

Guide to the French Government Documents and Political Pamphlets, 1626-1804

MS 1006



compiled by Ruth Gay

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1006

TITLE: French government documents and political pamphlets

DATES: 1626-1804

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2 linear feet

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: Printed censorship decrees (1626-1789) issued by the Parlement of Paris, provincial Parlements, the Conseil d'Etat du Roi, bishops and archbishops in France, Pope Clemens XI, and others make up the largest part of the French government documents and political pamphlets. Most of the works banned are ecclesiastical. A small amount of political literature and government decrees from the period of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era are also included.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

French Government Documents and Political Pamphlets (MS 1006). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Other Finding Aids

For a listing of books for which censorship decrees were issued, please consult the [Banned Books Index](#).

Scope and Contents

The largest part of this collection of printed matter is made up of censorship decrees issued by various government and ecclesiastical bodies between 1626 and 1789. Among those represented are: the Parlement of Paris; provincial Parlements; the king of France; the Conseil d'Etat du Roi; the Paris police (whose decrees were directed as much against the book trade as the individual author); the theological faculty at the Sorbonne; bishops, archbishops and the Pope (in decrees concerning France). Although most of the works falling under the ban are theological, there are also secular works of literature, history and philosophy in the list. Notable among them are the entire works of Voltaire (see the Arrest du Conseil d'Etat du Roy, 1785 Jun 3) and Helvetius' *De l'Esprit*, (banned in the papal decree of 1759 Jan 31).

The collection also includes a small amount of literature from the period of the French Revolution and some documents issued during the Napoleonic era. One *Jugement* dated 1792 Jan 24, has a holograph note on the last page reading: "Premier Jugement à mort par du Guillotine. Executé du Avril 1792." Three publications on Voltaire include two describing the ceremonies surrounding the removal of his body to the Pantheon in 1791 and a pamphlet (published in 1781) denouncing his writings to the Parlement of Paris.

The material was organized and annotated by Jeffrey Merrick in 1978.

The papers are divided into two series. Series I contains censorship decrees (1626-1789). Series II is a small collection of political pamphlets and government decrees (1789-1904).

Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Decrees Condemning Books, 1626-1789. II. Miscellaneous Political Pamphlets and Government Documents, 1789-1804.

Collection Contents

Series I: Decrees Condemning Books, 1626-1789

This series contains the censorship decrees (1626-1789) listed chronologically by the issuing body. As an appendix a copy of the "Listes des Livres Condamnés de 1715 à 1789" from Félix Rocquain, *L'Esprit Révolutionnaire avant la Révolution* (Paris 1878) may be found at the repository. This list gives the full title of each book condemned by the Conseil d'Etat, the Parlement of Paris, by the Châtelet and the Grand Conseil, and can be used in conjunction with our chronological list. Contact a reference librarian for information about this appendix.

Paris. Parlement. Arrêts de la Cour de Parlement		
b. 1, f. 1 - 11	1680 Apr 3-1769 Feb 10	
b. 2, f. 12 - 16	1770 Jul 13-1789 Jun 23	
b. 2, f. 17	Paris. Parlement Remonstrances [printed in the Flammarian collection of remonstrances]	1730 October 30, 1737 April 6
Parisian courts other than the Parlement		
b. 2, f. 18	Chambre des Comptes	1760 February 23-1787 March 14
b. 2, f. 18	Cour des Aides	1761 June 23-1785 September 7
b. 2, f. 18	Cour des Monnoies	1759 December 22, 1771 December 11, 1776 January 27
Provincial Parlements		
b. 2, f. 19	Aix	1712 April 18-1771 December 9
b. 2, f. 19	Bordeaux	1729 September 12
b. 2, f. 19	Bretagne	1716 November 13-1763 January 31
b. 2, f. 19	Dijon	1762 June 7
b. 2, f. 19	Douay	1716 August 6
b. 2, f. 20	Grenoble	1718 April 7-1781 September 7
b. 2, f. 21	Lorraine et Barrois	1725 December 31-1786 June 6

Provincial Parlements (continued)

b. 2, f. 21	Mans	1726 January 1?, 1761 August 6
b. 2, f. 21	Metz	1719 January 17-1775 November 18
b. 2, f. 21	Nantes	1720 February 10
b. 2, f. 21	Poitiers	1765 December 10
b. 2, f. 21	Provence	1718 December 20-1763 February 26
	Rennes	
	1717 Oct 12, 1733 Mar 28, 1733 May 4	
b. 2, f. 22	1787 Sep 17	
b. 2, f. 22	Rouen	1718 November 24, 1762 February 12, 1763 March 3
b. 2, f. 22	Toulouse	1733 April 33- 1763 June 18
b. 2, f. 22	Vannes	1719 January 21, 1719 February 9
b. 3, f. 23	Royal decrees: Declarations and Lettres Patentes	1699 August 4-1774 March 18
b. 3, f. 24 - 35	Arrests du Conseil d'Etat du Roy	1703 March 5-1789 August 26
	Miscellaneous jurisdictions	
b. 4, f. 36	Assemblée des Cardinaux, Archevêques et Evêques [two printings: Bourges and Rouen]	1714
b. 4, f. 36	Grand Conseil du Roy	1733 March 17, 1777 October 1
b. 4, f. 36	Sénéchausée de Marseille	1788 July 30
	Bishops and archbishops [by diocese]	
b. 4, f. 37	Auxerre	1725 December 20
b. 4, f. 37	Bayeux	1724 June 17, 1724 September 24

