

# **Guide to the John Chardin Correspondence and Documents**

**GEN MSS 216**



by Beinecke Staff

July 1996

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 216

**CREATOR:** Chardin, John, Sir, 1643-1713

**TITLE:** John Chardin correspondence and documents

**DATES:** 1671-1719

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.62 linear feet (5 boxes and 1 portfolio)

**LANGUAGE:** French

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, manuscript accounts, printed bills of lading completed in manuscript, and other manuscript documents of Sir John Chardin, his wife, Lady Chardin, his brother, Daniel Chardin, and others. Most letters and documents are bound in volumes; also present are a few unbound items. Many letters and documents relate to India and the East India Company, including items concerning Thomas Pitt, Elihu Yale, Alvarez de Fonseca, and Nicolo Manuchi. Accompanied by brief notes of a former owner.

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

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## 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.chardin>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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 William Sloane, 1921.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The John Chardin Correspondence and Documents are 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.

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## Preferred Citation

John Chardin Correspondence and Documents. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing card set in the Manuscripts Catalog, or from another inventory. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained.

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## Existence and Location of Copies

This collection is available on microfilm; however, it was filmed prior to the current arrangement. All materials described are present, but they appear on microfilm in the order listed in Notes of a former owner, located in box 3, folder 23.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Chardin, 1643-1713, was born in Paris and travelled in the Near East as a merchant and jeweller. He later settled in England and was an agent to the East India Company. Chardin was the author of *Journal du voyage du chevalier Chardin en Perse & aux Indes Orientales, par la Mer Noire & par la Colchide* (1686).

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## Scope and Contents

The John Chardin Correspondence and Documents consist of correspondence, accounts, bills of lading, and other documents by or pertaining to John Chardin, his wife, Lady Chardin, and his brother, Daniel Chardin. Many papers relate to India and the East India Company, including letters and documents concerning Thomas Pitt, Elihu Yale, Alvarez de Fonseca, and Nicolo Manuchi. The collection is accompanied by brief notes of a former owner.

The collection is housed in five boxes and one portfolio and is organized into two series: [Unbound Letters and Documents](#) and [Bound Volumes](#). Boxes 4-5 and the portfolio contain oversize material.

Folder titles enclosed in quotation marks were transcribed from volume spines. Descriptive notes for single documents and volumes were taken from descriptions prepared by a former owner. These notes may not fully represent the contents of an item. For example, volumes titled "letters" or "correspondence" may also contain bills of lading, accounts, or other documents. Most volumes contain items relating to Daniel Chardin and Lady Chardin, as well as John Chardin.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Unbound Letters and Documents, 1686–1701/2

0.2 linear feet (.5 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1	Bills of lading Four bills for specie, consigned by Sir John Chardin, "Alvaro Du Costa," John Mendez da Costa, and Francisco Salvador to Elihu Yale, in the ship Williamson, Capt. Richard Warner, signed by the latter	1686
b. 1, f. 2	<a href="#">Bill of lading</a> One bill for specie, consigned by John Cholmly to Elihu Yale, in the ship Resolution, Capt. William Sharp, signed by the latter	1687 Apr 11
b. 1, f. 3	<a href="#">Bills of lading</a> Two bills for specie, consigned by John Mendez da Costa and Francis Salvador to Elihu Yale, in the ship Defence, Capt. William Heath, signed by J. Foster	1687/88 Feb 13
b. 1, f. 4	Bill of lading One bill for "Corrall Beads," consigned by Petter and Pierre Henrriques to Elihu Yale, in the ship Defence, Capt. William Heath, signed by J. Foster	1687/88 Feb 15
b. 1, f. 5	<a href="#">Account of Elihu Yale with Thomas Pitt and Daniel Chardin</a> "Elihu Yale, Esq., his acctt. currnt. adjusted this day with Thos. Pitt Esq, and Mr. Danl. Chardin"	1699/1700 Mar 13
b. 1, f. 6	AL, draft, to William Gifford and Elihu Yale Rough draft of a letter to the "Honble Wm. Gifford Esq," and "Mr. Elihu Yalle," relating to the shipment of 4 chests of silver Also the original bill of lading relating to this shipment	1686 Dec 31
b. 1, f. 7	LS to Daniel Chardin In French, 19 pages, signed by Sir John Chardin, with two references to "Mr. Yealle"	1697 Apr 24
b. 1, f. 8	LS to Daniel Chardin In French, 16 pages, signed by Sir John Chardin (Phillipps MS 16850)	1700 Jan 2
b. 1, f. 9	LS to Daniel Chardin In French, 10 pages, signed by Sir John Chardin	1701 Sep 20
b. 1, f. 10	LS to Daniel Chardin In French, 8 pages, signed by Sir John Chardin, with a reference to "la pierre brutte par Yeale"	1701/2 Jan 15
b. 1, f. 11	LS to Daniel Chardin In French, 6 pages, signed by Sir John Chardin	n.d.

