

Guide to the Burnet Family Papers

MS 114



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

March 1983

Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 114

CREATOR: Burnet family

TITLE: Burnet family papers

DATES: 1725-1936

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.25 linear feet (1 box, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: These papers pertain to the interrelated Burnet, West, and Williams families descended from Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, England. Among the papers are the personal correspondence of Richard West (1716-1742), poet; of his sister, Mary West Williams (1715-1800); of her son, the Rev. John Henry Williams (b. 1747); and of her father, Richard West, Sr. (d. 1726), lawyer, playwright and statesman; family genealogies; legal papers; and other material. Included are two letters from doctors discussing various physical ailments in the light of medical knowledge of the time; letters (1724-1726) to Richard West, Sr. (when he was Chancellor of Ireland) from several Government officials, including Granville, Newcastle, and Walpole discussing various affairs of state; a collection of poetry written by Richard West, Jr., and Daniel Gaches; and information on the Dutch estate of Bishop Gilbert Burnet (1643-1715), and especially on the claims of the Rev. John Henry Burnet to the inheritance of that estate.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0114>

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.ms.0114>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Henry C. Smith, 1954.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Burnet Family Papers (MS 114). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Richard West (d. 1726), birth year unknown, was a lawyer and a playwright. He married Elizabeth Burnet in April 1714. They had a son, Richard (1716-1742) and a daughter Molly. West died on December 3 1726. (From the Dictionary of National Biography, Vol 20, pages 1249-1250)

Richard West (1716-1742) was born in 1716. He attended Eton and Oxford and died at a young age on June 1, 1742. (From the Dictionary of National Biography, Vol XX, pages 1250-1251.)

A Burnet-West-Williams Family Genealogy is available in the repository.

Scope and Contents

These papers pertain to members of the interrelated Burnet, West, and Williams families descended from Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, England, 1643-1715. The papers have been divided into three groups: the papers of Richard West, d. 1726; the papers of his son, Richard West, 1716-1742; and papers of the Burnet family. Within each group correspondence is arranged alphabetically by author.

The papers of Richard West (d. 1726) consist largely of letters received during the last two years of his life, while he was Chancellor of Ireland. There are letters from government officials concerning affairs of state, including William Wood's patent on copper coinage for Ireland, discontent in Ireland in 1725-1726, and rebellion in Scotland in 1725. Among the correspondents are Richard, Baron Edgecumbe, the receiver-general, vice-treasurer, treasurer of war, and paymaster-general of revenues in Ireland; the Duke of Newcastle, Thomas Pelham-Holles, one of the lords justices, secretary of state for the southern department, and joint secretary of state for Scotland; William Pulteney, Earl of Bath, an active parliamentarian; George Bubb Dodington, Baron of Melcombe, a lord of the treasury and clerk of the pells in Ireland; and Sir Robert Walpole. There is also a letter from West to George I requesting a pension for his family after his death, a copy of the warrant signed by George I granting the pension, and a list of West's estate.

The papers of the younger Richard West consist of three letters and of poems written by West and Daniel Gaches. The poems cover various subjects and are undated except for one "upon the Peace of 1762" written by Gaches, who was then a fellow of Kings College, Cambridge, and censor of the University. Of the three letters, one discusses the state of West's health and another, written by John Williams to West's mother, discusses his education.

The papers of the Burnet family, consisting of correspondence, genealogical papers, and wills, deal almost entirely with the Dutch estate which Bishop Burnet inherited from his wife, Mary Scott, and with the claims of John Henry Williams, great-grandson of Bishop Burnet, to that estate. Exceptions include a letter from Rudyard Kipling to S.M. Acklonby concerning a literary reference, and a letter from William Oliver (1659-1716) about medicines and physical ailments.

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in three groups: the papers of Richard West, d. 1726; the papers of his son, Richard West, 1716-1742; and papers of the Burnet family.

