Descriptive Summary
Title: Correspondence and documents from the office of William Blathwayt
Dates: 1671-1712
Collection Number: HM 32265-HM 32287
Creator: Blathwayt, William, 1649?-1717
Extent: 34 items in 1 box
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens Manuscripts Department
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2203
Fax: (626) 449-5720
Email: manuscripts@huntington.org
URL: http://www.huntington.org
Abstract: This group of 34 documents consists of correspondence, reports, and accounts primarily accumulated by British civil servant William Blathwayt (1649-1717) between the mid 1670s and 1712 in his capacity as a British government official in such roles as Surveyor and Auditor General of Plantation Revenues and Secretary and member of the Lords of Trade. The materials consist chiefly of miscellaneous drafts or copies of documents related to the British colonies in North America and the West Indies. Items pertain to taxation, revenue, trade and shipping, and defense, primarily in the Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Kitts, and Nevis.
Language of Material: The records are in English.
Access
Collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to following web site.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Correspondence and documents from the office of William Blathwayt, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Acquisition Information
Purchased from Sotheby's through the agency of Maggs Bros. on February 10, 1970.
Provenance
The collection was previously the property of Justin Blathwayt, Esq.
• William Blathwayt Papers
• William Blathwayt Papers (Addenda)
Biography
English politician and administrator William Blathwayt (1649-1717) was one of the most distinguished civil servants of his time. Blathwayt was born in London, England, in 1649. Beginning in 1665, he attended the Middle Temple and in 1668 entered public life as clerk in the embassy of Sir William Temple at The Hague (1668-1672). In 1672, Blathwayt toured Germany and Italy, before returning to England.
Through the influence of his uncles, Thomas and Richard Povey, both of whom were prominent in colonial affairs, Blathwayt secured a position in the Plantation Office in 1675 as a minor clerk. Advancement came rapidly, and among the offices administered from that time on, were: Clerk Extraordinary of the Privy Council (1678); Secretary of the Lords of Trade (1679-1696); Surveyor and Auditor General of Plantation Revenues (1680-until his death); Under-Secretary of State to Lord Conway in the Northern department (1681-1683); Secretary at War (1683-1704); Clerk in Ordinary of the Privy Council (1686-1689); acting Secretary of State with William III, during his campaigns in the Low Countries in Flanders (1692-1701); member of Parliament for Bath (1693-1710); and a member of the Board of Trade (1696-1707).
During the reign of Queen Anne, he gradually lost his posts: in 1704 he was dismissed as Secretary at War, in 1707 lost his Board of Trade position, and three years later, his seat in Parliament. In 1712, Blathwayt, driven from active public life by ill health, withdrew to his seat at Dyrham Park, where the last five years of his life were spent in retirement. Blathwayt married Mary Wynter (1650-1691) of Dyrham Park in December 1686, and the couple had two surviving sons and a daughter. William Blathwayt died at Dyrham Park on August 16, 1717.

Scope and Content
This group of 34 documents consists of correspondence, reports, and accounts primarily accumulated by British civil servant William Blathwayt (1649-1717) between the mid 1670s and 1712 in his capacity as a British government official in such roles as Surveyor and Auditor General of Plantation Revenues and Secretary and member of the Lords of Trade. The materials consist chiefly of miscellaneous drafts or copies of documents related to the British colonies in North America and the West Indies. Items pertain to taxation, revenue, trade and shipping, and defense, primarily in the Bahamas, Jamaica, St. Kitts, and Nevis. Within the collection, there are six letters from Henry Carpenter, the collector of customs in the Leeward Islands, and eleven documents concerning Colonel John Strode, Sir Charles Wheler, and issues related to the four and a half percent tax.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged in two series:
- General papers (ca. 1676-1712)
- Documents related to Colonel John Strode and Sir Charles Wheler (1671-1686)

Personal Names
Blathwayt, William, 1649?-1717 -- Archives.

Geographic Areas
Great Britain -- Colonies -- America -- History -- 17th century -- Sources.
West Indies -- History -- 17th century -- Sources.

Genre
Letters (correspondence) -- Great Britain -- 17th century.
Government records -- Great Britain -- 17th century.
Professional papers -- Great Britain -- 17th century.

