

Yale University Library
Lewis Walpole Library

Guide to the William Henry Zuylestein, Earl of Rochford, Papers

LWL MSS 47



by Sandra Markham

February 2024

154 Main Street
P.O. Box 1408
Farmington, CT 06034-1408
860-677-2140
860-677-6369

walpole@yale.edu

<https://walpole.library.yale.edu>

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Collection Overview

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CALL NUMBER: LWL MSS 47

CREATOR: Rochford, William Henry Nassau de Zuylestein, Earl of, 1717-1781

TITLE: William Henry Zuylestein, Earl of Rochford, papers

DATES: 1688–1823

BULK DATES: 1766–1780

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English; French; Dutch; Flemish

SUMMARY: The William Henry Zuylestein, Earl of Rochford, Papers contain correspondence and documents concerning his government service and personal affairs. The more than forty letters are primarily from diplomatic colleagues including George Cressner in Bonn, Sir John Goodricke in Stockholm, Fulke Greville in Munich, Sir Robert Gunning in Copenhagen, Sir William Hamilton in Naples, William Petty, Marquis of Lansdowne, in Paris, David Murray, Earl of Mansfield, in Vienna, Andrew Mitchell in Berlin, William Norton in Bern, Robert Walpole in Madrid, Ralph Woodford in Hamburg, James Wright in Venice, Thomas Wroughton in Warsaw, and Joseph Dover, Baron Yorke, in The Hague. There are two reports from the Battle of Tiruvannamalai in South India, on September 25-27, 1767, and other letters concerning some of his real estate transactions. A small group of Other Papers include some writings, accounts of British government expenses (1769-1777), and an ancestral document in Dutch from 1688 signed by King William III, then the Prince of Orange.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.047>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/lwl.mss.047>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

W. S. Lewis purchased the papers from G. H. Last in 1933. Bequest of Wilmarth Sheldon Lewis (Yale 1918), 1979.

Custodial History

Prior to February 2024 the material in LWL MSS 47 had been interfiled in the Lewis Walpole Library Manuscript Miscellany (LWL MSS MISC).

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Henry Zuylestein, Earl of Rochford, Papers is the physical property of the Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the W. S. Lewis Librarian/Executive Director.

Preferred Citation

William Henry Zuylestein, Earl of Rochford, Papers. The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University.

Biographical / Historical

William Henry Nassau de Zuylestein, 4th Earl of Rochford (1717-1781) was a British diplomat of Anglo-Dutch descent, the son of Frederick Nassau van Zuylestein, 3rd Earl of Rochford, and his wife Elizabeth Savage. He was born in St Osyth, Essex, attended Eton College (1725-1732) and the Collège de Genève, where he became fluent in French; he took the title as the 4th Earl of Rochford when his father died in 1738. After various court appointments in England, Rochford held ambassadorial posts in Turin (1749-1755), Madrid (1763-1766) and Paris (1766-1768), and served as Secretary of State in both the Northern (1768-1770) and Southern (1770-1775) departments. He retired from service in 1775, and died at St Osyth on September 29, 1781.

Scope and Contents

The William Henry Zuylestein, Earl of Rochford, Papers contain correspondence and documents concerning his government service and personal affairs. The more than forty letters are primarily from diplomatic colleagues including George Cressner in Bonn, Sir John Goodricke in Stockholm, Fulke Greville in Munich, Sir Robert Gunning in Copenhagen, Sir William Hamilton in Naples, William Petty, Marquis of Lansdowne in Paris, David Murray, Earl of Lansdowne in Vienna, Andrew Mitchell in Berlin, William Norton in Bern, Robert Walpole in Madrid, Ralph Woodford in Hamburg, James Wright in Venice, Thomas Wroughton in Warsaw, and Joseph Dover, Baron Yorke, in The Hague. There are two reports from the Battle of Tiruvannamalai in South India, on September 25-27, 1767, and other letters concerning some of his real estate transactions. A small group of Other Papers include some writings, accounts of British government expenses (1769-1777), and an ancestral document in Dutch from 1688 signed by King William III, then the Prince of Orange.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1766-1780. II. Other Papers, 1688-1823.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1766–1780

36 Folders

The letters in the series are primarily those received by Rochford from his diplomatic colleagues, but in the folder for William Petty, Marquis of Lansdowne there are also drafts of Rochford's replies. Many of the letters are simply congratulations to him on overseas appointments, notably as ambassador to Paris in 1766, or sending news and intelligence, sometimes with parts in cypher.

