#### Yale University Library Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

## **Guide to the Graffigny Papers**

#### **GEN MSS 353**



by Beinecke Staff

August 1998

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#### Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

P.O. Box 208330

New Haven, CT 06520-8330

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**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 353

CREATOR: Grafigny, Mme de (Françoise d'Issembourg d'Happoncourt), 1695-1758

**TITLE:** Graffigny papers

**DATES:** 1730-1758

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 13 linear feet (76 boxes +1 portfolio)

LANGUAGE: French

**SUMMARY:** Collection consists of 59 volumes of correspondence between Mme de

Graffigny and François-Antoine Devaux, and one volume of letters from Anne-Catherine Helvétius to Graffigny. Also included are 16 volumes and one portfolio of plays, poems, drafts, notes, legal documents, biographical and genealogical sketches and other papers, generally by or related to Mme de

Graffigny.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://

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## **Requesting Instructions**

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To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to <a href="mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu">beinecke.images@yale.edu</a>.

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

b. box

## **Administrative Information**

#### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Phillipps MS 23900. Gift of Hans P. Kraus, 1968.

## **Conditions Governing Access**

The materials are open for research.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

The Graffigny Papers are 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**

Graffigny Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

#### **Existence and Location of Copies**

The majority of this collection was microfilmed in the early 1970s. However, the film is not of preservation quality, and it cannot be guaranteed to be legible throughout. See the <u>Appendix</u> for a reel-to-volume listing of the film.

# FRANCOISE D'ISSEMBOURG D'HAPPONCOURT, MME DE GRAFFIGNY (1695-1758)

Born in Nancy on February 11, 1695, Françoise d'Issembourg d'Happoncourt (or Apponcourt) was the daughter of a prosperous military officer at the court of Duke Leopold of Lorraine. Her father claimed family connections with several German princely families, while her mother was related to the celebrated engraver Jacques Callot. In January 1712, Françoise d'Happoncourt married François Huguet de Graffigny, Chambellan to the Duke of Lorraine. The marriage was unhappy from the beginning and none of the three children it produced survived. The Graffignys separated in 1718; five years later, Mme de Graffigny applied for a formal separation on grounds of the brutal treatments received from her husband. He died under mysterious circumstances in 1725.

An independent woman with a reputation for her wit, Graffigny was soon at the center of the literary, artistic, and scientific circles of the Duchy. It was in that context that she met François-Antoine Devaux, who remained her confidant of choice for the remaining 25 years of her life. In the early 1730s, she fell in love with Léopold Desmarets, son of the composer Henry Desmarets. Their liaison lasted until 1743.

Graffigny's situation at the old court of Lorraine came to an end with the Treaty of Vienna in 1736, which gave the Duchy to the deposed King of Poland Stanislas Leszczynski, father-in-law of Louis XV. In 1738, she left Lunéville and spent two months at Cirey with Voltaire and his friend Mme du Châtelet, whom she had met when they visited Lunéville in 1735. Her well-documented stay ended with a serious rift between Graffigny and her hosts.

In February 1739, Graffigny settled in Paris. Among her new relations was Mlle Quinault, the actress and co-founder of the "Société du bout du banc," which Graffigny was invited to join in 1745. With the assistance of her young cousin Anne-Catherine de Ligniville, she opened her own literary salon. It became one of the most distinguished of its day and was frequented by Rousseau, Turgot, D'Argenson, and Helvétius--who subsequently married Anne-Catherine.

In 1747, the publication of the epistolary novel *Lettres d'une Péruvienne* made Graffigny famous throughout Europe, a fame confirmed three years later when her play *Cénie* triumphed at the Comédie-Française. In April 1758, however, *La fille d'Aristide* was a failure in the same theater. Graffigny died on December 12, 1758.