Box 1

Papers

General papers (ca. 1676-1712)

Blathwayt, William : office of. General heads of the revenue in America. ([c. 1670-1700]). HM 32265
Blathwayt, William : office of. A Draught of the Proposition for the Improvement of the Customs upon Tobacco. Differing somewhat from the Draft first putt into my hands. ([after 1676, Mar 27]). HM 32266
Nevis (West Indies). House of Assembly. Act for appraisement of lands, houses, Negroes, horses, etc. in Nevis. (1683/84, Jan. 22). HM 32267
In the handwriting of William Blathwayt.

Corrections in the handwriting of William Blathwayt.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the handwriting of William Blathwayt.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Witt, Phillip. To William Blathwayt.</td>
<td>(1685, Aug. 1)</td>
<td>St. Kitts, [West Indies]</td>
<td>HM 32275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter, Henry. To William Blathwayt.</td>
<td>(1685, Sep. 9)</td>
<td>Nevis, [West Indies]</td>
<td>HM 32276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter, Henry. To William Blathwayt.</td>
<td>(1686, May 28)</td>
<td>Nevis, [West Indies]</td>
<td>HM 32278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter, Henry and Belchamber, Thomas. To William Blathwayt.</td>
<td>(1687, Oct. 27)</td>
<td>Nevis, [West Indies]</td>
<td>HM 32279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blathwayt, William. Distinctions to be writt upon the Map of New England.</td>
<td>(c. 1690?)</td>
<td></td>
<td>HM 32280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the handwriting of William Blathwayt. The document lists colonies with and without charters.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Enclosure: 1699, Apr. 20 Forbes, Charles and 4 others. To William Beeston.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blathwayt, William? To ----- Perry. ([1702, May 9]).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HM 32284</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blathwayt, William : office of. Accompts of the revenues in the Plantation received since the stating of those for declaration.</td>
<td>([after 1703, Apr.])</td>
<td></td>
<td>HM 32285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blathwayt, William : office of. List of Accompts received from the Plantations the 10 August 1704, with observations there upon.</td>
<td>([after 1704, Aug. 10]).</td>
<td></td>
<td>HM 32286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne, Queen of Great Britain. Queen's warrant for confirming to Ralph Willet, Esq. lands in St. Christophers [St. Kitts, West Indies] which were granted him by Col. Hamilton for years and a half which was granted therein. (1712, Nov. 19).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HM 32287</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Documents related to Colonel John Strode and Sir Charles Wheler (1671-1686)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheler, Sir Charles, 2nd Bart. Letter of attorney to John Strode.</td>
<td>(1670/71, Mar. 24)</td>
<td></td>
<td>HM 32288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strode, John. Answer to the petition of Sir Charles Wheler.</td>
<td>([before 1674, May 6])</td>
<td></td>
<td>HM 32289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wheler, Sir Charles, 2nd Bart. Petition to the King in Council. ([before 1674, May 19]). HM 32290

Great Britain. Privy Council? Draft of the order between Sir Charles Wheler & Col. Strode. ([after 1674, May 19]). HM 32291

Similar to HM 32292 and HM 32293 but with some differences.

Wheler, Sir Charles, 2nd Bart. Petition to the King in Council. ([before 1674, May 19]). HM 32290

Great Britain. Privy Council? Draft of the order between Sir Charles Wheler & Col. Strode. ([after 1674, May 19]). HM 32292

Similar to HM 32291 and HM 32293 but with some differences.

Great Britain. Privy Council? Draft of the order between Sir Charles Wheler & Col. Strode. ([after 1674, May 19]). HM 32292

Similar to HM 32291 and HM 32293 but with some differences.

Wheler, Sir Charles, 2nd Bart. Representation to the Lord Treasurer about Mr. Strode. ([before 1680, Aug. 31]). HM 32294

Stapleton, Sir William, 1st. Bart. To Phillip Dewitt. Order concerning the customs of 4 1/2 per cent (1684, Dec. 9). HM 32296

Strode, John. To -----. ([after 1685, Aug. 19]). HM 32297

Extract of a letter; in the handwriting of William Blathwayt.