

# Guide to the Gordon of Gordonstoun Papers

OSB MSS 342



by Brooke McManus

March 2023

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** OSB MSS 342

**CREATOR:** Gordon family

**TITLE:** Gordon of Gordonstoun papers

**DATES:** 1513-1948

**BULK DATES:** 1614-1800

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 9.63 linear feet (10 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English, Latin, and French.

**SUMMARY:** The collection contains correspondence, legal documents, deeds, and other papers by or relating to the Gordon family of Gordonstoun and Cumming family of Altyre, Scotland.

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

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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.gordon>.

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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

Purchased from Sotheby's via Winifred Meyers on the James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection Fund, circa 1955.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Gordon of Gordonstoun 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Gordon of Gordonstoun Papers. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehusing and minimal organization. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Folders 54, 116, and 152 are unused.

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## Gordon family

The Gordon family of Gordonstoun, Moray, Scotland, are part of Clan Gordon from Aberdeenshire. The chief of the clan is the Marquess of Huntly, earlier the Earl of Huntly. George Gordon (1514-1562), 4th Earl of Huntly, married Elizabeth Keith, and they had 12 children including George Gordon, 5th Earl of Huntly (-1576) and Lady Jean Gordon, Countess of Bothwell (1546-1629). Jean Gordon married Alexander Gordon, 12th Earl of Sutherland. Their children included Robert Gordon (1580-1656), a Scottish politician who acquired properties in the shires of Elgin and Forres that were united into the barony of Gordonstoun by charter in 1642. Gordon married Lucie (or Louise) Gordon (1597-1680), and their children included Lodovick (or Ludovick) Gordon (1614-1685), a member of parliament for Elgin & Forresshire, who married Elizabeth Farquhar, daughter of Sir Robert Farquhar of Mounie; and Katherine Gordon (1621-1683), who married Colonel David Barclay. Katherine and David Barclay's son Robert (1648-1690) was a writer belonging to the Religious Society of Friends and titular governor of the East Jersey colony in North America. The Gordonstoun baronetcy passed from Ludovick to his son Robert (1647-1704), grandson Robert (1696-1772), and great-grandson William, who died in 1795 and was succeeded by Alexander Penrose Cumming Gordon (1749-1806) of Altyre. Other members of the family included George Gordon (1643-1716), 4th Marquess of Huntly and 9th Earl of Huntly, who was created Duke of Gordon in 1684.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection contains correspondence, legal documents, deeds, and other papers by or relating to the Gordon family of Gordonstoun and Cumming family of Altyre, Scotland. Correspondents include George Gordon, Robert Gordon, Alexander Penrose Cumming Gordon, Robert Farquhar of Mounie, Thomas

Urquhart of Cromarty, King Charles I, King James I, and Oliver Cromwell. Topics of letters and papers are the Jacobite army and support for the rebellion in 1745-1746, smuggling off the coast of Scotland in the 1740s, the Napoleonic Wars, land investment in Scotland and Jamaica, and British colonization of India. The collection also contains passports issued by Charles I and King Louis XV of France.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1614-1831. II. Other Papers, 1513-1948.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1614–1831

0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

This series largely consists of business and personal correspondence of the Gordon, Cumming, Farquhar, and Urquhart families. Among the topics of letters are smuggling on the Scottish coast, demands by the Jacobite army on Robert Gordon (1696-1772), administration of Alexander Cumming's estate in Jamaica, the Napoleonic Wars, and Great Britain's colonization of India in the 1800s. Correspondents include Robert Gordon, John Gordon, Robert Farquhar, Robert and Thomas Urquhart, King Charles I and King James I of England, and Oliver Cromwell, as well as Scottish slave trader and Jacobite supporter Evan Baillie.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, with unidentified correspondence filed at the end of the sequence.

b. 1, f. 1	Albemarle, George Monck, Duke of, 1608-1670	1656–1659
b. 1, f. 2	Baillie, Evan	1746
b. 1, f. 3	Barclay, James	1686–1688
b. 1, f. 4	Barclay, John	1670, undated
b. 1, f. 5	Barclay, Katherine Gordon, 1621-1683	1660
b. 1, f. 6	Barclay, Robert	1683
b. 1, f. 7	Begg, Alexander	1744
b. 1, f. 8	Boyle, Roger, Earl of Orrery, 1621-1679, to the High Sheriff of Cromarty	1655–1656
b. 1, f. 9	Brander, William	1746
b. 1, f. 10	"C-D" General	1643–1688
b. 1, f. 11	Charles I, King of England, 1600-1649, to James Stuart, Duke of Lennox (1612-1655)	1633
b. 1, f. 12	Charles I, King of England, 1600-1649, to Robert Gordon (1580-1656)	1630–1639
b. 1, f. 13	Cromwell, Oliver, 1599-1658, to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (copy)	1650
b. 1, f. 14	Cumming, J.	1713
b. 1, f. 15	Custis, Edmund to William Blathwayt	1669, undated
b. 1, f. 16	Duc de Chartres [?] to Sir William and Lady Gordon Cummings	undated
b. 1, f. 17	Elphinstone, [John?]	1633
b. 1, f. 18	Farquhar, Robert	1623–1660
b. 1, f. 19	Fraser, Gilbert	1623
b. 1, f. 20	Fraser, [first name illegible]	1639
b. 1, f. 21	Goodwillie, John	1746