#### FRANCOIS-ANTOINE DEVAUX (1712-1796)

François-Antoine Devaux, Mme de Graffigny's principal correspondent, whom she addresses as "Panpan," was born in Lunéville, in the Duchy of Lorraine, on September 16, 1712. His father was a surgeon at the court of Duke Leopold. Devaux graduated from the University of Pont-à-Mousson in 1732. After working as a lawyer in the Nancy Parliament, then as the secretary of his cousin and fellow lawyer Jean-Baptiste Michel, he purchased the office of "receveur particulier des finances" (tax collector) in 1741, a charge he resigned in 1752. Reader to King Stanislas of Poland, he was elected in 1752 to the Société des sciences et belles-lettres of Nancy. A minor poet, Devaux was also the author of a one-act prose comedy, *Les engagements indiscrets*, which was performed in Paris in 1752 thanks to the protection of Mme de Graffigny. In addition to Graffigny, Devaux's circle of friends included the Marquise de Boufflers and her unhappy suitor the Comte de Tressan, the Prince de Bauffremont, and the Comte de Croix. He remained in Lunéville after the death of Stanislas in 1766, living off a pension the king had granted to him, and died there on April 11, 1796.

## **Scope and Contents**

The Graffigny Papers consist of correspondence, writings and other papers by and about Françoise d'Issembourg d'Happoncourt, Mme de Graffigny, bound into 76 volumes, numbered 1-100, including one portfolio of loose documents. At the death of Mme de Graffigny in 1758, all her personal papers were inherited by her friend and confidant François-Antoine Devaux (1712-1796). When Devaux died, the papers became the property of his friend and heir Mme Durival, who in turn bequeathed them to her heirs, Joseph-Louis-Gabriel Noël and his wife. In the early 1820s, the collection was acquired by Sir Thomas Phillipps, possibly from Count Grigorii Vladimirovich Orloff. It resurfaced in June 1965 when it came up for sale at Sotheby's, London, as part of the first sale of the Bibliotheca Phillippica (Phillipps MS 23900). It was divided into 19 lots (114 to 132). Twelve were acquired by the Bibliothèque nationale, one by Theodore Besterman, and the remaining six by H. P. Kraus, who donated them to Yale in 1968, with the exception of Volumes 6 and 96; these were subsequently acquired by the Pierpont Morgan Library. Volumes 6, 7, 13, 18, 30, 65, 67-76, 84-89, and 96 are not at Yale.

Series I, Correspondence (1730-1758), consists primarily of correspondence between Graffigny and Devaux. The letters are bound by correspondent, so that each volume contains letters by one writer. The letters by Graffigny written before 1752 were numbered by Devaux in the order in which he received them. These numbers can generally be found on the back of each letter, with a few on the front or in the margins. Each volume of Graffigny's correspondence contains at least one numbered sequence of about 25 to 50 letters. It appears that some sequences of numbers are repeated in more than one volume. Also included in this series is one volume of letters to Graffigny from her niece, Anne-Catherine de Ligniville d'Autricourt, the future Mme Helvétius. The letters from Mme Graffigny are being published in the multi- volume work Correspondance de Madame de Graffigny by English Showalter et al. (Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, Taylor Institution, 1985-).

<u>Series II, Writings</u> (n.d.), contains plays, poems, drafts, notes, legal documents, biographical and genealogical sketches, and other papers, generally by or related to Mme de Graffigny.

## **Collection Contents**

## Series I: Correspondence, 1730-59

10 linear feet (60 boxes)

Volumes 6, 7, 13, 18, 30, and 65 are not in the collection.