Collection Contents

Papers of Richard West (d. 1726)

Correspondence

b. 1, f. 1	Bowes, John (1690-1767)	1726 August 13, 18
b. 1, f. 1	Burlington, Richard Boyle, 3rd earl of (1695-1753)	1726 August 11
b. 1, f. 1	Carteret, John, earl Granville (1690- 1763)	1726 September 1
b. 1, f. 1	Clutterbuck, Thomas	1726 April- November
b. 1, f. 2	Delafaye, [Thomas?]	1725 August-1726 February
b. 1, f. 2	Denton, Alex	1726 May 19
b. 1, f. 2	Dodington, George Bubb, baron of Melcombe (1691-1762)	1725 Oct, 1726 November
b. 1, f. 2	Edgecumbe, Richard Edgecumbe, 1st baron (1680-1758)	1725 May-1726 August
b. 1, f. 3	George I, king of Great Britain (1660- 1727) (copy)	1726 February 11
b. 1, f. 3	Grafton, Charles Fitzroy, 2nd duke of (1683-1757)	1725 September 20
b. 1, f. 3	King, Peter King, 1st baron (1669-1734)	1725 January 13
b. 1, f. 3	Newcastle, Thomas Pelham-Holles, 1st duke of (1693-1768)	1725 August-1726 April
b. 1, f. 4	Pococke, [J?]	1726 September- October
b. 1, f. 4	Pratt, John	1726 October 27
b. 1, f. 4	Pulteney, William, earl of Bath (1684-1764)	1725 November 25
b. 1, f. 4	Read, Joseph	1725 August 12
b. 1, f. 4	Tuder, Joseph	1725 August 24
b. 1, f. 4	Walpole, Robert, 1st earl of Orford (1676-1745)	1725 November-1726 March
b. 1, f. 5	R.W. to George I, king of Great Britain (copy)	1726 November 30

b. 1, f. 5	Estate papers	1727 April 1, 1803 March 16
Papers of Richard West (1716-1742)		
Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 6	Hollings, Dr. John (d. 1739), to R.W. (1716-1742)	1738 April 27
b. 1, f. 6	West, Richard (1716-1742), to ___ Mitchell	Undated
b. 1, f. 6	Williams, John (d. 1763), to Elizabeth (Burnet) West	1739 January 12
b. 1, f. 7	Poetry of R.W. and Daniel Gaches	Undated
Burnet family papers		
Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 8	Acklonby, C.R., to "My dear Aunt"	1936 June 14
b. 1, f. 8	Brown, Thomas, to John Henry Williams	1808 December 23
b. 1, f. 8	Burgess, Mary (Glover), to Mary (West) Williams	1780 January 23
b. 1, f. 8	Burnet, Thomas (1694-1753), to Mary (West) Williams	1748-1752
Burnet, Thomas (d. 1792)		
b. 1, f. 9	ALS to Mary (West) Williams	1786 August 15
b. 1, f. 9	ALS to Dr. Lauret & fils (copy)	1791 March 19
b. 1, f. 9	Glover, R., to Mary (West) Williams	1779 November 15
b. 1, f. 9	Guitard, A.T., to N. Horn	1803 February 12
b. 1, f. 9	Hunt, Thomas (1696-1774), to John Williams (d. 1763)	1754 November 7
b. 1, f. 9	Kipling, Rudyard (1865-1936), to S.M. Acklonby	1896 December 16
b. 1, f. 10	Oliver, William (1659-1716), to John Williams (d. 1763)	1703 May 14
b. 1, f. 10	Viney, M., to John Henry Williams	1774 June 5
Williams, John Henry		
b. 1, f. 10	ALS to N. Horn	1802 August-1803 April
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to Mr. Visser	1802 October 3
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to Dr. Sewell	1803 February 10
b. 1, f. 11	ALS to unidentified	1803 March 22

Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 11	Williams, Mary (West), to John Henry Williams	1774 June 5
b. 1, f. 12	Genealogical papers	1802, undated
b. 2	Wills	1716, 1768

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

Families

Medicine -- Early works to 1800

Geographic Names

Great Britain -- History -- 18th century

Genres / Formats

Wills

Names

Burnet, Gilbert, 1643-1715

Carteret, John, Earl Granville, 1690-1763

Cork, Richard Boyle, 4th Earl of, 1695-1753

Dodington, George Bubb, Baron of Melcombe

Regis, 1691-1762

West, Richard, 1716-1742

West, Richard, -1726

Williams, John Henry, 1746 or 1747-1829

Williams, Mary West, 1715-1800

Families

Burnett family

West family

Williams family