

# Guide to the John Davenport Papers

MS 1072



compiled by Bruce P. Stark

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1072

**CREATOR:** Davenport, John, 1597-1670

**TITLE:** John Davenport papers

**DATES:** 1624-1669

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of photostatic copies of John Davenport letters collected by Isabel M. Calder and published in her *Letters of John Davenport, Puritan Divine* (1937).

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1072>

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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.1072>.

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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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Isabel Calder, 1938.

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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

John Davenport Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Davenport was baptized at the Church of the Holy Trinity, in Coventry, England, on April 9, 1597, presumably shortly after his birth. He was the fifth son of Henry Davenport, who was mayor of Coventry in 1613. He attended Oxford for a short time, but was forced to drop out for financial reasons, only to return in 1615 when he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree Magdalen College. By 1615, Davenport was already preaching and in 1624, he was elected vicar at St. Stephen's in London, despite ecclesiastical objections that he had Puritan leanings. Though he confessed complete conformity at the time, Davenport became increasingly more Puritan and on August 5, 1633, fled England for Haarlem, in the Netherlands. He fell into conflict there too, and returned to England in 1637 with the intention of sailing for America. Davenport arrived in Boston on June 26, 1637, and in April, 1638 settled in New Haven, where Davenport became pastor of First Church. As pastor of the town, Davenport was one of the most influential figures in the early history of New Haven. However, he was unable, despite earnest resistance, to prevent New Haven from being annexed by the larger colony of Connecticut in 1662. Davenport died in Boston, in March of 1670.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers consist of photostatic copies of John Davenport letters collected by Isabel M. Calder and published in her *Letters of John Davenport, Puritan Divine* (1937).

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# Collection Contents

Correspondence	
b. 1, f. 1	1624-1639
b. 1, f. 2	1640-1659
b. 1, f. 3	1660-1662
b. 1, f. 4	1663-1669

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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.

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut  
New Haven County (Conn.) -- History  
United States -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775

### **Subjects**

Clergy

### **Names**

Calder, Isabel M. (Isabel MacBeath)  
Davenport, John, 1597-1670