

# Guide to the Carlo Tommaso Maillard de Tournon Collection

MS 1456



compiled by Diane E. Kaplan and Robert Richards

May 1987

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1456

**CREATOR:** Maillard de Tournon, Carlo Tommaso, 1668-1710

**TITLE:** Carlo Tommaso Maillard de Tournon collection

**DATES:** 1705-1984

**BULK DATES:** 1705-1726

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** The collection is primarily in Italian and French, with some Latin and Spanish.

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of correspondence by Carlo Tommaso Maillard de Tournon, members of his staff, and associates which documents Tournon's legation to the Sino-Manchu empire (1705-1710). The collection also includes a journal kept by Giovanni Borghese, Tournon's personal physician; later letters (1711-1726) from missionaries in China; and twentieth century printed material concerning Tournon and his mission.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1456>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1456>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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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### Custodial History

Transferred from the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection (MS 352) in 1987.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Carlo Tommaso Maillard de Tournon Collection (MS 1456). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Carlo Tommaso Maillard de Tournon was born in Turin on December 21, 1668, the second son of the Marchese Vittorio Amedeo de Tournon of the Savoyard aristocracy. Tournon, a gifted young ecclesiastic, attracted the attention of Pope Clement XI, who, in 1701 selected him as a apostolic visitor to the East Indies and patriarch of Antioch. On his thirty-third birthday Tournon was consecrated bishop by the pope.

On July 4, 1702 Tournon and his party left Rome for the East. Sailing by way of Pondichery (India) and Manila and after extended stays in both places, he arrived in Canton on April 7, 1705. Five months later he arrived in Peking (December 4, 1705). K'ang-hsi Emperor welcomed the legate with an unprecedented display of honor and respect. The enthusiasm that characterized the beginning of Tournon's mission, however, was short-lived.

In 1692 the K'ang-hsi Emperor had issued an edict of toleration for Christianity in China based on the interpretation given to the traditional Chinese rites in honor of Confucius and the ancestors by Matteo Ricci, pioneer missionary to China, and his Jesuit successors. Tournon infuriated the emperor by opposing these traditional rites, and by August 1706 had been dismissed from Peking. In Nanking (February 7, 1707) Tournon condemned the rites formally and threatened excommunication to those missionaries allowing their observance in Christian communities. After Tournon returned to Canton the emperor ordered him to be transferred to the Portuguese enclave of Macao where he was held under house arrest from June 30, 1707 until his death on June 8, 1710. Tournon was named a cardinal in 1707 but only received the symbols of his office in January, 1710.

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## Scope and Contents

The Carlo Tommaso Maillard de Tournon Collection consists of correspondence, a journal, and printed material which document Tournon's legation to the Sino-Manchu empire (1705-1710). Correspondence

includes letters in Italian, Latin, French, and Spanish by Tournon, members of his staff, and associates. The collection also includes later letters (1711-1726) by missionaries in China. A journal from 1705 to 1710 contains entries made by Giovanni Borghese, Tournon's personal physician. At the end of the collection there is twentieth century printed material concerning Tournon and the significance of his mission to China.

The collection was transferred from the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection (MS 352) in 1987.

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## **Arrangement**

Arranged by record type.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 5	<a href="#">Correspondence</a>	1706-14
b. 1, f. 6	Correspondence	1726, undated
b. 1, f. 7	Journal: Giovanni Borghese A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1705-10
b. 1, f. 8	Printed material (in English)	1962, [ca. 1984]

## **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**

Catholic Church -- Foreign relations -- China  
Catholic Church -- Missions -- China  
Clergy  
Diplomats  
Papal legates

### **Geographic Names**

China -- History -- Kangxi, 1662-1722  
China -- Religion

### **Names**

Borghese, Giovanni  
Maillard de Tournon, Carlo Tommaso,  
1668-1710