b. 1, f. 22	Gordon, Alexander	1639
b. 1, f. 23	Gordon, Alexander Penrose Cumming, Sir, 1749-1806	1777-1802
b. 1, f. 24	Gordon, Frances	1746
b. 1, f. 25	Gordon, George Gordon, Duke of, 1649-1716, to John Gordon and Lodovick Gordon	1683-1713
b. 1, f. 26	Gordon, John	1681
b. 1, f. 27	Gordon, Lodovick	1660-1678
b. 1, f. 28	Gordon, Lucy	1683
b. 1, f. 29	Gordon, Robert, 1580-1656, to Alexander Gordon and others	1614-1643
b. 1, f. 30	Gordon, Robert, Sir, 1696-1772. Memorial to Lord George Murray Related to demands on Gordon to provision the Jacobite army.	1746
b. 1, f. 31	Grant, Archibald Topics include British colonial rule of India.	1808
b. 1, f. 32	Gray, William	1650
b. 1, f. 33	Hossack, John and William Mackintosh	1744
b. 1, f. 34	Hutchinson, Thomas	1746
b. 1, f. 35	James I, King of England, 1566-1625, to Sir Robert Gordon (1580-1656)	1622
b. 1, f. 36	Justices of the Peace for the County of Elgin & Forres	1745
b. 1, f. 37	Lauderdale, John Maitland, Duke of, 1616-1682, to Alexander Lindsay, Earl of Balcarres, and Lord Provost of Edinburgh	1651, 1674
b. 1, f. 38	Lawrie, Gawen (copy of 1684 letter regarding East Jersey province)	undated
b. 1, f. 39	Lennox, James Stuart, Duke of, 1612-1655, to Robert Gordon	1628-1633
b. 1, f. 40	Leslie, James	1776
b. 1, f. 41	Loudoun, John Campbell, Earl of, 1598-1663	1644
b. 1, f. 42	Lovat, Simon Fraser, Lord, 1667 or 1668-1747, to George Cumming	1745
b. 1, f. 43	Lyntoun [?], Alexander	1635-1636
b. 1, f. 44	"M-P" General	1638-1658
b. 1, f. 45	Mackintosh, H. B. (Herbert Bannerman), 1868-1949	1934
b. 1, f. 46	Macleod (copy of a letter from Fort Augustus)	undated
b. 1, f. 47	Mascall, Thomas	1742
b. 1, f. 48	McEwan, William	1777
b. 1, f. 49	Montrose, James Graham, Marquis of, 1612-1650, to Robert Gordon	1643

b. 1, f. 50	Ogilvie, James, Earl of Seafield, 1750-1811, incoming letters in French and English	1783-1789
b. 1, f. 51	Pembroke, Philip Herbert, Earl of, 1584-1650, to Robert Gordon	1638
b. 1, f. 52	Popple, William to John Gordon	1678-1679
b. 2, f. 53	Rappin, [first name unknown] To Robert Gordon, in French.	undated
b. 2, f. 55	Robertson, James	1777
b. 2, f. 56	Rutherford, Samuel	1640
b. 2, f. 57	Scott, William	1744-1746
b. 2, f. 58	Sempill, R.	1630
b. 2, f. 59	Sinclair, [first name illegible]	1691
b. 2, f. 60	Sinclair, Archibald References Battle of La Guaira during the War of Jenkins' Ear.	1741-1745
b. 2, f. 61	Solwell, Robert [?]	1637
b. 2, f. 62	Stirling, Walter	1753
b. 2, f. 63	Stewart, [Lev.?)	1746
b. 2, f. 64	Stoddard, James	1705
b. 2, f. 65	Suckling, John, Sir, 1609-1642 (copy)	circa 1641
b. 2, f. 66	Thompson, James	1749
b. 2, f. 67	Urquhart, David	1793
b. 2, f. 68	Urquhart, Robert	1683
b. 2, f. 69	Urquhart, Robert	1725-1740, 1831
b. 2, f. 70	Urquhart, Thomas, 1611-1660, to Robert Farquhar and others	1637-1657
b. 2, f. 71	Urquhart, [first name illegible]	1660-1665
b. 2, f. 72	Walker, James	1744
b. 2, f. 73	Worley, George	1731
b. 2, f. 74	Unidentified author. "Answer to Ramsay his denyall ye 9 of december 1631"	1631
b. 2, f. 75	Unidentified author. "A letter of an Independent, to his honored friend Mr Glyn recorder of London"	1645
b. 2, f. 76-78	Unidentified	1619-1800



