

# Guide to the Early Yale Documents Collection

RU 1154



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August 2019

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** RU 1154

**TITLE:** Early Yale documents collection

**DATES:** 1700–1902

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 12.92 linear feet (9 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence, minutes, financial records, charters and official acts, inventories of books and other property, and other papers documenting the founding and early history of Yale College. Documents include the original charter of the Collegiate School; letters by and to the first trustees of the school; and the 1718 inventory of books donated to the school by Elihu Yale.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ru.1154>

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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.ru.1154>.

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 note

Transferred from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 2018. Acquired by gift and purchase from various sources.

## Information about Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Ownership & Copyright

The Early Yale Documents Collection is the physical property of 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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## Cite As

Early Yale Documents Collection (RU 1154). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Processing Notes

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

Former call numbers: GEN MS VAULT SECT. 17; GEN MSS 856.

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## Description of the Papers

The Early Yale Documents Collection consists of correspondence, minutes, financial records, charters and official acts, inventories, and other papers documenting the founding and early history of Yale College from its early eighteenth century origins as the Collegiate School until the mid-eighteenth century, as well as some miscellaneous Yale-related material from the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The collection spans the dates 1701-1889, with the bulk of the material dating from between 1701 and 1751.

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## General

Forms part of Yale Record Group 45 (YRG 45), Yale objects and memorabilia.

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## Collection Contents

### Documents concerning Yale's founding, 1700–1743

b. 1, f. 1	<a href="#">"An Act for Liberty to Erect a Collegiate School" Yale Charter</a>	1701
b. 2, f. 1	Original case for the Yale Charter	1701
b. 3, f. 1	"Proposals for Erecting an University, in the Renowned Colony of Connecticut"	1700–1701
b. 3, f. 2	Letter advising about a college in Connecticut; Boston	1701 September 15
b. 3, f. 3	Letter to James Pierpont, on a plan for a College; Boston	1701 September 17
b. 3, f. 4	Letter to the Connecticut Ministers planning a College; Wethersfield	1701 September 27
b. 3, f. 5	Letter to A. Pierson; New Haven	1701 October 01
b. 3, f. 6	Letter to Abraham Pierson; Windsor	1701 October
b. 3, f. 7	Letter to Thomas Buckingham; Boston	1701 October 06
b. 3, f. 8	Offer of land and materials for a college building; New Haven	1701 October 16
b. 3, f. 9	Official manuscript copy in an unidentified hand	1701 October 09
b. 3, f. 10	Letter to Thomas Buckingham, Abraham Pierson, James Pierpont; Windsor	1701 October 27
b. 3, f. 11	<a href="#">Letter to Reverend James Pierpont, with excuses for not attending a college meeting; Stonington</a>	1701 October 28
b. 3, f. 12	Letter to James Pierpont, Boston	1701 October 29
b. 3, f. 13	Autograph copy, signed, of the resolution passed by the Trustees at a meeting held in Say-brook	1701 November 11
b. 3, f. 14	Letter from the Trustees, in the handwriting of James Pierpont, to Nathaniel Lynde; Saybrook	1701 November 14
b. 3, f. 15	Letters to John Winthrop, James [Fitch?], and Reverend Stallonstall	1701–1702
b. 3, f. 16	Document authorizing the Trustees to raise money for the Collegiate School	1703 October 21
b. 3, f. 17	Statement to Students, Branford	1704 February 23
b. 3, f. 18	Letter to James Pierpont	1705 May 12
b. 3, f. 19	Circular letter to College Trustees; Killingworth	1706 January 12
b. 3, f. 20	Draft of Resolutions for the Trustees	Circa 1706 September
b. 3, f. 21	Letter to Josiah Willard Gibbs; Burlington, Massachusetts	1707 October 07
b. 3, f. 22	Copy of a letter made in 1789, under the direction of President Stiles	1713 January 23

