

State Papers Online

The Government of Britain 1509-1714

State Papers Online – Part IV

A Resource for France

State Papers Online is an online archive of English/British State documents from the 17th century. The great range of documents demonstrates the extent to which French history fundamentally changed not only the rest of Europe, but also the world, with the growth of Empire and subsequent spread of conflict to the Americas. Throughout the period of 1603-1714, France rose to become one of the region's most powerful kingdoms, exhibiting its military prowess in, among others, the Thirty Years War, the War of the Grand Alliance and the War of Spanish Succession. France, tied by blood to the Stuart monarchs after the marriage of Charles I to Henrietta Maria, was to play a crucial role in influencing Britain's foreign policy for many years.

Searches performed on the subject of 'France'

Search on Full Text: "**France**" = hits in 9952 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**French**" = hits in 11700 entries with manuscripts

Kings of France and other Protagonists

Search on Full Text: "**King of France**" = hits in 66 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Roi**" = hits in 10 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**French King**" = hits in 268 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Queen of France**" = hits in 23 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**French w3 Queen**" = hits in 16 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Henry IV**" = hits in 12 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Henri IV**" = hits in 83 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Blois**" = hits in 1 entry with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Marie de Medici**" = hits in 13 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Prince of Condé**" = hits in 33 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Ravaillac**" = hits in 2 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Louis XIII**" = hits in 360 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Luynes**" = hits in 11 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Richelieu**" = hits in 66 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Cardinal Richelieu**" = hits in 40 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Cardinal**" = hits in 247 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Marillac**" = hits in 5 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Louis XIV**" = hits in 99 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Versailles**" = hits in 141 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Marie-Therese**" = hits in 3 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Mazarin**" = hits in 12 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Cardinal Mazarin**" = hits in 8 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Lockhart**" = hits in 154 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Duke of Orleans**" = hits in 31 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: "**Henrietta Anne**" = hits in 1 entry with manuscripts

Search on Full Text: **“Duchess of Orleans”** = hits in 3 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Charles I”** = hits in 11031 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Henrietta Maria”** = hits in 8 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Dauphin”** = hits in 8 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Dauphine”** = hits in 4 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Prince Eugene”** = hits in 132 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Duke of Burgundy”** = hits in 3 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Tallard”** = hits in 12 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Gustavus Adolphus”** = hits in 73 entries with manuscripts

Families/Houses of France

Search on Full Text: **“Anjou”** = hits in 13 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Huguenot”** = hits in 37 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Huguenots”** = hits in 16 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Bourbon”** = hits in 8 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“House of Austria”** = hits in 12 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Rochechouart”** = hits in 2 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Condé”** = hits in 105 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Prince of Condé”** = hits in 33 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Guise”** = hits in 40 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Montmorency”** = hits in 13 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Soubise”** = hits in 63 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Rohan”** = hits in 111 entries with manuscripts

Thirty Years War

Search on Full Text: **“Thirty Years War”** = hits in 1 entry with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Catholic”** = hits in 222 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Catholics”** = hits in 253 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Protestant”** = hits in 378 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Jesuit”** = hits in 62 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Holy Roman Empire”** = hits in 1112 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Holy Roman Emperor”** = hits in 34 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Battle”** = hits in 157 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Battle of Wittstock”** = hits in 1 entry with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Nordlingen”** = hits in 2 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Treaty”** = hits in 839 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Traité”** = hits in 3 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Aix-la-Chapelle”** = hits in 1 entry with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Westphalia”** = hits in 14 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Franco Spanish”** = hits in 1 entry with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“League of the Rhine”** = hits in 1 entry with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Grand Alliance”** = hits in 97 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Parlement de Paris”** = hits in 2 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Spanish Succession”** = hits in 4 entries with manuscripts

Other

Search on Full Text: **“Senneterre”/“La Tour”/“Boderie”** = hits in 4/12/23 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Chateau”** = hits in 6 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Paris”**= hits in 641 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Rouen”**= hits in 74 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Dunkirk”** = hits in 261 entries with manuscripts

Search on Full text: **“Normandy”**= hits in 25 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Bordeaux”**= hits in 64 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Orleans”**= hits in 59 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full Text: **“Brittany”** = hits in 22 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Calais”**= hits in 127 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“La Rochelle”**= hits in 135 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Lille”**= hits in 50 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Nantes”**= hits in 31 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Pau”**= hits in 3 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Montauban”**= hits in 6 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Bearn”**= hits in 4 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Navarre”**= hits in 11 entries with manuscripts
Search on Full text: **“Auvergne”**= hits in 1 entries with manuscripts

Search on Language: **“French”**= hits in 9933 entries with manuscripts

Full text searches on France, its main Kings and Military Leaders and events in the 17th Century include the following titles with manuscripts:

France
King Henri IV
King Louis XIII
King Louis XIV
Parlement de Paris
Bourbon
Huguenot
La Rochelle
Mazarin
Richelieu
Prince Eugene
Paris
Rouen