**Series II: Other Papers, 1513–1948***9 linear feet (8 boxes)*

This series contains passports issued by the British and French governments, documents related to smuggling off the Scottish coast, depositions concerning the Jacobite army, petitions, articles of agreement, commissions, papers concerning land and tenancy in Gordonstoun and Jamaica, and other legal and financial records dating from the 1500s.

Arranged alphabetically by folder title, with unsorted and unidentified materials filed at the end of the sequence.

b. 3, f. 79	Abatement, Canada	1629
b. 3, f. 80	Account of arrears due by the tenants of the estate of Gordonstoun	1718
b. 6, f. 150	Account of expenses disbursed by Alexander Cumming	1706
b. 3, f. 81	Act of admission of Sir Robert Gordon upon counsel	1634
b. 3, f. 82	Act of synod [clergy] related to land	1673
b. 3, f. 83	Albemarle, George Monck, Duke of, 1608-1670. Order against the covenanters	1651
b. 3, f. 84	Albemarle, George Monck, Duke of, 1608-1670. Order for abatement	1657
b. 3, f. 85	Alonzo, Hector. Document, signed	1633
b. 3, f. 86	Annexation of land in Elgin	1658
b. 3, f. 87	Battle of Philiphaugh, list of prisoners of war	1645
b. 3, f. 88	Barony court document	1684
b. 3, f. 89	Brodie, Alexander, 1617-1680. List and account	1651
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 164	Commission	1681
b. 7, f. 158	Commission	undated
b. 3, f. 90	Cumming family	1751–1789
b. 3, f. 91	Cumming, James. Certificate signed by Alexander Brodie Lyon	1744
b. 3, f. 92	Declaration signed by Robert Gordon, Lodovick Gordon, Gilbert Keith, and others	1650
b. 3, f. 93	Directions from Colonel Grom [?] to Robert Gordon	1637
b. 3, f. 94	Document referencing Rudolf II, Holy Roman Emperor, 1584 (copy)	circa 1620
b. 3, f. 95	Documents related to a cathedral church	1633
b. 6, f. 151	Document related to William Gunn [?]	1634
b. 3, f. 96	England and Wales. Sovereign (1603-1625 : James I). Bound volume of historical and political tracts, autograph manuscript, in various unknown hands	1600s
b. 3, f. 97	England and Wales. Sovereign (1603-1625 : James I). Bound volume of historical and political tracts, papers found with volume	undated

b. 5, f. 145	England and Wales. Sovereign (1625-1649 : Charles I). Passport for Robert Gordon	1642
b. 3, f. 98	England and Wales. Sovereign (1660-1685 : Charles II). Passport for Lodovick Gordon	1651
b. 3, f. 99	English and Scottish weight conversion table	undated
b. 3, f. 100	Epigram, 1606 (copy)	undated
b. 3, f. 101	Farquhar, Robert. Documents related to or signed by	1641
b. 3, f. 102	Fitch, Thomas, Governor of Inverness	1654
b. 3, f. 103	Gift of the chaplain of Kinauld to James Gray	1672
b. 3, f. 104	Gordon, Alexander Penrose Cumming, Sir, 1749-1806, and Helen Grant. Memorandum regarding marriage contract	circa 1787
b. 3, f. 105	Gordon, Alexander Penrose Cumming, Sir, 1816-1866. "Slavonic inscription on my small silver cross"	1861
b. 3, f. 106	Gordon family	1763-1786
b. 3, f. 107	Gordon, John. Account of funeral charges	1686
b. 3, f. 108	Gordon, Robert, 1580-1656. Documents related to or signed by	1612-1629
b. 3, f. 109	Gordon, Robert, 1580-1656. Petitions to Charles I, King of England	1635
b. 3, f. 110-111	Gordon, Robert, 1580-1656, Lodovick Gordon, and Sir Robert Gordon (1696-1772). Documents related to or signed by	1630-1707
b. 3, f. 112	Gordon, Robert, 1647-1704. Articles of agreement with tradesmen	1687
b. 3, f. 113	Henderson, Thomas. Fragment of document to an unidentified commission	1650
b. 3, f. 114	Instructions and orders for officials ... of the shires of Inverness, Sutherland, Caithness and Cromarty, Elgin ...	1694
b. 3, f. 115	Instrument of leasing	1687
b. 3, f. 117	Inverness and Aberdeen Junction Railway share certificates	1856
b. 3, f. 118	Lands in Jamaica claimed by the executors of Alexander Cumming	circa 1744
b. 5, f. 146	Louis XV, King of France, 1710-1774. Passport for Robert Gordon	1772
b. 3, f. 119	Mackenzie, Margaret (Lady Duffus). Petition	1688
b. 4, f. 120	MacLeod, Norman, 1706-1772. "The Oath of the Laird Macleod"	1745, 1930
b. 6, f. 153	Memorandum related to the estate and property of Alexander Cumming	undated
b. 4, f. 121	Memorial concerning the mines of Scotland	undated
b. 6, f. 154-155	Memorials and papers related to smuggling Includes an extract of a court martial of George Cummings.	1744-1745
b. 4, f. 122	Middleton, John Middleton, Earl of, 1619-1674. Document, signed	1647

