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Guide to the William Pitt Collection

GEN MSS 442



by Kathryn Rawdon

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 442

CREATOR: Pitt, William, Earl of Chatham, 1708-1778

TITLE: William Pitt collection

DATES: 1758-1806

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.4 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings, and other papers that document the lives and work of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham (1708-1778) and his son, William Pitt (1759-1806). Correspondents include John Murray, Duke of Atholl; George Nugent Temple Grenville, Marquess of Buckingham; Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke; and George William Frederick Osborne, Duke of Leeds.

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

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.pitt>.

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 Frederick W. Hilles in memory of Bernhard Knollenberg, 1974.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Pitt Collection 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

William Pitt Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM (1708-1778)

Born in London on 15 November 1708, "the elder Pitt," as William Pitt was known, was the son of Robert Pitt and Lady Harriet Villiers. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Oxford, and in 1735 entered parliament for Old Sarum, one of the boroughs controlled by his brother. He became secretary of state in 1756, where he was determined to continue and increase military action against France during the Seven Years War. Opposition from King George II forced him to resign a year later, but public support brought him back only a few months later. He was forced to resign again in 1761, when the cabinet refused to support a war with Spain. In 1766 he established a new ministry, but his health prevented him from serving any real function, and he resigned in 1768. Pitt died on 11 May 1778.

WILLIAM PITT (1759-1806)

William Pitt was born in Kent, England on 28 May 1759, son of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and Lady Hester Grenville. He was educated at home as a child, and at age fourteen attended Pembroke Hall, Cambridge. In 1780, he was called to the bar, and joined the western assize circuit. He failed to win a parliamentary seat at Cambridge in 1780, but in 1781 he was elected to a seat for Appleby in Westmorland. In July of 1782, he became Chancellor of the Exchequer. He became the leader of the Commons in the ministry of William Petty, Earl of Shelburne, defeating Charles James Fox, with whom he began a lifelong rivalry. After the failure of the ministries of Shelburne and his successor, William Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, Duke of Portland, Pitt became Britain's youngest Prime Minister at the age of twenty-four. His seventeen-year term saw the reduction of the national debt, the union of England with Ireland, and the defeat of the invading French at Trafalgar. He died heavily in debt in 1806.

Scope and Contents

The William Pitt Collection contains correspondence, writings and other papers that document the lives and work of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham (1708-1778) and his son, William Pitt (1759-1806). The collection has been arranged into two series, *Correspondence* and *Other Papers*.

[Series I, *Correspondence*](#), contains letters to and from both William Pitt the elder and the younger. Also included are third party letters.

[Series II, *Other Papers*](#), contains six texts, the authorship of which is undetermined, except the first, which has been attributed to Mr. Franklyn.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1758-1806

0.30' (3/4 box)

Series I, *Correspondence*, is organized into three subseries: William Pitt, Earl of Chatham (1708-1778); William Pitt (1759-1806); and Third Party Letters.

WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM (1708-1778)

Outgoing

b. 1, f. 1	Bristol, George William Hervey, Earl of (extracts and originals)	1758, 1760
b. 1, f. 2	Read, W. and E. Charlton	1759
b. 1, f. 3	Stanley, Hans (extract of letter)	1761 Jul 28

Incoming

b. 1, f. 4	Abreu, Félix de (copies and originals)	1758-59
b. 1, f. 5	Bedford, John Russell, Duke of (1710-1771)	1759 Sep 2
b. 1, f. 6	Carteret, John, Earl Granville	1761 Apr 5
b. 1, f. 7	Dover, Joseph Yorke, Baron	1759
b. 1, f. 8	Frankland, [Thomas, Sir?]	1759
b. 1, f. 9	Hardwicke, Philip Yorke, Earl of (1690-1764)	1759-60
b. 1, f. 10	Hawke, Edward Hawke, Baron	1760 Dec 21
b. 1, f. 11	Porten, Stanier, Sir	1760 Apr 2
b. 1, f. 12	Stanley, Hans	1761

WILLIAM PITT (1759-1806)

Outgoing

b. 1, f. 13	Aldborough, [Edward Stratford, Earl of?]	1785 Aug 30
b. 1, f. 14	Courtney, Lord	1785 Sep 1
b. 1, f. 15	Lisburn, Sharman, Lt. Col. (draft)	1783 Aug 11
b. 1, f. 16	Miles, [William Augustus?]	1785 Dec 23
b. 1, f. 17	Molloy, Captain	1785 Oct 27
b. 1, f. 18	Sackville, [George Germain, Viscount] (draft)	1783 Dec 29