France

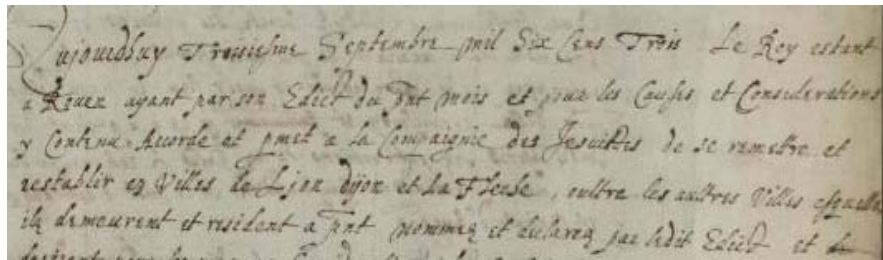
Peace between Savoy and France. Attached, conferment of Nobility on Henri IV of France on 5/15 April, 1600. (Feb. 24/Mar. 6 1601)

SP 99/2 f.38 - in Latin

Edict for reestablishing Jesuits in France (Aug. 24/Sept. 3 1603)

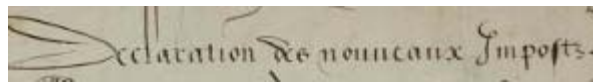
SP 78/49 f.251 - in French

“...agree...that the Company of Jesuits can re-establish themselves in the towns of Lyon, Dijon and....”



Brief of the points for redressing the reglement (between England and France). (1603)

SP 78/50 f.181 – in English



Declaration of new imposts levied on English merchants in France, since 1576 (1603) SP 78/50 f.201

Advice concerning a league between Queen Elizabeth I, the King of France and certain German electors, (including notes on Diet of Augusta 1555) (Undated)

SP 80/1 f.275

King Henri IV

A list of contracts between Queen Elizabeth and King Henri IV (Undated – 1603)

SP 78/50 f.207

Arret of Henri IV on the accord with Henri de La Tour d'Auvergne, Duke of Bouillon who, compromised in the conspiracy of Biron in 1602, had fled to Geneva and had to accept a French protectorate over his duchy of Bouillon in 1606 (Apr 6/16 1606)

SP 78/53 f.80 – in French

80

Henry, par la grace de Dieu, roy de France, & de Navarre, à
 tous present & a venir, salut. Comme nous auons aduisé, pour
 plusieurs bonnes & grandes considerations, importantes au bien
 & repos de nostre royaume, de descharger entierement nostre
 treshier de Lymé Clusin, Henry de Launay, Duc de Bouillon,
 Viconte de la Touraine, mareschal de France & premier
 gentilhomme de nostre Chambre, de toutes choses generalement
 quelconques par luy faictes, seules, ou diuers, contre nostre seruice,
 desquelles il a esté desordé & accusé, ou le pourra estre pour
 les choses passées, jusques a present, & ce tant pour le desir que

Followed by the **Articles of accord between Henri IV and Bouillon.** (Apr 1606)
 SP 78/53 f.78 – in French

True Report of the horrible
 murder committed upon the French
 King Henry the 4 of most famous
 memory in diverse particular
 circumstances differing from the
 former brochures and true
 Letters: Written in a true
 from good place.

**Report on the murder of
 Henri IV.**

Document (May 1610) SP
 78/56 f.121 - in English

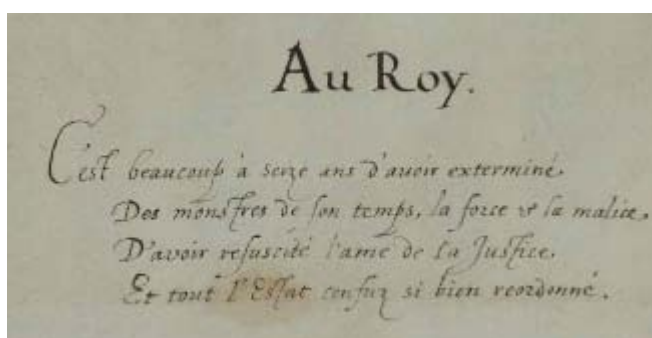
**Designs of Henri IV just before
 his death.** (Undated 1610)
 SP 78/56 f.429

The signs of H. 4 of
 France resolved in a
 while before his death.