b. 4, f. 123	Murray, James. Documents related to or signed by	1641
b. 7, f. 159	Murray, James. Unidentified document	circa 1626
b. 4, f. 124	Murray, Thomas. Declaration related to Robert Gordon and John Gordon	1681
b. 4, f. 125	Papers relating to Aberdeen and Dallas, Scotland	1790–1799
	Papers related to the Jacobites	
b. 5, f. 147	Depositions	1745–1746
b. 5, f. 148	Depositions in the Bailie Court of the Barony of Gordonstoun	1746
b. 5, f. 149	Memorials for Robert Gordon and tenant depositions	1746
b. 4, f. 126	Presbyter's [illegible] concerning the church of Duffus	1672
b. 4, f. 127	Proposals concerning navigation	undated
b. 6, f. 156	Rental of the Duke of Gordon's estate in the parish of Duffus	1785
b. 4, f. 128	Richmond and Lennox, Frances Howard Stuart, Duchess of, 1578-1639. Documents related to	1623, undated
b. 6, f. 157	Summons, Laird of Grant and Laird of Gordonstoun	1692
b. 4, f. 129	Sutherland, George Gordon, Earl of, 1633-1703. Commission to Robert Gordon, declaration regarding building	1678–1680
b. 4, f. 130	Temple, William, 1628-1699. Agreement with Edmund Custis (copy)	1670
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 165	Transcript of writs	1560
b. 4, f. 131	Urquhart, Thomas, 1611-1660. "Sir Thomas Urquhart his letter to the Laird of Cromartie," autograph manuscript booklet and printed version	1658, 1948
b. 4, f. 132	Warrant	1627
b. 4, f. 133	Unsorted	1500s
b. 4, f. 134	Unsorted	1600–1620
b. 4, f. 135	Unsorted	1630s
b. 4, f. 136	Unsorted	1640s
b. 4, f. 137	Unsorted	1650s
b. 4, f. 138	Unsorted	1670s
b. 4, f. 139	Unsorted	1770s
b. 4, f. 140	Unsorted	1780s
b. 4, f. 141	Unsorted	1790s
b. 4, f. 142	Unsorted	1800–1812

b. 4, f. 143-144	Unsorted	undated
b. 7, f. 160	Unidentified commission	1513
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 166	Unidentified instrument	1527
b. 7, f. 161	Unidentified document	1537
b. 7, f. 162	Unidentified instrument	1537
b. 8 (Oversize), f. 167	Unidentified instrument	1553
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 168	Unidentified document (fragment), with wax seal attached by string	1541
b. 7, f. 163	Unidentified document	1571
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 169	Unidentified document [Andrew Grom?]	1582
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 170	Unidentified document signed by M. Ranson and others	1596
b. 9 (Oversize), f. 171	Unidentified document signed by George Douglas	1601
b. 10 (Oversize), f. 172	Unidentified document	1608, 1656
b. 10 (Oversize), f. 173	Unidentified document related to William Douglas	1609
b. 10 (Oversize), f. 174	Unidentified document related to John Gordon	1618

## 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

Jacobite Rebellion, 1745-1746  
Jacobites  
Napoleonic Wars, 1800-1815  
Real property -- Great Britain  
Real property -- Jamaica -- 18th century  
Smuggling -- Scotland -- 18th century

### Genres / Formats

Deeds  
Passports

### Geographic Names

India -- History -- British occupation, 1765-1947

### Names

Charles, King of England, I, 1600-1649  
Cromwell, Oliver, 1599-1658  
Farquhar, Robert, -1666  
Gordon, George Gordon, Duke of, 1649-1716  
Gordon, Lodovick  
Gordon, Robert, 1580-1656  
Gordon, Robert, Sir, 1696-1772  
James, King of England, I, 1566-1625  
Louis, King of France, XV, 1710-1774  
Urquhart, Thomas, Sir, 1611-1660

### Families

Cummings family  
Gordon family