b. 3, f. 23	Extract made by E.C. Herrick from a letter from Dummer to James Pierpont; Whitehall	1713 May 05
b. 3, f. 24	Proceedings of the Trustees	1716 April 03
b. 3, f. 25	Subscriptions for the settlement of the school in New Haven	1716
b. 3, f. 26	Proceedings of the Trustees for September 12, 1716, signed by Moses Noyes and Joseph Webb, at Saybrook	1716 January 04
b. 3, f. 27	Authorization by the College Trustees for building in New Haven	1716 December
b. 3, f. 28	A copy of ye Remonstrance against the settling of the Collegiate School at New Haven	Circa 1717 January
b. 3, f. 29	Memorial of a minority of the Trustees	1717 May
b. 3, f. 30	Call for a meeting of the Trustees	1717 July 10
b. 3, f. 31	Letter to Samuel Johnson	1717 July 23
b. 3, f. 32	Memoranda by Daniel Buckingham in behalf of Saybrook	1717 October
b. 3, f. 33	Opinion by Daniel Buckingham on the removal of the school from Saybrook	1717 October
b. 3, f. 34	Orders of the assembly for hearing the Trustees	1717 October 12
b. 3, f. 35	Message of the Upper House to the Trustees	1717 October 22
b. 3, f. 36	Draft of a memorial to Connecticut General Assembly, New Haven	1717 October 22
b. 3, f. 37	Observations and remarks by Timothy Woodbridge and Thomas Buckingham	1717 October 22
b. 3, f. 38	Resolves of the Upper House	1717 October 23
b. 3, f. 39	Message from the Upper House	1717 October 25
b. 3, f. 40	Order of the assembly for a hearing of the Trustees	1717 October 25
b. 3, f. 41	Answer of the Trustees to the observations and remarks of Woodbridge and Buckingham	1717 October 25
b. 3, f. 42	Account by the college trustees of the removal to New Haven	1717 October 25
b. 3, f. 43	A reply to the reason for the votes of the Lower House	1717 October
b. 3, f. 44	Votes of the assembly on requiring unanimity of the Trustees	1717 October 28
b. 3, f. 45	Proceedings of the assembly on confirmation of the removal to New Haven	1717 October 28
b. 3, f. 46	Proposal of the Upper House for a conference	1717 October 29
b. 3, f. 47	Proceedings of the assembly on the determination of a place for the school	1717 October 29
b. 3, f. 48	Resolves of the General Assembly at New Haven, October 10, 1717. Signed by Hez Wyllys. Contemporary copy	1717 October 10
b. 3, f. 49	Letter from the Trustees to Jeremiah Dummer, in the hand of John Davenport, New Haven	1717 October 31

b. 3, f. 50	Historical remarks concerning the collegiate school, New Haven	1717-1719
b. 3, f. 51	Contemporary manuscript copy of a letter to the Trustees of the collegiate school	1718 June 02
b. 4, f. 1	"A List of Books Given to Yale College" by Jeremiah Dummer	1712-1713
b. 4, f. 2	Draft of a letter from the Trustees to T. Woodbridge and T. Buckingham	1718 June 05
b. 4, f. 3	Three letters, probably in the hand of tutor Samuel Johnson, with autographed signatures of the trustees	1718 September
b. 4, f. 4	Draft of a letter of Trustees to Cotton Mather	1718 September
b. 4, f. 5	Invitation for the return of seceded students, New Haven	1718 September 12
b. 4, f. 6	Contemporary manuscript copy of an act for the encouragement of Yale College	1718 October 09
b. 4, f. 7	Letter to Samuel Russel, New London	1720 July 03
b. 4, f. 8	Brief issued by the assembly	1721 June 13
b. 4, f. 9	"An accompt of sale of sundry goods and merchandizes..."	1721 June 28
b. 4, f. 10	Letter to the Trustees of Yale College, New Haven	1721 October 28
b. 4, f. 11	Action of the assembly respecting a seal	1722 October
b. 4, f. 12	Letter to the Trustees of Yale College, declining a call to the Rectorship, Boston	1723 May 13
b. 4, f. 13	"An Act in Explanation of and Addition to the Act for Erecting a Collegiate School in this Colony..."	1723 October 10
b. 4, f. 14	Action of the assembly on the appointment of a Rector	1724 May
b. 4, f. 15	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1725 October 14
b. 4, f. 16	Petition of the Trustees to the assembly	1726 May 12
b. 4, f. 17	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1727 October
b. 4, f. 18	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1729 May 08
b. 4, f. 19	Memorial of Elisha Williams to the assembly	1729 October 09
b. 4, f. 20	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1730 September 09
b. 4, f. 21	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly, with action thereon	1732 May
b. 4, f. 22	Proceedings of the Trustees, in regard to the gifts of Bishop Berkeley	1732 December 20
b. 4, f. 23	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1733 May 11
b. 4, f. 24	Proceedings of the Trustees, December 20, 1732, in regard to the gifts of Bishop Berkeley to Yale University	1733 September 12

