
 of Marlborough (1660-1744).
 110/II/316

CLARKE, SAMUEL, 1675-1729

CLARKE, SAMUEL, 1675-1729 (continued)

- b. 2 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1728 Oct 15
Windsor
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Describes the health of Caroline,
queen consort of George II
(1683-1737).
110/II/271

CLAYTON, ROBERT, BP. OF CLOGHER, 1695-1758

- b. 1 15 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1730-32
1730 Apr 30 - 1732 Jun 25
Dublin
45 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Correspondence about books, church
politics, and Parliament; mentions
such figures as: John Perceval, 1st
earl of Egmont (1683-1748), and
Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st duke
of Dorset (1688-1765).
110/II/194-195,272-287

COWPER, MARY (CLAVERING), 1ST COUNTESS COWPER, 1685-1724

- b. 2 23 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) [1713]-1722
[1713] - 1722 Jun 21
various places
26 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Friendly correspondence about social
events, personal health, William
Cowper, 1st earl Cowper (d.1723),
Caroline, queen consort of George II
(1683-1737), John Churchill, 1st
duke of Marlborough (1650-1722), and
other public figures.
110/II/98-100,102-111,113-124

COWPER, WILLIAM, 1ST EARL COWPER, D. 1723

- b. 2 2 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1713 Oct 4
Colgreen
2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
About the health of his wife, Mary
(Clavering) Cowper, Countess Cowper
(1685-1724).
110/II/101,112

CRAGGS, JAMES, 1657-1721

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1713 Nov 17
n.p.
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Directions for Sarah (Jennings)
Churchill, duchess of Marlborough
(1660-1744).
110/I/3

DERHAM, WILLIAM, 1657-1735

- b. 2 2 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1731
 1731 Oct 12 and 1731 Dec 14
 Upminster
 3 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Asks Lady Sundon to intercede with
 Caroline, queen consort of George II
 (1683-1737).
 110/II/312-313
-

GRAHAM, M.

- b. 2 10 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1728
 1728 Apr 7 - Dec 15
 Pickill
 8 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Asks for money and royal favors
 and positions.
 110/II/199-208
-

HOADLY, BENJAMIN, BP. OF WINCHESTER, 1676-1761

- b. 2 [40 letters \(copies\) to Charlotte \(Dyve\) Clayton, Lady Sundon \(d.1742\)](#) 1715-32
 1715 Aug 10 - 1732 Dec 27
 various places
 62 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Personal correspondence about court
 and religious politics, gossip, and
 his affection for Lady Sundon.
 110/II/125-156,191-193,196-198
-

KENT, JEMIMA (CREW) GREY, DUCHESS OF, D. 1728

- b. 2 33 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1722-27
 1722 Dec 2 - 1727 Aug 6
 Wrest House
 20 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Friendly correspondence about health
 the court, and social events.
 110/II/158-190
-

LEWIS, H.

- b. 2 3 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1731-32
 1731 Jul 19 - 1732 Nov 3
 Kew
 3 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
 Letters of gratitude.
 110/II/209-210
-

MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744 (continued)

- b.1 Letter (copy) to Anne, queen of Gt. Brit. (1665-1714) n.d.
n.p.
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Protesting her faithfulness to the
Queen out of whose favor she has
recently fallen.
110/I/88

MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

- b.1 Letter (copy) to George I, king of Gt. Brit. (1660-1727) n.d.
n.p.
2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Denies accusation that she or her
husband wrote a letter to James,
Prince of Wales, the Old Pretender
(1688-1766).
110/I/97

MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

- b.1 Letter (copy) to Abigail (Hill) Masham, Lady Masham (d.1734) [ca. 1713]
n.p.
4 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Scathing denunciation of Lady Masham
at the time she became chief
confidant to Anne, queen of Gt. Brit.
(1665-1714); mentions Robert Harley,
1st earl of Oxford (1661-1724).
110/I/89

MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

- b.1 86 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1713-1721
1713 Oct 15 - 1721 Jul 8
various places
203 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Personal correspondence to "my best
friend"; subjects range from politics
to clothes, friends to finance; most
letters were written from Europe
where the Marlboroughs were in exile
in 1713-1714; letters mention: John
Churchill, 1st duke of Marlborough
(1650-1722); Anne, queen of Gt. Brit.
(1665-1714); Henry Somerset, 2nd duke
of Somerset (1683-1757); James,
Prince of Wales, the Old Pretender
(1688-1766); Henry St. John, 1st
viscount Bolingbroke (1678-1751);
Abigail (Hill) Masham, Lady Masham
(d.1734).
110/I/ 2,4-87

MARTIN, E.

MARTIN, E. (continued)

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) [no yr] Sep 11
Hammersmith
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Letter of thanks.
110/II/211

OXFORD, ROBERT HARLEY, 1ST EARL OF, 1661-1724

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Sophie, Electress of Hanover, Consort of Ernest Augustus, 1714 May 30
Elector of Hanover, (1630-1714)
n.p.
2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Assures her that the Anne, queen of
Gt. Brit. (1665-1714), favors the
succession of her family.
110/I/93

PEMBROKE, MARY (HOWE) HERBERT, COUNTESS OF, D.1749

- b. 2 22 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) n.d.
n.p.
18 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Friendly correspondence concerning
gossip about court society, health
and weather.
110/II/250-269

POMFRET, HENRIETTA LOUISA FERMOR, COUNTESS OF, D.1761

- b. 2 37 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1725-31
1725 Jul 27 - 1731 Aug 7
various places
48 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Letters include advice, news of
court events, expressions of
friendship, and inquiries about each
other's health.
110/II/212-248

SUNDERLAND, ANNE (CHURCHILL) SPENCER, COUNTESS OF, 1683-1716

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) n.d.
n.p.
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.
Explains the cipher used by Sarah
(Jennings) Churchill, duchess of
Marlborough (1660-1744), in her
correspondence.
110/I/1

TALBOT, WILLIAM, BP. OF DURHAM, 1659?-1730

TALBOT, WILLIAM, BP. OF DURHAM, 1659?-1730 (continued)

b. 1	<p>Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>Salisbury 1 p.; 38 x 24 cm. Hopes for continued good health for Lady Sundon and her husband. 110/II/315</p>	1719 Jun 24
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VOLTAIRE, FRANCOIS MARIE AROUET DE, 1694-1778

b. 2	<p>Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>n.p. 1 p.; 38 x 24 cm. Letter of thanks. 110/II/157</p>	1729 Apr 18
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WAINWRIGHT, J

b. 2	<p>23 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>1729 Jan 17 - 1732 Dec 26 Dublin 27 p.; 38 x 24 cm. About politics, religion, and legal matters between client and lawyer; also concerns Wainwright's attempts at poetry and drama; mentions Robert Clayton, bp. of Clogher (1695-1758), and Robert Walpole, 1st earl of Orford, 1676-1745. 110/II/288-311</p>	1729-32
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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

Ciphers
Letters
Nobility -- Great Britain
Women authors
Women -- Political activity

Geographic Names

Great Britain -- Court and courtiers
Great Britain -- Politics and government --
1660-1714
Great Britain -- Social life and customs -- 18th
century

Genres / Formats

Letter books

Names

James, Prince of Wales, 1688-1766
Marlborough, Sarah Jennings Churchill,
Duchess of, 1660-1744
Sundon, Charlotte Clayton, Baroness, -1742