

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the François Gaston duc de Lévis papers

GEN MSS 1135



by Karen Spicher

2014 August

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1135

CREATOR: Lévis, François-Gaston, duc de, 1719-1787

TITLE: François-Gaston, duc de Lévis papers

DATES: 1741-1780

BULK DATES: 1748-1773

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.21 linear feet (10 boxes)

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: Circa 500 manuscript and printed documents relating to military and political events in France, 1740s-1780s, and the military career of François-Gaston, duc de Lévis, including correspondence, diaries, maps, drawings, and other military and legal documents. Papers relate to Lévis's defense of Provence during the War of the Austrian Succession, 1748, and the ambassadorship of his cousin, Gaston Charles Pierre de Lévis, duc de Mirepoix, in London, 1749-1753; Lévis's participation in the French campaign in Germany during the Seven Years' War, 1762; construction of a canal between Saint-Omer and Aire, and other waterways in Artois, during Lévis's governorship of Artois, 1765-1780; and the court-martial of Jean-Joseph Carrier de Montieu and Louis de Cassier de Bellegarde for mismanagement of arms manufacture and inspection, for which Lévis served on the court, 1773.

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

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.levis>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Hans P. Kraus, 1968.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The François-Gaston, duc de Lévis Papers 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

François-Gaston, duc de Lévis Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault 186. In 2014, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including partial rehousing and minimal organization. Most folder titles were based on information provided by the donor, while some were assigned by Library staff. Folder titles were not verified against contents.

François-Gaston, duc de Lévis (1720-1787)

François-Gaston, duc de Lévis, French army officer and maréchal de France. As marquis de Lévis, he served in the War of the Polish Succession and the War of the Austrian Succession, succeeding Louis-Joseph de Montcalm as commander of the French army in North America in 1760. He was appointed governor of Artois in 1765, and maréchal de France in 1783, and created duc de Lévis in 1784.

Scope and Contents

Circa 500 manuscript and printed documents relating to military and political events in France, 1740s-1780s, and the military career of François-Gaston, duc de Lévis, including correspondence, diaries, maps, drawings, and other military and legal documents. Papers relate to Lévis's defense of Provence during the War of the Austrian Succession, 1748, and the ambassadorship of his cousin, Gaston Charles Pierre de Lévis, duc de Mirepoix, in London, 1749-1753; Lévis's participation in the French campaign in Germany during the Seven Years' War, 1762; construction of a canal between Saint-Omer and Aire, and other waterways in Artois, during Lévis's governorship of Artois, 1765-1780; and the court-martial of Jean-Joseph Carrier de Montieu and Louis de Cassier de Bellegarde for mismanagement of arms manufacture and inspection, for which Lévis served on the court, 1773.

Arrangement

Organized into five series: I. Description and item-level list created by the donor, 1968. II. Defense of Provence During the War of the Austrian Succession, 1743-1770. III. French Campaign in Germany During the Seven Years' War, 1756-1763. IV. Hydraulic Engineering in Artois, 1741-1780. V. Court-Martial of Jean-Joseph Carrier de Montieu and Louis de Cassier de Bellegarde, 1770-1778.

Each series is arranged in order of document numbers assigned by the donor.

Collection Contents

Series I: Description and item-level list created by the donor, 1968

b. 1, f. 1 Description and list

Series II: Defense of Provence During the War of the Austrian Succession, 1743-1770

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents: number 1
61

b. 1, f. 1a Documents: numbers 2-3

b. 1, f. 2 Documents: number 4

b. 1, f. 3 Documents: numbers 5-13

b. 1, f. 4 Documents: numbers 14-26

b. 1, f. 5 Documents: numbers 27-34

b. 1, f. 6 Documents: numbers 35-46

b. 1, f. 7 Documents: numbers 47-55

b. 1, f. 8 Documents: numbers 56-62

b. 1, f. 9 Documents: numbers 63-78

b. 1, f. 10 Documents: numbers 79-80

b. 1, f. 11 Documents: numbers 81-83

b. 1, f. 12 Documents: number 84

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents: number 85
62

b. 1, f. 13 Documents: number 86

Series III: French Campaign in Germany During the Seven Years' War , 1756-1763

0.92 linear feet (4 boxes)