b.1	Volume 1. Devaux to Graffigny  Pages 1-146 are undated letters [ca. 1730s] from Paris to Graffigny in Lunéville.  Pages 147-394 are letters dated 1738 SepJan. from Lunéville to Graffigny at  Commercy, Demange and Cirey. Pages 395-414 contain a letter dated [Jun.?] 10,  1744	1730-44, n.d.
b. 2	Volume 2. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 1-33. Written from Commercy and Demange	1738
b. 3	Volume 3. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 426-450, 1741-42, interrupted by a quarrel; no. 176-200, 1739, a note says letters 201-302 were burnt; no. 276-300, 1740, many missing. See vols. 10 and 11	1739-42
b. 4	Volume 4. Devaux to Graffigny To Graffigny at various Paris addresses	1739 Jul-Dec
b. 5	Volume 5. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 126-150, 1739, not in order; no. 400-425, 1741, not in order; no. 701-725, 1744; no. 826-851, 1745, letter on p. 99 is 28 Oct 1755 (unnumbered); no. 951-975, 1746, misnumbered. The pages in each section of vol. 5 are paged individually	1739-55
b. 6	Volume 8. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 64-100, 1739, addressed to various friends in Lunéville, but all for Devaux; no. 201-225, 1740	1739-40
b. 7	Volume 9. Devaux to Graffigny Several letters are addressed to "Monsieur Desmarets"	1739 Jan-Jul
b. 8	Volume 10. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 151-175, 1739, addressed to various friends in Lunéville, but for Devaux; no. 251-275, 1740, many missing; no. 1051-1075, 1746-47, (letter on p. 257 is 6 Sep 1754 (unnumbered), on p. 261 is 25 Oct 1755, [?] 10 Nov 1739, no. 139) ???	1739-55
b. 9	Volume 11. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 101-125, 1739; no. 226-250, 1740, many missing; no. 601-625, 1743, letter on p. 201 is 18 Oct [1758]	1739-58
b. 10	Volume 12. Devaux to Graffigny	1740 Apr-Dec
b. 11	Volume 14. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 302-341, 1740; no. 501- 550, 1742-43	1740-43
b. 12	Volume 15. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 801-825, 1744 [and 1745?], pp. 97-106 (no. 824-825) are bound after p. 318; no. 926- 950, 1745-46; no. 1026-1050, 1746	1744-46

b. 13	Volume 16. Devaux to Graffigny	1740-41
	Some letters in vols. 16 and 17 are addressed to Mlle [Claire-Claude- Louise] Lebrun, Mlle Giro, and Monsieur [Nicolas-François-Xavier] Liébault. These two volumes perhaps split the 1741 letters into two series because of Clairon's [Lebrun's?] trip to Paris, or efforts to evade Mme du Châtelet's spies	
b. 14	Volume 17. Devaux to Graffigny	1741
b. 15	Volume 19. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 476-500	1742
b. <b>16</b>	Volume 20. Devaux to Graffigny	1742 Jan-Dec
b. 17	Volume 21. Graffigny to Devaux	1742-43
	Includes: no. 451-475, 1742; letters numbered 561-610, which are in fact no. 550-600, 1743, misnumbered. The error is corrected in vol. 11, where 601-610 are repeated	
b. 18	Volume 22. Devaux to Graffigny	1743 Jan-May
b. 19	Volume 23. Devaux to Graffigny	1743 Jun-Dec
b. 20	Volume 24. Graffigny to Devaux	1743-44
	Includes: no. 626-650. Pp. 51-58 is drafts of a memoir by Devaux on behalf of [Nicolas-François- Xavier] Liébault	
b. 21	Volume 25. Devaux to Graffigny	1744 Jan-Jun
b. 22	Volume 26. Devaux to Graffigny	1744 Jul-Dec
b. 23	Volume 27. Graffigny to Devaux	1744-45
	Includes: no. 650-675, 1744; no. 726-750, 1744; no. 776-800, 1744-45; no. 901-925, 1745	
b. 24	Volume 28. Graffigny to Devaux	1744-48
	Includes: no. 751-775, 1744; no. 1001-1025, 1746, bound in reverse order; no. 1-50, 1748	
b. 25	Volume 29. Graffigny to Devaux	1744-49
	Includes: no. 676-700, 1744; no. 201-250, 1749	
b. 26	Volume 31. Devaux to Graffigny	1745 Jan-Jun
b. 27	Volume 32. Devaux to Graffigny	1745 Jul-Dec
b. 28	Volume 33. Graffigny to Devaux	1745-47
	Includes: no. 851-876, 1745; no. 876-900, 1745; no. 1076-1100, 1747	
b. <b>29</b>	Volume 34. Anne-Catherine Helvétius to Graffigny	1745-46
b. 30	Volume 35. Devaux to Graffigny	1746 Jan-Jun
b. <b>31</b>	Volume 36. Graffigny to Devaux	1746-49
	Includes: no. 976-1000, 1746; no. 101-150, 1748-49	
b. 32	Volume 37. Devaux to Graffigny	1746 Jul-Dec