Bishops and archbishops [by diocese] (continued)

b. 4, f. 37	Beauvais	1716 December 14
b. 4, f. 37	Carcassone	1748 February 3
b. 4, f. 37	Chaalons	1728 November 14
b. 4, f. 37	Embrun	1732 May 1, 1734 February 15, 1734 June 2?
b. 4, f. 38	Laon	1731 February 24
b. 4, f. 38	Lodève	1748 March 26
b. 4, f. 38	Marseille	1726 January 14-1737 June 15
b. 4, f. 38	Metz	1729 August 16
b. 4, f. 38	Montauban	1753 September 21
b. 4, f. 38	Montpellier	1729 July 3?
b. 4, f. 39	Paris	1693 August 16-1751 November 18
b. 4, f. 39	Reims	1716 October 5, 1717 January 4
b. 4, f. 39	Rouen	1748 April 6
b. 4, f. 39	Soissons	1719 June 24, 1748 January 7
b. 4, f. 39	Tours	1747 December 15
b. 4, f. 39	Troyes	1756 January 6
b. 4, f. 40	Sacrae Facultatis Theologicae Parisiensis [i.e. The Sorbonne]	1682 November 4-1716 October 1
b. 4, f. 41	Paris. Lieutenance de police	1669 September 10-1777 September 27
b. 4, f. 42	Paris. Chastelet	1752 November 4-1788 November 21
Clemens XI, pope, 1649-1721 [papal decrees concerning France]		
b. 4, f. 43	1703 Mar 17 [2 copies. One printed in Paris. No place on the second]	
b. 4, f. 43	1713 Sep 8 [2 copies. One printed in Paris, the other in Grenoble]	

Clemens XI, pope, 1649-1721 [papal decrees concerning France] (continued)

b. 4, f. 43	1749 Sep 20, 1758 Dec 2	
b. 4, f. 43	1759 Jan 31 [condemnation of Helvetius' <i>De l'Esprit</i> , à Paris, chez Durand]	
b. 4, f. 44	Miscellaneous decrees [mostly on ecclesiastical matters]	1656 October-1748 May 2

Series II: Miscellaneous Political Pamphlets and Government Documents, 1789-1804

This series is a miscellaneous collection of government decrees and privately printed pamphlets published between 1789 and 1804.

b. 5, f. 45	Avis à la Nation Assemblée. Londres, 109 p	1789
b. 5, f. 45	Mémoire instructif. Remis de la part du Roi au Comité des subsistances des Etats-généraux, par le Directeur général des Finances	[1789]
b. 5, f. 45	Testament de M. Chrétien-François de Lamoignon, Chevalier, Marquis de Bâville, ancien Président à mortier au Parlement de Paris, & ancien Garde-des Sceaux de France: Ecrit de sa main, la surveillance de sa mort; & communiqué par le sieur de Lorgier, son homme de confiance	[1789]
Instruction...par ordre du Roi		
b. 5, f. 46	Aux directoires de Départements Sur le Décret de l'Assemblée Nationale, du 16 décembre 179?, sanctionné par Sa Majesté, portant qu'il sera accordé sur les fonds du Trésor public, une somme de Quinze millions, pur subvenir aux dépenses des travaux de secours qui seront établis dans les quatre-vingt-trois Départements, en exécution dudit Décret. Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1790. 8 p.	1790
b. 5, f. 46	Aux directoires de Département, Sur la manière de pourvoir au remboursement des frais de la Justice criminelle, & au paiement des courses extraordinaires de la Maréchaussée. Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1790. 8 p.	1790
b. 5, f. 46	Sur la manière d'opérer les Compensations de la moitié des Quittances de Décimes ou de Capitation payées par les ci-devant Privilégiés: Avec leur Cotisations dans les Rôles de supplément des six derniers mois 1789. Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1790. 8 p.	1790
b. 5, f. 46	Observations, Sur le Chapitre VIII d'un Imprimé, ayant pour titre LIVRE ROUGE. A Paris, chez Baudouin, Imprimeur de l'Assemblée Nationale. Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1790. 4 p. Bound with: Etat des Ordonnances...1787 and 1788	1790
Voltaire		
b. 5, f. 47	Denonciation au Parlement de la souscription pour les oeuvres de Voltaire. n.p., 1781. 15 p.	1781
b. 5, f. 47	Translation de Voltaire à Paris, et détails de la cérémonie qui aura lieu le 4 Juillet. Arrêtés par le Directoire du Département de Paris, sur le rapport de M. Charron, Officier Municipal Commissaire à la Translation. [Paris] Imprimeurs de la Municipalité, [1791]. 37 p.	1791
b. 5, f. 47	Département de Paris. Ordre du Cortège pour la translation de VOLTAIRE, le Lundi 11 Juillet 1791. Paris, Imprimerie de Ballard, 1791. 3 p.	1791
b. 5, f. 48	Loi. Relative au prétendu Bref du Pape. Donnée à Paris, le 23 Janvier 1791. Arras, De l'Imprimerie de la Ve. de Michel Nicolas, [1791]. 3 p.	1791
b. 5, f. 49	Acte du Corps Législatif...donné à Paris, le 3 Mai 1792, l'an 4e de la Liberté. Beauvai, Imprimerie de P.C.D. Desjardins, 1792. 2 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Acte du Corps Législatif...donné à Paris, le 3 Mai 1792, l'an 4e de la Liberté. Besançon, Imprimerie de Métoyer, 1792. 2 p.	1792