**Series II: Bound Volumes, 1671-1719***0.84 linear feet (2.5 boxes and 1 portfolio)*

b. 1, f. 12-13	"Sir John Chardin's Letters" Sir John Chardin's letters to his brother Daniel, 2 vols. Includes 16 letters in French; an agreement between the two brothers in French, signed by them both, and sealed 19 Nov 1686; and other papers (Phillipps MS 16850, 16851)	1686-1706
b. 1, f. 14	<a href="#">"Sir John Chardin's Letters"</a> 73 letters and other documents, mostly written in French Includes an ALS, dated 3 Feb 1686/7, written in French, and addressed to "Mr. Daniel Chardin in ye ship Williamson now att Anchor att Deale bond for East India" (Phillipps MS 16854)	1681-1718
	"Sir John Chardin's Correspondence" Stored in: Oversize, box 4, folder 24 58 letters, etc., relating to the East India Trade (Phillipps MS 16849)	1690-1718
b. 1, f. 15	<a href="#">"Chardin Correspondence"</a> 82 letters and other documents, written mostly in French (Phillipps MS 17116)	1695-1719
b. 2, f. 16	"Chardin Mercantile Correspondence" Foreign correspondence; 40 letters written in French (Phillipps MS 17114)	1687-1719
	"Sir John Chardin's Papers" Stored in: Oversize, port, folder 26 9 pieces, including a vellum document dated 17 March 1671, relating to Antoine Chardin and Daniel Chardin (Phillipps MS 16847, 17365)	1671-1718
	"Sir John Chardin's Papers" Stored in: Oversize, box 5, folder 25 60 pieces, including several statements of account signed by Thomas Pitt. Letters, etc., many of which are written in French (Phillipps MS 16848)	1687-1717
b. 2, f. 17	"Sir John Chardin's East India Papers" 72 pieces Includes a letter from Thomas Marshall, dated St. Hellena, 12 August 1706, referring to 2 ships being carried out of the road on the 1st of June, by the French Accompanied by photocopies of brief descriptions of some of the contents, written in an unidentified hand (Phillipps MS 16852)	1688-1718
b. 2, f. 18	"Chardin Bills of Lading" Daniel Chardin, Merchant of Fort St. George; 28 bills of lading and 8 Bills of Exchange (Phillipps MS 16855)	1682-1718
b. 2, f. 19	"Lady Chardin and Daniel Chardin, Correspondence from Pondicherry, Paris, La Haye, &c, &c" 93 pieces, mostly written in French, including several by Sir John Chardin (Phillipps MS 17115)	1685-1719
b. 2, f. 20	<a href="#">"Bills and Letters of Lady Chardin"</a> 40 bills and letters (Phillipps MS 16853)	1709-18
b. 3, f. 21	"Chardin Receipts" 60 receipted accounts, etc., of Lady Chardin and others (Phillipps MS 16856)	1681-1718

b. 3, f. 22	<a href="#">"Hebert's letters from Pondicherry, 1708, &amp;c"</a> 21 letters written in French (Phillipps MS 17117)	1708-18
b. 3, f. 23	Notes of a former owner	n.d.

**Oversize**

*2.58 linear feet (2 boxes and 1 portfolio)*

b. 4 (Oversize), f. <a href="#">"Sir John Chardin's Correspondence" (in Series II)</a> 24	1690-1718
b. 5 (Oversize), f. "Sir John Chardin's Papers" (in Series II) 25	1687-1717
b. Port, folder 26 "Sir John Chardin's Papers" (in Series II)	



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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

Great Britain -- Commerce -- India  
India -- Commerce -- Great Britain

### Names

Chardin, Daniel  
Chardin, John, Sir, 1643-1713  
Chardin, Lady  
Fonseca, Alvarez de  
Manuchi, Nicolo  
Phillipps, Thomas, Sir, 1792-1872 -- Ownership  
Pitt, Thomas, 1653-1726  
Yale, Elihu, 1649-1721

### Corporate Body

East India Company