The folder for the Naples envoy William Hamilton holds three letters from him; his letter of February 16, 1768—sent from Rome—asks Rochford to review the first volume of his *Antiquités Etrusques, Grecques et Romaines Tirées du Cabinet de M. Hamilton*, which he has sent by packet, and to then send it right away to the King so he would have it before the cargo of books Hamilton has shipped to London arrives. Hamilton describes the author, Pierre d'Hancarville, as a "French man of genius [sic] whom I found in distress at Naples" and writes that the work is "being executed in a new manner." The four-volume work carries a publication date of 1766 and 1767 though his 1768 letter reveals that: "Another volume will be delivered in May next, and two others are almost ready for the Press."

Other non-diplomatic letters include two copies of letters sent from the engineers D. P. Desmaretz and Andres Frazer to William Petty Fitzmaurice, Marquess of Lansdowne, then the Earl of Shelburne and Secretary of State for the Southern Department, giving their analyses of the navigation issues in the English Channel at Dunkirk. and one from Bishop Robert Lowth, who sought Rochford's support for Benjamin Kennicott's work in Paris on an international collation of Hebrew manuscripts.

Rochford's real estate dealings are the focus of a letter from lawyer Peter Holford of Westonbirt, who offers to assist with the transaction regarding Rochford's payoff of the mortgage of the Essex estate. Another land transaction is documented in the set of letters from the Ipswich lawyer Samuel Kilderbee, Lincoln's Inn lawyer Daniel Macnamara, and Richard Rigby.

Series I is organized alphabetically.

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Albemarle, George Keppel, Earl of, 1724-1772 | 1767, 1768 |
| b. 1, f. 2 | Ancaster, Peregrine Bertie, Duke of, 1714-1778 | 1768 February 1 |
| b. 1, f. 3 | Brusby [?], A. | 1780 September 8 |
| b. 1, f. 4 | Conway, Henry Seymour, 1721-1795 | 1766, 1767 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Cressner, George | 1766 November 19 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Desmaretz, J. P., and Andrew Frazer, -1792 | 1767 |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Goodricke, John, Sir | 1766–1768 |
| b. 1, f. 8 | Grafton, Augustus Henry Fitzroy, Duke of, 1735-1811 | 1766–1767 |
| b. 1, f. 9 | Greville, Fulke, 1717 or 1718- | 1766 December 4 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Gunning, Robert, Sir, 1731-1816 | 1766 |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Halvey, George | 1769 January 16 |

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------|
| b. 1, f. 12 | Hamilton, William, Sir, 1730-1803 | 1766-1768 |
| b. 1, f. 13 | Harvey, William | 1762 October 19 |
| b. 1, f. 14 | Holford, Peter, 1720-1804 | 1774 August 29 |
| b. 1, f. 15 | Kilderbee, Samuel, 1725-1813 | 1774 |
| b. 1, f. 16 | Lansdowne, William Petty, Marquis of, 1737-1805 Also present are three letters from Rochford to Petty; he was at the time Earl of Shelburne. | 1766-1768, undated |
| b. 1, f. 17 | Lowth, Robert, 1710-1787 | 1767 |
| b. 1, f. 18 | Macnamara, Daniel, -1800 Also present is a copy of Rochford's reply to the lawyer. | 1774 |
| b. 1, f. 19 | Mansfield, David Murray, Earl of, 1727-1796 | 1766, 1767 |
| b. 1, f. 20 | Maty, Thomas | 1767 May 3 |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Mecklenburg, Prince George Augustus of | 1766 May 21 |
| b. 1, f. 22 | Mitchell, Andrew, Sir, 1708-1771 | 1766 November 29 |
| b. 1, f. 23 | Murray, John, approximately 1714-1775 | 1767 |
| b. 1, f. 24 | Newcastle, Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of, 1693-1768 | 1767 January 1 |
| b. 1, f. 25 | Norton, William | 1766-1767 |
| b. 1, f. 26 | Rigby, Richard, 1722-1788 | 1774 |
| b. 1, f. 27 | Sherratt, John | 1779 June 8 |
| b. 1, f. 28 | Smith, Joseph, 1732 or 1733-1790 | 1767 September |
| b. 1, f. 29 | Thicknesse, Philip, 1719-1792 | 1767 April 13 |
| b. 1, f. 30 | Walpole, Robert, 1736-1810 | 1768 July 28 |
| b. 1, f. 31 | Waring, W. | 1778 April 14 |
| b. 1, f. 32 | Woodford, Ralph, 1734-1810 | 1766 November 28 |
| b. 1, f. 33 | Wright, James, Sir, -1803 | 1768 April 15 |
| b. 1, f. 34 | Wroughton, Thomas, Sir, -1787 | 1766, 1768 |
| b. 1, f. 35 | Yorke, Joseph, Baron Dover, 1724-1792 | 1767 February 19 |
| b. 1, f. 36 | Unidentified author and recipient A draft of a letter from the Earl of Rochford's secretary regarding the Nassau family's armorial bearings. | [No year] May 26 |

