

# **Guide to the French Revolutionary Wars Letters and Documents**

**OSB MSS 25**



by Beinecke Staff

June 1996

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	3
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Processing Information .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Letters and Documents .....	5
Manuscripts, n.d. ....	7
Selected Search Terms .....	8

---

## 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:** OSB MSS 25

**TITLE:** French revolutionary wars letters and documents

**DATES:** 1792-1796

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

**LANGUAGE:** French

**SUMMARY:** Letters and documents regarding the activity, payment, and coordination of troops involved in the French revolutionary wars. Some letters also concern the desertion of French troops to the British side. Includes letters from Charles Bailly de Fresnay and William Cavendish Bentinck.

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

---

## 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.france>.

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

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

## Conditions Governing Use

The French Revolutionary War Letters 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.

---

## Preferred Citation

French Revolutionary War Letters and Documents. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

---

## 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. If the collection also contains unlisted or unsorted material, this has been noted in the box-and-folder list.

---

## Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of materials pertaining to the French Revolutionary Wars.

## Collection Contents

### Letters and Documents

Bailly de Fresnay, Charles Gaspart, Elisabeth Joseph, Marquis de, 1765-1850		
b. 1, f. 1	ALS (in French) to [Sir David Dundas?], Wildsgemsen Reports on his activities including an unfortunate incident in which a fight broke out between a detachment of his troops and some peasants.	1795 Mar 30
b. 1, f. 2	ALS in (French) to unnamed recipient, Otterburg Informs the recipient that he has been put in charge of transporting rations and supplies from Otterburg to Bremen.	1795 Apr 4
b. 1, f. 3	ALS (in French) to unnamed recipient, [n.p.] Concerns problems with his troops.	n.d.
Bentinck, Lord William Cavendish, 1774-1839		
b. 1, f. 4	ALS (in French) to Sir George Don, Nienburg Concerns the embarrassing problem of being able to pay officers only half what they are due. Asks Don to send him some money on account.	1796 May 13
b. 1, f. 5	Letter (copy, in French) to Captain Nacquart, Nienburg Concerns problems of coordination in strategy between the British High Command and her Dutch allies.	1795 Nov 19
b. 1, f. 6	ALS (in French) to unnamed recipient, Bremen Sends the names of 13 French officers who want to join the British Army.	1796 Jan 9
b. 1, f. 7	Béthisy de Mézières, Richard Henri Charles de, 1770-1827. ALS (in French) to unnamed recipient, Salzburg From the commander of an advances outpost to his superior pleading for the relief of his squadron.	1795 Mar 16
b. 1, f. 8	Brownrigg, Sir Robert, 1759-1833. ALS to Sir George Don, [n.p.]	[n.y.] Mar 21
b. 1, f. 9	Choiseul Stainville, Antoine Clériadus Gabriel, Duc de, 1760-1838. LS (in secretary's hand, in French) to Frederick Augustus, Duke of York, Driel Asks permission to raise a fourth squadron of his regiment. The cost would be 30 louis per man fully equipped and mounted.	1794 Sep 4
b. 1, f. 10	De la Porte, Mr. ALS (in French) to Sir David Dundas, Bremen Asks that General Dundas will see fit to arrange passages to England for those French gentlemen who wish to serve under British Command.	1795 Jun 2
b. 1, f. 11	Dundas, Sir David, 1735-1820. ALS to Sir George Don, Lingen Concerns communication and logistic problems for the English army operating against the French in the Netherlands.	[ca. 1795] Feb 28
b. 1, f. 12	Durell, Thomas. "List of captive French prisoners to be exchanged" (holograph, signed), Hoxter Includes their rank, date of capture, and regiment.	1795 Aug 26

b. 1, f. 13	Harcourt, William Harcourt, 3d Earl, 1743-1830. ALS (in French) to Mr. Duhon, Bremen Warns Duhon that he is responsible for detachment having requisitioned food from civilians.	1792 Apr 2
b. 1, f. 14	Kielmansegge, Comte de. Letter (copy, in French) to Lord William Bentinck, Hanover Reports "les etats allemands de La Majestie" do not want expatriate Dutch soldiers on their territory.	1795, Dec 23
b. 1, f. 15	Menu, H., abbé. ALS (in French) to unnamed recipient, Minden Concerns a messenger sent to Menu from the recipient, a colonel.	1795 Mar 1
b. 1, f. 16	Mozane, Cananas du. 2 ALS (in French) to Sir James Henry Craig, [v.p.] The first letter suggests the extension of an amnesty to those French soldiers willing to desert the British. The second reports on the progress of their programs and includes descriptions of specific cases of desertions.	1794 Jul 17, Nov 8

**Manuscripts, n.d.**

b. 1, f. 17	"Etat du depot á Etablir, le plus prés possible Des frontières," anonymous manuscript	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	"Extrait d'une lettre de London du 2 Oct 1796," anonymous manuscript	1796 Oct 2

## **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**

France -- History -- Revolution, 1789-1799  
France -- History -- Revolution, 1789-1799 --  
Desertions

### **Names**

Bailly de Fresnay, Charles Gaspard Elisabeth  
Joseph, Marquis de, 1765-1850  
Bentinck, William Henry Cavendish, Lord,  
1774-1839