b. 4, f. 25	Incomplete proceedings of the Trustees, in regard to the gifts of Bishop Berkeley to Yale University	1733 September 12
b. 4, f. 26	Letter to Rector Williams	1734 August 16
b. 4, f. 27	Proceedings of the Trustees in regards to the gifts of Bishop Berkeley	1734 September 11
b. 4, f. 28	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1734 September 11
b. 4, f. 29	<a href="#">Account of the income and expenses of the college</a>	1734 October 16
b. 4, f. 30	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1735 September 10
b. 4, f. 31	Proceedings of the Trustees, September 11, 1734, in regard to the gifts of Bishop Berkeley to Yale University	1739 October 31
b. 4, f. 32	Incomplete proceedings of the Trustees in regard to the appointment of Thomas Clap	1739 October 31
b. 4, f. 33	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1740 May 08
b. 4, f. 34	Report of a committee of the assembly on the needs of the college	1740 October 27
b. 4, f. 35	Memorial of the Trustees to the assembly	1741 May 14
b. 4, f. 36	Proceedings of the Trustees, September 9, 1741, regarding the discipline of students	1741 September 09
b. 4, f. 37	Report of the committee of the assembly, relating to the college	1742 May
b. 4, f. 38	Memorial of Daniel Edwards and Samuel Mix to the assembly, concerning repairs at the college	1743 May 06
b. 4, f. 39	Photocopy	undated



**Documents concerning the early history of Yale, 1700-1902**

	Propositions for the improvement of Yale College in the colony of Connecticut Document not received from the Beinecke Library. Folder 40 not used.	Undated
b. 4, f. 41	Request of seven Connecticut ministers to their brethren, recommending adoption of the Westminster Confession	1703 March 17
b. 4, f. 42	Letter July 14, 1888 to Franklin B. Dexter	1703 February 20-1704 February 20
b. 4, f. 43	A list of books given to the college of Connecticut in New England with the names of the benefactors	1712-1713
b. 4, f. 44	Letter to Joseph Noyes about shipment of books for the college; Boston	1714 September 08
b. 4, f. 45	List of books, "the gift of Senior John Davie to the Colledge of Connecticut, except one fo no 17...which was given by one Mr. William Rowe	1714
b. 4, f. 46	A catalogue of the books sent by ye honorable Elihu Yale, esquire	Circa 1718
b. 4, f. 47	"A catalogue of books given from Great Britain to the Collegiate School of Connecticut, at New Haven..."	1718 April 23
b. 4, f. 48	Manuscript copy of his salutatory oration	1718 September 10
b. 4, f. 49	An account of some books received from Great Britain from Dr. Turner	Circa 1720
b. 4, f. 50	Letter to court in New London on suit against Yale College, Canterbury	1721 November 17
b. 5, f. 1	<a href="#">A catalogue of books for Yale College, sent by Bishop Berkeley. Invoice at the end signed "Henry Newman"</a>	1733
b. 5, f. 2	A catalogue of books, chiefly mathematical, to be sent to "Yale College"	1730
b. 5, f. 3	Manuscript notebook, probably kept while he was the congregational minister at East Guilford, now Madison	1726-1730
b. 5, f. 4	Latin dissertation, Yale College	1748
b. 5, f. 5	"This book given to the Library of Yale College, by the Reverend Mr. Henry Barclay, N, 1750, New York"	1750
b. 5, f. 6	Latin dissertation, written while in Yale College	1755
b. 5, f. 7	Letter to John Noyes; Hatfield, Massachusetts	1759 May 28
b. 5, f. 8	Oration, in his autograph, delivered by him at Yale College	1759 June 21
b. 5, f. 9	Letter to his son, Josiah Willard, a student at Yale College; Newington	1759 December 03
b. 5, f. 10	Letter to his son, Josiah Willard, a student at Yale College; Newington	1760 April 26
b. 5, f. 11-12	Letters to Josiah Willard, Yale College	1763-1765