b. 33	Volume 38. Devaux to Graffigny	1747
b. 34	Volume 39. Devaux to Graffigny	1747
b. 35	Volume 40. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 1151-1186, 1747. A note says the rest to 1200 were burnt, but it would appear that the series ends with Devaux's departure for Paris; no. 51-100, 1748	1747-48
b. 36	Volume 41. Devaux to Graffigny	1748
b. 37	Volume 42. Devaux to Graffigny	1748
b. 38	Volume 43. Devaux to Graffigny	1749
b. 39	Volume 44. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 1101-1150, 1747; no. 151-200, 1749. The two sections in vol. 44 are paged individually	1747-49
b. 40	Volume 45. Devaux to Graffigny	1749
b. 41	Volume 46. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 251-300	1749-50
b. 42	Volume 47. Devaux to Graffigny	1750
b. 43	Volume 48. Devaux to Graffigny	1750
b. 44	Volume 49. Devaux to Graffigny	1750
b. <b>45</b>	Volume 50. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 425-450, 1751; no. 301-350, 1750; no. 401-424, 1750	1750-51
b. 46	Volume 51. Devaux to Graffigny	1750
b. 47	Volume 52. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 351-400	1750
b. 48	<u>Volume 53. Devaux to Graffigny</u> First two letters appear to be 1742 and 1743, the rest are 1751	1751
b. 49	Volume 54. Devaux to Graffigny	1751
b. 50	Volume 55. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 452-516, no. 515- 516 are incorrectly numbered as 505-506	1751
b. <b>51</b>	Volume 56. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 508-550 [some letters are numbered only in pencil]	1751
b. 52	Volume 57. Graffigny to Devaux	1752
b. 53	Volume 58. Graffigny to Devaux	1752
b. 54	Volume 59. Graffigny to Devaux	1753
b. <b>55</b>	Volume 60. Graffigny to Devaux	1754

b. <b>56</b>	Volume 61. Graffigny to Devaux Vol. 60, with pages numbered 289-340, appears to be part of this volume	1753
b. 57	Volume 62. Graffigny to Devaux	1754-55
b. 58	Volume 63. Graffigny to Devaux Includes: no. 342-369, 1741; pp. 95-110 are unnumbered letters, 1756; no. 370-400, 1741	1741-56
b. <b>59</b>	Volume 64. Graffigny to Devaux	1756-[58?]
b. 60	Volume 66. Graffigny to Devaux A number of these letters were dictated	1758-59

Graffigny papers GEN MSS 353

## Series II: Writings, n.d.

2 linear feet (15 boxes + 1 portfolio)

Volumes 67-76, 84-89, and 96 are not in the collection.