Series II: Other Papers, 1688–1823*12 Folders*

Series II is organized into two subseries: Financial and Legal Documents, and Essays, Poems, and Other Writings.

Financial and legal documents

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| b. 1, f. 37 | An account of the annual cost of the civil government and the royal family, 1769-1777 A document titled "An Accompt of the Payments for His Majesty's Civil Government and for Support and Maintenance of His Household and Royal Family from the 5th Janry 1769 to the 5th Janry 1777 distinguishing [sic] each Year and the several Heads of Expences." | undated |
| b. 1, f. 38 | An account of the funds that would have been applicable to the expenses of his Majesty's civil government A document titled "An Account shewing the Amount of the Monies that would have been applicable to the Expences of His Majesty's Civil Government if the Hereditary and Temporary Revenues, and so much as was granted to His late Majesty out of the Aggregate Fund and Duty arising from Wine Licences had been granted to His present Majesty from His Accession to 5 Janry 1777 The Amount of the Annuity received by His Majesty in lieu of those Revenues; And the Advantage to the Public after deducting as well the said Annuity as the Money granted by Parliament to pay off the Civil List Debt on 5th Janry 1769." | undated |
| b. 1, f. 39 | Indenture between John Williamson and Peter Lavernee | 1712 November 19 |
| b. 1, f. 40 | Receipt signed by David MacCulloch Receipt to Earl of Rochford for £1500 consolidated in 4 per cents. | 1780 May 8 |
| Essays, poems, and other writings | | |
| b. 1, f. 41 | "An Address to the Gentlemen, Clergy, & Freeholders of the County of Suffolk" Incomplete and in an unidentified hand. | undated |
| b. 1, f. 42 | Arithmetic problems Two arithmetic problems, each written on its own sheet, one entitled "Single rule of three" and the other "Double rule of three"; in an unidentified hand. | undated |
| b. 1, f. 43 | "The King's Stile to a Duke, an Arch Bishop, a Marquess" Salutations for a king addressing duke, an archbishop, and a marquess with Latin translations. On recto: "Way bill" for moving packets. | [1759] |
| b. 1, f. 44 | Menu Satirical "menu" in an unidentified hand. | undated |
| b. 1, f. 45 | Prayer | undated |
| b. 1, f. 46 | "Verses to be added to Mr. Clarke's character of the Spanish Court" Work referred to is Edward Clarke, <i>Letters Concerning the Spanish Nation: Written at Madrid during the years 1760 and 1761</i> (London, 1763). | undated |

Essays, poems, and other writings (continued)

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| b. 1, f. 47 | Document in Dutch signed by Wilhelm Hendrick, Prince of Orange, 1650-1702 Document includes the name "Wilhem Nassau" in two places, likely William Henry van Nassau van Zuylesteyn, Earl of Rochford, 1645-1709. | 1688 October 15 |
| b. 1, f. 48 | Estimate for repairing or rebuilding Dedham parsonage, prepared by M. G. Thompson | 1823 May 4 |

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.

Names

Goodricke, John, Sir

Hamilton, William, Sir, 1730-1803

Lansdowne, William Petty, Marquis of,
1737-1805

Rochford, William Henry Nassau de Zuylestein,
Earl of, 1717-1781

William, King of England, III, 1650-1702