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# Guide to the Lady Sundon, Letterbook

OSBORN FC110



by Beinecke Staff

August 2005

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
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**CALL NUMBER:** OSBORN FC110

**TITLE:** [Letterbook]

**DATES:** [18th century]

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Manuscript, in more than one hand, of a collection of about 315 copies of letters to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon. Almost all the letters in the first volume are from Sarah Churchill, the Duchess of Marlborough, regarding the Duchess' involvement in secret political affairs and intrigues, including those surrounding the son of James II, whom the Duchess calls "the Pretender." The first volume begins with "A list of Papers the Dutchess of Marlborough gave Mrs. Clayton to read, and beg'd they might lye in her custody, which they did for twelve months not careing to trust them in any other hand, and being afraid to keep them in her own house," and "The Cypher the Dutchess of Marlborough (when she went abroad) left with Mrs. Clayton to write to her by." The second volume contains letters, dated between 1722 and 1732, by various correspondents including Mary, Countess Cowper, the Duchess of Kent, the Countess of Pomfret, and the Countess of Pembroke, and are of a primarily social nature; topics include visits in town and Mrs. Clayton's health.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.fc110>

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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.fc110>.

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

## **Administrative Information**

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### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

For provenance information, consult the appropriate curator.

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### **Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.

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### **Conditions Governing Use**

Osborn fc110 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**

Lady Sundon, Letterbook. James Marshall and Marie-Louise Osborn Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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### **Processing Information**

This finding aid was produced from a previously existing list or card set. All pertinent bibliographical information has been retained; the volume may contain additional unlisted material.

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## **Scope and Contents**

The following finding aid is a complete inventory of the contents of Osborn fc110. This list was reformatted from previously existing cataloging.

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## Collection Contents

### OSBORN FC110

#### ANNE, QUEEN OF GT. BRIT., 1665-1714

- |      |  |             |
|------|--|-------------|
| b. 1 | <p>Letter (copy) to Sophia, Electress of Hanover, consort of Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover (1630-1714)</p> <p>St. James<br/>2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.<br/>Asks that she "contribute to the security of the Succession".<br/>110/I/91</p> | 1714 May 19 |
|------|--|-------------|

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#### ANNE, QUEEN OF GT. BRIT., 1665-1714

- |      |   |             |
|------|---|-------------|
| b. 1 | <p>Letter (copy) to George, king of Gt. Brit. and Elector of Hanover (1660-1727)</p> <p>St. James<br/>2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.<br/>Warns him not to disrupt the succession.<br/>110/I/92</p> | 1714 May 19 |
|------|---|-------------|

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#### [ANONYMOUS]

- |      |   |               |
|------|---|---------------|
| b. 1 | <p>3 letters (copies) to Sarah (Jennings) Churchill, duchess of Marlborough (1660-1744)</p> <p>Hanover<br/>4 p.; 38 x 24 cm.<br/>Concerns the proceedings of the Electoral Court and the death of Sophia, Electress of Hanover, consort of Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover (1630-1714).<br/>110/I/94-96</p> | 1714 Jun 5-11 |
|------|---|---------------|

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#### BENSON, W.

- |      |  |      |
|------|--|------|
| b. 2 | <p>Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>n.p.<br/>1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.<br/>Expression of gratitude.<br/>110/II/314</p> | n.d. |
|------|--|------|

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#### BURNET, GILBERT, 1690-1726

- |      |   |      |
|------|---|------|
| b. 2 | <p>Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>n.p.<br/>1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.<br/>Sends his sermon and a copy for Sarah (Jennings) Churchill, duchess of Marlborough (1660-1744).<br/>110/II/316</p> | n.d. |
|------|---|------|

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#### CLARKE, SAMUEL, 1675-1729

## CLARKE, SAMUEL, 1675-1729 (continued)

- b. 2 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1728 Oct 15  
Windsor  
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Describes the health of Caroline,  
queen consort of George II  
(1683-1737).  
110/II/271