b. 2, f. 14 Documents (case 1): numbers 1-5, 7

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 6
63

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 8
64

b. 2, f. 15 Documents (case 1): numbers 9-20

b. 2, f. 16 Documents (case 1): number 21

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 22
65

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 23
66

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 24
67

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 25
68

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 26
69

b. 2, f. 17 Documents (case 1): numbers 27-40

b. 2, f. 18 Documents (case 1): numbers 41-50

b. 2, f. 19 Documents (case 1): numbers 51-62

b. 7 (Oversize), f. Documents (case 1): number 63
70

b. 8 (Oversize), f. Documents (cases 2-3): number 1
71

b. 3, f. 20 Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 2-6

b. 8 (Oversize), f. Documents (cases 2-3): number 7
72

b. 8 (Oversize), f. Documents (cases 2-3): number 8
73

b. 3, f. 21 Documents (cases 2-3): number 9

b. 3, f. 22 Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 10-25

b. 3, f. 23 Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 26-42

b. 3, f. 24 Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 43-52

b. 3, f. 25 Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 53-62

| | |
|-------------|--|
| b. 3, f. 26 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 63-74 |
| b. 3, f. 27 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 75-84 |
| b. 3, f. 28 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 85-93 |
| b. 3, f. 29 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 94-100 |
| b. 3, f. 30 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 101-115 |
| b. 3, f. 31 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 116-132 |
| b. 3, f. 32 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 133-145 |
| b. 4, f. 33 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 146-157 |
| b. 4, f. 34 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 158-172 |
| b. 4, f. 35 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 173-180 |
| b. 4, f. 36 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 181-190 |
| b. 4, f. 37 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 191-200 |
| b. 4, f. 38 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 201-210 |
| b. 4, f. 39 | Documents (cases 2-3): numbers 211-222 |

Series IV: Hydraulic Engineering in Artois, 1741-1780*0.66 linear feet (4 boxes)*

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| b. 5, f. 40 | Documents: number 1 |
| b. 5, f. 41 | Documents: number 2 |
| b. 5, f. 42 | Documents: number 3 |
| b. 5, f. 43 | Documents: number 4 |
| b. 5, f. 44 | Documents: numbers 5-6 |
| b. 5, f. 45 | Documents: numbers 7-10 |
| b. 5, f. 46 | Documents: numbers 11-15 |
| b. 8 (Oversize), f. 74 | Documents: number 16 |
| b. 5, f. 47 | Documents: unnumbered document |
| b. 5, f. 48 | Documents: number 17 |
| b. 8 (Oversize), f. 75 | Documents: number 18 |
| b. 9 (Oversize), f. 76 | Documents: number 19 |
| b. 9 (Oversize), f. 77 | Documents: number 20 |
| b. 9 (Oversize), f. 78 | Documents: number 20a |
| b. 5, f. 49 | Documents: numbers 21-21a |
| b. 5, f. 50 | Documents: number 22 |
| b. 9 (Oversize), f. 79 | Documents: number 23 |
| b. 10 (Oversize), f. 80 | Documents: number 24 |
| b. 10 (Oversize), f. 81 | Documents: number 25 |
| b. 10 (Oversize), f. 82 | Documents: number 26 |
| b. 5, f. 51 | Documents: numbers 27-28 |

Series V: Court-Martial of Jean-Joseph Carrier de Montieu and Louis de Cassier de Bellegarde, 1770-1778

0.21 linear feet (1 box)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. 6, f. 52 | Documents: numbers 1-3 |
| b. 6, f. 53 | Documents: numbers 4-13 |
| b. 6, f. 54 | Documents: number 14 |
| b. 6, f. 55 | Documents: numbers 15-19 |
| b. 6, f. 56 | Documents: numbers 20-24 |
| b. 10 (Oversize), f. 83 | Documents: number 25 |
| b. 6, f. 57 | Documents: numbers 26-28 |
| b. 10 (Oversize), f. 84 | Documents: number 29 |
| b. 6, f. 58 | Documents: numbers 30-36 |
| b. 10 (Oversize), f. 85 | Documents: number 37 |
| b. 6, f. 59 | Documents: numbers 38-40 |
| b. 10 (Oversize), f. 86 | Documents: number 41 |
| b. 6, f. 60 | Documents: numbers 42-50 |

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

Austrian Succession, War of, 1740-1748
Austrian Succession, War of, 1740-1748 --
Campaigns -- France
Courts-martial and courts of inquiry -- France
Generals -- France
Governors -- France
Hydraulic engineering -- France -- Artois
Seven Years' War, 1756-1763 -- Campaigns --
Germany

Geographic Names

Artois (France) -- Economic conditions -- 18th
century
Artois (France) -- Maps
Artois (France) -- Politics and government --
18th century
France -- Foreign relations -- Great Britain
France -- Politics and government -- 1715-1774
France -- Politics and government -- 1774-1793
Great Britain -- Foreign relations -- France

Genres / Formats

Diaries -- France -- 18th century
Maps (documents) -- France -- 18th century
Technical drawings -- France -- 18th century

Occupations

Generals -- France -- 18th century
Governors -- France -- 18th century

Names

Carrier de Montieu, Jean-Joseph
Cassier de Bellegarde, Louis de, 1723-
Lévis, François-Gaston, duc de, 1719-1787
Mirepoix, Gaston Charles Pierre de Lévis, duc
de, 1699-1757