b. <b>61</b>	Volume 77. La fille d'Aristide, professional copy
b. 62	Volume 78. Various plays, in various hands
b. 63	Volume 79. Plays  Includes: One untitled play, professional copy; Le temple de la vertu, "comédie en un acte"; professional copy; Celidor[?]; Les Mécontents, "Comédie en trois actes et en vers," professional copy; Ziman et Zenise, "Comédie en un acte, représentée à Schoenbrun, les 9, 13, 16 Octobre 1749," professional copy; Héraclite, prétendu sage, in various hands[?]; Ziman et Zenise, professional copy
b. 64	Volume 80. Les effets de la prévention, "Comédie en 5 actes," professional copy
b. <b>65</b>	Volume 81. Plays Includes: Les Saturnales, "Comédie en trois actes," professional copy; Les effets de la prévention; Fille Aristide, "Comédie en cinq actes, pour Souffler"; Le temple de la vertu
b. 66	Volume 82. Plays Includes: Les tuteurs, "Comédie en un acte en prose"; L'épouse généreuse, "Drame"; Le sentiment récompensé, "Comédie en 3 actes"; Azakia, ou les reconnaissances, "Comédie en 3 actes en prose"
b. <b>67</b>	Volume 83. Plays Includes: Saïs, "Tragédie en musique"; L'école des amies, "Comédie en 5 actes," outline only; Hadis et Hunnon [by Devaux], "Tragédie en 5 actes et en vers"; untitled play, including Italian translation; La réunion du bon sens et de l'esprit; L'ignorant présomptueux, "Comédie en un acte"
b. 68	Volume 90. Plays Various plays, including <i>La fille d'Aristide</i> , in various hands
b. 69	Volume 91. Plays Includes: Les Saturnales, "Comédie en trois actes," professional copy; La fille d'Aristide, "Comédie," professional copy; L'éducation inutile, "Comédie en un acte," professional copy; Le Temple de la vertu, "Comédie en un acte," professional copy; Les deffauts copiez [Les défauts copiés], "Comédie en un acte," professional copy
b. <b>70</b>	Volume 92. Plays Includes: L'art aux humains est nécessaire; unidentified drafts; Théonise ou l'abus de la philosophie; La fille d'Aristide; La réunion de Minerve et de Vénus, "Prologue de la fête donnée à S.A.S. Mde. la Princesse Frédérique de Brandebourg"
b. <b>71</b>	Volume 93. Plays and other writings Includes: Héraclite, various drafts; Les Saturnales, "Comédie en trois actes"; Theonise ou l'abus de la philosophie, i.e. La fille d'Aristide, "Comédie en cinq actes en prose," outline; "Chanson composée pour les Grenadiers du Régiment du Roy sur l'air Mr. les Allemands (1741); "Prédictions pour l'année mil sept cent quarante six," poem; "Le mariage," poem; several untitled poems, epigrams, songs; more drafts relating to La fille d'Aristide

#### b. 72 Volume 94. Various writings

Includes: "Epitre à Madame de Graffigny"; a petition to the King in favor of the Marquis de Tavanes; "Brevet de la calotte à Mr de la Popelinière"; "Epitre burlesque de Piron au Roy de Prusse"; "affiches des pièces qui ont été représentées dans plusieurs cours de l'Europe, pendant le mois d'août 1744"; "L'amour pour l'amour de Congreve" (prose outline); "Harangue à Madame la comtesse de Custine" (1744, printed item); "Chanson sur Mr. le Duc de Richelieu..."; holograph letter, partly in verse, to Devaux (Nancy, 18 Sep 1743); a collection of 19 Latin epigrams; "Jugement rendu en dernier ressort par Momus Conseiller d'Etat d'Appollon Lieutenant General de Police et messieurs les Commissaires en cette partie contre Arrouët dit Voltaire" ("signé Pellegrin Greffier"); "Prolegomena Martini Scribleri ou sentiments du docteur Swift sur la Dunciade ou Busiade..." (beginning is on p. 167, continues on pages 89-96); "Le plan de Sophonisbe tragedie angloise"; "Description de la feste donnée à Versailles, à l'occasion du mariage de Madame Louise-Elizabeth, Fille Aînée du Roy, avec Dom Philippes Infant d'Espagne" (1739, printed item); "Description sommaire de la feste ordonnée par messieurs les prevost des marchands et echevins de la ville de Paris, Et qui sera éxécutée le Samedy 29 Août 1739, pour le Mariage de Madame avec l'Infant Dom Philippe" (1739, printed item); many various songs, theatrical and poetic drafts throughout

#### b. 73 Volume 95. Writings and papers

Includes: various lists and memoranda (mostly dated 1746); Le Magazin &c. La Haye. Mardi, 17 Septembre 1743 (printed item); various drafts; "Le faucon et les pigeons"; "Le coq et la poulette"; various poetical drafts; "Chansons faites sur les eaux de Plombieres. Par Messieurs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_" (n.d., printed item)