## CLAYTON, ROBERT, BP. OF CLOGHER, 1695-1758

- b. 1 15 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1730-32  
1730 Apr 30 - 1732 Jun 25  
Dublin  
45 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Correspondence about books, church  
politics, and Parliament; mentions  
such figures as: John Perceval, 1st  
earl of Egmont (1683-1748), and  
Lionel Cranfield Sackville, 1st duke  
of Dorset (1688-1765).  
110/II/194-195,272-287

## COWPER, MARY (CLAVERING), 1ST COUNTESS COWPER, 1685-1724

- b. 2 23 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) [1713]-1722  
[1713] - 1722 Jun 21  
various places  
26 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Friendly correspondence about social  
events, personal health, William  
Cowper, 1st earl Cowper (d.1723),  
Caroline, queen consort of George II  
(1683-1737), John Churchill, 1st  
duke of Marlborough (1650-1722), and  
other public figures.  
110/II/98-100,102-111,113-124

## COWPER, WILLIAM, 1ST EARL COWPER, D. 1723

- b. 2 2 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1713 Oct 4  
Colgreen  
2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
About the health of his wife, Mary  
(Clavering) Cowper, Countess Cowper  
(1685-1724).  
110/II/101,112

## CRAGGS, JAMES, 1657-1721

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1713 Nov 17  
n.p.  
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Directions for Sarah (Jennings)  
Churchill, duchess of Marlborough  
(1660-1744).  
110/I/3

## DERHAM, WILLIAM, 1657-1735

- b. 2                    2 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)                    1731  
 1731 Oct 12 and 1731 Dec 14  
 Upminster  
 3 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
 Asks Lady Sundon to intercede with  
 Caroline, queen consort of George II  
 (1683-1737).  
 110/II/312-313

## GRAHAM, M.

- b. 2                    10 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)                    1728  
 1728 Apr 7 - Dec 15  
 Pickill  
 8 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
 Asks for money and royal favors  
 and positions.  
 110/II/199-208

## HOADLY, BENJAMIN, BP. OF WINCHESTER, 1676-1761

- b. 2                    [40 letters \(copies\) to Charlotte \(Dyve\) Clayton, Lady Sundon \(d.1742\)](#)                    1715-32  
 1715 Aug 10 - 1732 Dec 27  
 various places  
 62 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
 Personal correspondence about court  
 and religious politics, gossip, and  
 his affection for Lady Sundon.  
 110/II/125-156,191-193,196-198

## KENT, JEMIMA (CREW) GREY, DUCHESS OF, D. 1728

- b. 2                    33 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)                    1722-27  
 1722 Dec 2 - 1727 Aug 6  
 Wrest House  
 20 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
 Friendly correspondence about health  
 the court, and social events.  
 110/II/158-190

## LEWIS, H.

- b. 2                    3 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)                    1731-32  
 1731 Jul 19 - 1732 Nov 3  
 Kew  
 3 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
 Letters of gratitude.  
 110/II/209-210

## MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

## MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744 (continued)

- b.1 Letter (copy) to Anne, queen of Gt. Brit. (1665-1714) n.d.  
n.p.  
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Protesting her faithfulness to the  
Queen out of whose favor she has  
recently fallen.  
110/I/88

## MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

- b.1 Letter (copy) to George I, king of Gt. Brit. (1660-1727) n.d.  
n.p.  
2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Denies accusation that she or her  
husband wrote a letter to James,  
Prince of Wales, the Old Pretender  
(1688-1766).  
110/I/97

## MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

- b.1 Letter (copy) to Abigail (Hill) Masham, Lady Masham (d.1734) [ca. 1713]  
n.p.  
4 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Scathing denunciation of Lady Masham  
at the time she became chief  
confidant to Anne, queen of Gt. Brit.  
(1665-1714); mentions Robert Harley,  
1st earl of Oxford (1661-1724).  
110/I/89

