

Guide to the Bern, Switzerland, Documents Collection

MS 905



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 905

TITLE: Bern, Switzerland documents collection

DATES: 1764-1798

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Chiefly a volume of copies of the decrees, ordinances, and statutes of the Bern city council and chancellery, probably compiled shortly after the French conquest of Bern in 1798. Also in the papers are original documents relating to military expenditures of Ormont (Vaud canton) and Bern in the 1700s.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0905>

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.0905>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Leonard Bacon, 1936.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Bern, Switzerland Documents Collection. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of original documents and a volume of copied documents pertaining to the city of Bern, Switzerland, and to Cormont Commune, covering the years 1476 to 1798. The French seized Bern on March 5, 1798, and it subsequently became part of the Helvetian Republic under French control. It seems likely that these documents were compiled and copies made during or shortly after 1798 as a result of the change in government.

The majority of the documents, which are all in French except for a few German items, are copies making up the single-volume manuscript record of decrees, ordinances, and statutes of the Bern city council and chancellery. Copies of two fifteenth-century items are included, with the remainder dating originally between 1652 and 1795. The volume seems to have been compiled shortly after the occupation of the city.

The balance of the collection consists of original documents relating to military expenditures of Ormont (a commune in the Vaud canton) and Bern during the 1700s, and includes accounts, records of loans between the two governments, receipts for funds paid, and a document canceling outstanding debts due to loss of records during the struggle with the French.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Manuscript record of decrees, etc., of the city council and chancellery of Bern, Switzerland, 1476-1795	[ca. 1798?]
b. 1, f. 2	Accounts of the military funds of Ormont Commune	1764
b. 1, f. 3 - 4	Documents relating to military loans between Ormont Commune and Bern	1794, 1798, undated

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.

Geographic Names

Bern (Switzerland)
Europe
Switzerland -- History
Vaud (Switzerland)