b. 5, f. 13	Letter to Denys Debert, suggesting that he aid Dr. William S. Johnson in securing help for Yale College	1766 December 13
b. 5, f. 14	Letter to Lucretia Taylor (afterwards Mrs. Samuel Nott) containing a map of Yale College; New Haven	1779 December 14
b. 5, f. 15	A series of twenty-five letters sent to his father, Thomas, to himself while in Yale, as well as other Yalermen	1779
b. 5, f. 16	Ecomium on literature; autograph manuscript of S. Baldwin; New Haven	1780 July
b. 5, f. 17	Two manuscript accounts of Yale undergraduates	1780-1781
b. 5, f. 18	"Some strictures of the life and character of Doctor Lothrop deceased"; manuscript in the hand of Benjamin Lord	1782 January 29
b. 5, f. 19	Manuscript-composition-book in an unidentified hand, dated "Y. College August 30th, 1782"	1782-1783
b. 5, f. 20	Letter to the Reverend Ezra Stiles acknowledging receipt of a copy of Stile's election sermon	1784 January 05
b. 5, f. 21	Miscellany: Verietate Natura Gaudet	1783
b. 5, f. 22	Laws of Yale College, manuscript, in an unidentified hand or hands, beginning "Index, the charter of Yale College"	Circa 1786
b. 5, f. 23	Letter to Charles Whittlesey; Haddam	1817 September 08
b. 6, f. 1	Circular letter in an unidentified autograph	1833
b. 6, f. 2	Expenditures during a college course, 1835-1839, manuscript in the hand of George Sherman; New Haven	1835-1839
b. 6, f. 3	General items relating to H.M. Boot while a student at Yale College	1838-1839
b. 6, f. 4	Letter to his father; Huntington Potter, New Haven	1839-1840
b. 6, f. 5	Committee for memorial to Charles H. Porter	1839 October 28
b. 6, f. 6	Extracts from an original manuscript book of records of the governor and council of the colony of Connecticut	1845 May 17
b. 6, f. 7	Notebook with their constitution	1848-1849
b. 6, f. 8	Two copies of an autograph letter in an unidentified hand, signed "a sophomore"	Circa 1850s
b. 6, f. 9	Two manuscript notebooks, in an unidentified hand	1854-1855
b. 6, f. 10-11	Autograph biographical notes, in an unidentified handwriting, on members of the class of 1856, Yale College	1856
b. 6, f. 12	A list of names, signed with the individual autographs	1856
b. 6, f. 13-16	Papers, both manuscript and printed	1888-1889
b. 6, f. 17	Manuscript catalogue of books his father, the Reverend Abraham Pierson, intended to give to Yale College	undated

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b. 7, f. 1	Scrapbook containing newspaper and magazine clippings related to Yale University	1887-1902
b. 8, f. 1	"An act for the more full and compleat establishment of Yale College in New-Haven and for enlarging the powers and privileges thereof."	1745 May 11

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## **Accession 2018-A-0074: Additional material, 1822**

b. 1, f. 1          Statement on the present situation of Yale College          1822 June  
Manuscript statement on the financial, administrative, and curricular state of Yale  
College.

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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.

### **Subjects**

Universities and colleges -- United States

### **Geographic Names**

Connecticut -- History -- Colonial period, ca.  
1600-1775

### **Names**

Dummer, Jeremiah, 1681-1739  
Mather, Increase, 1639-1723  
Pierpont, James, 1660-1714  
Sewall, Samuel, 1652-1730  
Yale, Elihu, 1649-1721

### **Corporate Bodies**

Collegiate School (New Haven, Conn.) --  
History  
Yale College (1718-1887) -- History  
Yale University -- History -- 18th century  
Yale University -- History -- 19th century