b. 5, f. 49	Acte du Corps Législatif...donné à Paris, le 25 Mai 1792, l'an 4e de la Liberté. Paris, Imprimerie Royale, 1792. 3 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Lettre du Ministre de la Justice, au Commissaire du Roi près le Tribunal criminel du Département de Paris. Paris, L'Imprimerie Royale, 1792 [2 p.]	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Loi. Relative aux Libelles incivique & autre écrits tendant à égarer l'opinion publique. Du 18 Août 1792, l'an quatrième de la Liberté. Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1792. 2 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Jugement rendu en dernier ressort, par le III.me Tribunal Criminel...condamne Nicolas-Jacques Pelletier...[24 Janvier 1792]. Paris, chez Quillau, 1792. 4 p. [Holograph note on p. 4: Premier Jugement à mort par du Guillotine. Executé du Avril 1792]	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Jugement rendu par le Tribunal Criminel de Département de Paris...condamne Jean Mury & Daniel Houzel...[17 Avril 1792]. Paris, Imprimerie de Cl.Simon, 1792. 7 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Jugement rendu par le Tribunal Criminel du Département de Paris,.. condamne ledit Pierre-Severin Hunout...[18 Avril 1792]. [Paris] Imprimerie de Cl. Simon, 1792. 4 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Jugement rendu en dernier ressort, par le III.me Tribunal Criminel... qui déclare Claude Geoffroy, Prêtre, se disant ci-devant Grand-Vicaire du Diocèse de Dijon, atteint & convaincu d'avoir contribué sciemment à l'exposition & distribution de faux Assignats de cinq livre...[5 Mai 1792] Paris, chez Quillau, 1792. 8 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Jugement rendu par le Tribunal Criminel du Département de Paris...condamne Julien Harry & Louis Darthuys...[16 Mai 1792]. [Paris] Imprimerie C. Simon, 1792. 4 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 49	Mémoire a consulter et consultation pour le sieur Martin Dithurbide...et dame Marie-Joseph Befroy...Paris, Imprimerie de H. J. Jansen, 1792. 6 p.	1792
b. 5, f. 50	Strasbourg. L'Assemblée Générale des Autorités Constituées: La république, une-indivisible ou la mort. Strasbourg, Imprimerie de Phil. J. Dannbach, 1794. 16 p. [At head of title: Séance extraordinaire de l'Assemblée Générale des Autorités Constituées de Strasbourg, convoquée par les citoyens Milhaud et Guyardin Representans du peuple près l'armée du Rhin]	1794
b. 5, f. 50	Rapport fait par les citoyens Calès et Perrin, représentans envoyés, par la Convention nationale, près l'armée des Ardennes; Imprimé par ordre de la Convention Nationale. Paris, Imprimerie Nationale [1795?]	1795
Malouet, Pierre Victor, baron, 1740-1814		
b. 5, f. 51	Lettre de M. Malouet, député de St. Domingue, à ses commettans. [London, 1798] 8 p.	1798
b. 5, f. 51	Seconde lettre d'un colon de St. Domingue à M. Malouet. Londres, Imprimerie de T. Baylis, 1798. 43 p.	1798
b. 5, f. 51	Troisième lettre d'un colon de St. Domingue à M. Malouet. Londres, Imprimerie de T: Baylis, 1798. 25 p.	1798
b. 5, f. 51	De l'influence des clubs sur la révolution. [Paris, 1799]. 16 p.	
b. 5, f. 52	Arrêtés des Consuls...Paris, chez Guillaume, [1800?]	1800

b. 5, f. 52	Decret Imperial...Detail officiel du combat naval qui a eu lieu à Boulogne...[Paris], Imprimerie de Hayez, [1804?] 4 p.	1804
b. 5, f. 53	Mémoire sur les substances. [n.p., after 1789] [on the price of bread]	After 1789

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

Censorship -- France
Guillotine
Prohibited books

Geographic Names

Europe
France -- History -- Bourbons, 1589-1789
France -- History -- Revolution, 1789-1799

Names

Clement, Pope, XI, 1649-1721
Helvétius, 1715-1771
Louis, King of France, XV, 1710-1774
Louis, King of France, XVI, 1754-1793
Voltaire, 1694-1778