## MARLBOROUGH, SARAH CHURCHILL, DUCHESS OF, 1660-1744

- b.1 86 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1713-1721  
1713 Oct 15 - 1721 Jul 8  
various places  
203 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Personal correspondence to "my best  
friend"; subjects range from politics  
to clothes, friends to finance; most  
letters were written from Europe  
where the Marlboroughs were in exile  
in 1713-1714; letters mention: John  
Churchill, 1st duke of Marlborough  
(1650-1722); Anne, queen of Gt. Brit.  
(1665-1714); Henry Somerset, 2nd duke  
of Somerset (1683-1757); James,  
Prince of Wales, the Old Pretender  
(1688-1766); Henry St. John, 1st  
viscount Bolingbroke (1678-1751);  
Abigail (Hill) Masham, Lady Masham  
(d.1734).  
110/I/ 2,4-87

MARTIN, E.



## MARTIN, E. (continued)

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) [no yr] Sep 11  
Hammersmith  
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Letter of thanks.  
110/II/211

## OXFORD, ROBERT HARLEY, 1ST EARL OF, 1661-1724

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Sophie, Electress of Hanover, Consort of Ernest Augustus, 1714 May 30  
Elector of Hanover, (1630-1714)  
n.p.  
2 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Assures her that the Anne, queen of  
Gt. Brit. (1665-1714), favors the  
succession of her family.  
110/I/93

## PEMBROKE, MARY (HOWE) HERBERT, COUNTESS OF, D.1749

- b. 2 22 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) n.d.  
n.p.  
18 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Friendly correspondence concerning  
gossip about court society, health  
and weather.  
110/II/250-269

## POMFRET, HENRIETTA LOUISA FERMOR, COUNTESS OF, D.1761

- b. 2 37 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) 1725-31  
1725 Jul 27 - 1731 Aug 7  
various places  
48 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Letters include advice, news of  
court events, expressions of  
friendship, and inquiries about each  
other's health.  
110/II/212-248

## SUNDERLAND, ANNE (CHURCHILL) SPENCER, COUNTESS OF, 1683-1716

- b. 1 Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742) n.d.  
n.p.  
1 p.; 38 x 24 cm.  
Explains the cipher used by Sarah  
(Jennings) Churchill, duchess of  
Marlborough (1660-1744), in her  
correspondence.  
110/I/1

## TALBOT, WILLIAM, BP. OF DURHAM, 1659?-1730

## TALBOT, WILLIAM, BP. OF DURHAM, 1659?-1730 (continued)

b. 1	<p>Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>Salisbury 1 p.; 38 x 24 cm. Hopes for continued good health for Lady Sundon and her husband. 110/II/315</p>	1719 Jun 24
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## VOLTAIRE, FRANCOIS MARIE AROUET DE, 1694-1778

b. 2	<p>Letter (copy) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>n.p. 1 p.; 38 x 24 cm. Letter of thanks. 110/II/157</p>	1729 Apr 18
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## WAINWRIGHT, J

b. 2	<p>23 letters (copies) to Charlotte (Dyve) Clayton, Lady Sundon (d.1742)</p> <p>1729 Jan 17 - 1732 Dec 26 Dublin 27 p.; 38 x 24 cm. About politics, religion, and legal matters between client and lawyer; also concerns Wainwright's attempts at poetry and drama; mentions Robert Clayton, bp. of Clogher (1695-1758), and Robert Walpole, 1st earl of Orford, 1676-1745. 110/II/288-311</p>	1729-32
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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**

Ciphers  
Letters  
Nobility -- Great Britain  
Women authors  
Women -- Political activity

### **Geographic Names**

Great Britain -- Court and courtiers  
Great Britain -- Politics and government --  
1660-1714  
Great Britain -- Social life and customs -- 18th  
century

### **Genres / Formats**

Letter books

### **Names**

James, Prince of Wales, 1688-1766  
Marlborough, Sarah Jennings Churchill,  
Duchess of, 1660-1744  
Sundon, Charlotte Clayton, Baroness, -1742