#### b. 74 Volume 97. La fille d'Aristide

Three complete drafts with holograph corrections

#### b. 75 <u>Volume 98. Papers</u>

"Papiers d'affairs de Md de Graffigny," including notes on Jacques Callot (Graffigny's great-uncle) and various legal documents, some of them signed by Graffigny

Volume 99. "Pièces relatives à la famille de Mme de Graffigny. Actes etc." Stored in: Oversize, Box 76

#### b. port Volume 100. Papers

Includes: Two documents with paper folder: "Mémoire pour servir a la vie de Madame de Graffigny" and a draft of another memorandum

Oversize Graffigny papers GEN MSS 353

#### **Oversize**

1 linear foot (1 box)

b. 76 Volume 99. "Pièces relatives à la famille de Mme de Graffigny. Actes etc."

## Appendix A: Guide to the Microfilm

Note: For many volumes filmed under Microfilm number 361, the exact reel containing the volume is not known. Where the volume is known to be on one of two reels, the reel column will read "1 or 2" or "3 or 4".

Microfilm number / Reel / Volume / Notes

360/1/1
360/1/2
360/1/3
360 / 1 / 4
360/1/5
Volumes 6-7 are not in the collection
361 / 3 or 4 / 8
360 / 1-2 / 9
361 / 1 or 2 / 10
361 / 1 or 2 / 11
360 / 2 / 12
Volume 13 is not in the collection
361 / 1 or 2 / 14
361 / 1 or 2 / 15
360 / 2 / 16
360 / 2 / 17
Volume 18 is not in the collection
361 / 1 or 2 / 19
360/2/20
361 / 1 or 2 / 21
360/2/22
360 / 2-3 / 23
361 / 1 or 2 / 24
360/3/25
361 / 1 or 2 / 26
361 / 1 or 2 / 27
361/1 or 2/28
361 / 1 or 2 / 29

Volume 30 is not in the collection

- 360/3/31
- 361/1 or 2/32
- 361/1 or 2/33
- 361/1 or 2/34
- 360/3/35
- 361/1 or 2/36
- 362/1/36
- 360/3/37
- 362/1/38
- 360 / 4 / 39
- 361/1 or 2/40
- 360 / 4 / 41
- 360 / 4 / 42
- 361/1 or 2/43
- 361/1 or 2/44
- 360 / 4 / 45
- 361/1 or 2/46
- 360 / 4 / 47
- 360 / 4 / 48
- 360 / 4 / 49
- 361/1 or 2/50
- 360 / 5 / 51
- 361/3 or 4/52
- 360 / 5 / 53
- 360 / 5 / 54
- 361 / 3 or 4 / 55
- 360/5/56
- 360 / 5 / 57
- 361 / 3 or 4 / 58
- 361 / 3 or 4 / 59
- 361/3 or 4/60
- 361 / 3 or 4 / 61
- not filmed / 62
- 361/3 or 4/63

361/3 or 4/64

Volume 65 is not in the collection

361/3 or 4/66

Volumes 67-76 are not in the collection

362/1/77

362/1/78

361 / 5 / 79 / Untitled play

361/5/80

362/1/81

361/5/82

361/5/83

Volumes 84-89 are not in the collection

362/1/90

361/5/91

362/2/92

361 / 5 / 93 / pp. 231-288 only

362/2/93

362/2/94

362/2/95

Volume 96 is not in the collection

362/2/97

362/2/98

362/2/99

362/2/100

#### **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**

Authors, French -- 18th century -- Archives

#### **Names**

Devaux, François-Antoine, 1712-1796 Grafigny, Mme de (Françoise d'Issembourg d'Happoncourt), 1695-1758 Helvétius, Anne-Catherine, 1719?-1800 Phillipps, Thomas, Sir, 1792-1872 -- Ownership

#### **Contributors**

Grafigny, Mme de (Françoise d'Issembourg d'Happoncourt), 1695-1758 Devaux, François-Antoine, 1712-1796 Helvétius, Anne-Catherine, 1719?-1800