Incoming

b. 1, f. 19	Atholl, John Murray, Duke of (1755-1830)	1787-97
b. 1, f. 20	Auckland, William Eden, Baron	1785

WILLIAM PITT (1759-1806) > Incoming (continued)

b. 1, f. 21	Buckingham, George Nugent Temple Grenville, Marquess of Carmarthen, Marquis of See: George William Frederick Osborne, Duke of Leeds, box 1, folder 24	1783-85, n.d.
b. 1, f. 22	Castlereagh, Robert Stewart, Viscount (copy)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 23	Cooke, Edward (fragment)	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24	Leeds, George William Frederick Osborne, Duke of	1785
b. 1, f. 25	Miles, William Augustus	1785 Nov 17
b. 1, f. 26	Newcastle, Henry Fiennes Pelham- Clinton, Duke of	n.d.
b. 1, f. 27	Orde, Thomas, Baron Bolton	1785
b. 1, f. 28	Portland, William Henry Cavendish- Bentinck, Duke of	n.d.
b. 1, f. 29	Redesdale, John Mitford, Baron	1800 Jul 7
b. 1, f. 30	Rous, George	[n.y.] Mar 26
b. 1, f. 31	Rutland, Charles Manners, Duke of	1785
b. 1, f. 32	Sackville, George Germain, Viscount	1783 Dec 31
b. 1, f. 33	Teignmouth, John Shore, Baron	1798 Jan 31
b. 1, f. 34	"G. R."	1785 Nov 4
b. 1, f. 35	Precis of letters received by Mr. Pitt	1793-1806
THIRD PARTY LETTERS		
	Carmarthen, Marquis of See: George William Frederick Osborne, Duke of Leeds, box 1, folder 24	
	Leeds, George William Frederick Osborne, Duke of	
b. 1, f. 36	To Mr. Crawford	1785 Nov 4
b. 1, f. 37	To Sir David Dalrymple	1785 Sep 30
b. 1, f. 38	To James Harris, Earl of Malmesbury (copy)	1785 Dec 16
b. 1, f. 39	To Charles Lennox, Duke of Richmond and Lennox[?] (copy)	1785 Dec 27
b. 1, f. 40	From Sir David Dalrymple (extracts, copies, and originals)	1785
b. 1, f. 41	From James Harris, Earl of Malmesbury	1785
b. 1, f. 42	From Mr. Walpole (extract of letter)	1785 Dec 3
	Others	
b. 1, f. 43	Munro, Al. to Mr. Woodford (extract of letters)	1785 Nov 24
b. 1, f. 44	Price, Richard to William Petty, [Marquis of Lansdowne?]	1782 Aug 6

THIRD PARTY LETTERS > Others (continued)

b. 1, f. 45	St. Helens, Alleyne Fitzherbert, Baron to Lord Grantham (copy)	1783 Mar 13
b. 1, f. 46	Southwell, [Richard Hayes?] to General Grenville	n.d.
b. 1, f. 47	Wright, James, Sir to Anthony Addington (copy)	1778 Jan 2

Series II: Other Papers, 1760-1785

0.10' (1/4 box)

b. 1, f. 48	Franklyn, ----. "On Parliamentary Reform," manuscript Annotated: "from Mr. [Wyvill?]."	1785 Jun 17
	Unidentified	
b. 1, f. 49	"Observations respecting Ireland," manuscript	1785 Nov 22
b. 1, f. 50	"Postscript to the short conversation of yesterday," manuscript	1760
b. 1, f. 51	"Precis of Sir T. Gray's letters [to Mr. Pitt]," manuscript	n.d.
b. 1, f. 52	"Precis of such parts of the dispatch from Spain as has not been read by the King," manuscript	n.d.
b. 1, f. 53	"Short remarks on the Institution of the Wine Company in Portugal," manuscript	n.d.

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.

Names

Atholl, John Murray, Duke of, 1755-1830
Buckingham, George Nugent Temple Grenville,
Marquess of, 1753-1813
Hardwicke, Philip Yorke, Earl of, 1690-1764
Leeds, George William Frederick Osborne, Duke
of, 1775-1856
Pitt, William, 1759-1806
Pitt, William, Earl of Chatham, 1708-1778

Contributors

Pitt, William, Earl of Chatham, 1708-1778
Pitt, William, 1759-1806