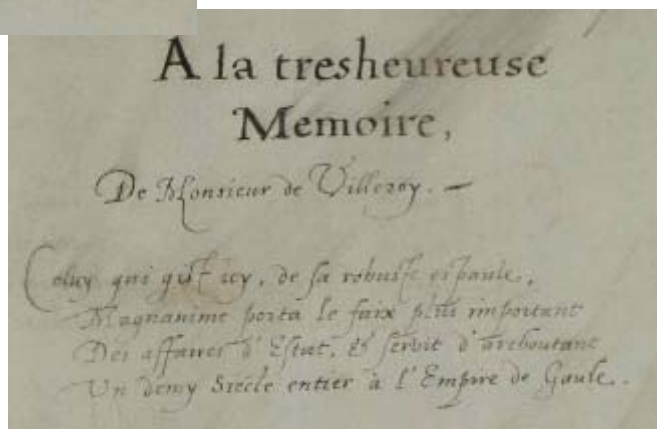
King Louis XIII



Louis XIII declares the innocence of the Princes and others, who left Court on Condé's arrest (Marie de Medici, mother of Louis XIII and regent, had him arrested and imprisoned as a result of the opposition he led against her) (Sept 20/30 1616)
SP 78/66 f.92 – In French



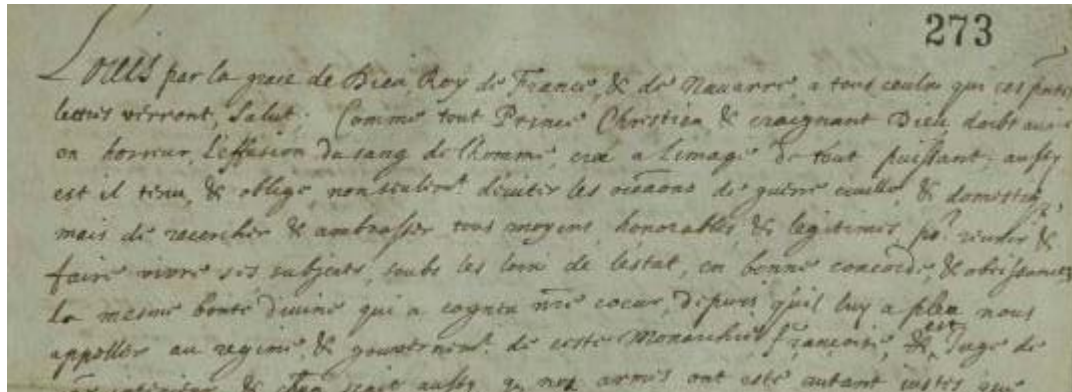
Verses to the memory of Villeroy (Nicolas de Neufville, seigneur de Villeroy – secretary of State under four Kings of France, died November 1617) and **address to Louis XIII** (Dec 1617)
SP 78/67 f.244 – in French



Queen Mother of France to Louis XIII - and letter of Epernon to the same - and another copy of the Queen's complaint (She was exiled by her son to Blois, and the Duc de Luynes became his chief minister – in this letter she bemoans this situation, highlighting how faithful she would be to her son and would even sacrifice “ non seulement tous mes plaisirs mais...tres volontier ma liberte & ma vie” – ‘not only all her pleasures, but also very willingly her freedom and her life’ (Feb. 13/23 1619)
SP 78/68 f.164 - in French

Address to Louis XIII against de Luynes (writing that many of the bad things that have happened during his reign so far could be down to him)- [Undated] 1620
SP 78/68 f.324 - in French

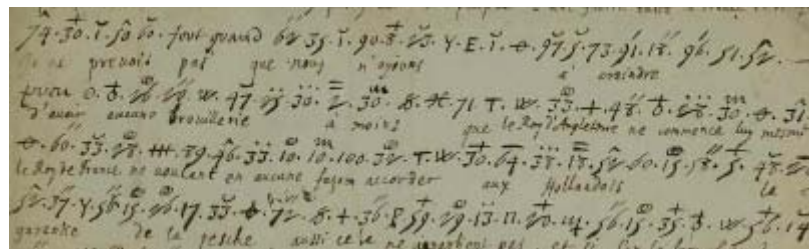
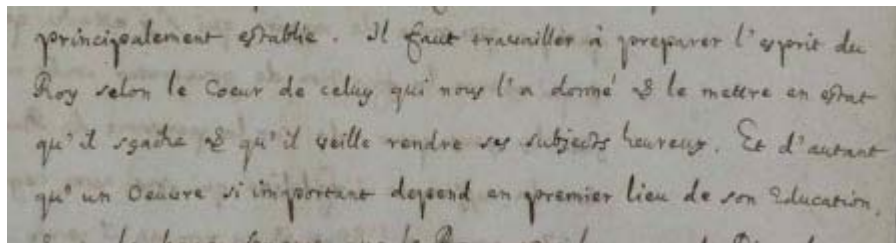
Louis XIII to James I - declaration of peace with his Protestant subjects,
 expressing his hatred “Comme tout Prince Chretien & craignant Dieu doit avoir on
 horreur l’effusion du sang de l’homme” But the need to follow the laws of the
 State and make sure all his subjects can live “en bonne concorde”... (Oct. 9/19 1622)
 SP 78/70 f.273 – in French



King Louis XIV

A letter to Anne, Queen Regent of France, on the education of Louis XIV. (Mar.
 5/15 1646)
 SP 78/111 f.314 – in French

“We need to work to prepare the King’s mind.....to ensure that he knows how to
 make his subjects happy. Something as important as this depends firstly on his
 education.....”



**[Chauran] to
 [Williamson].
 Popular rumours
 of war between
 France and
 England, but
 [Chauran]**

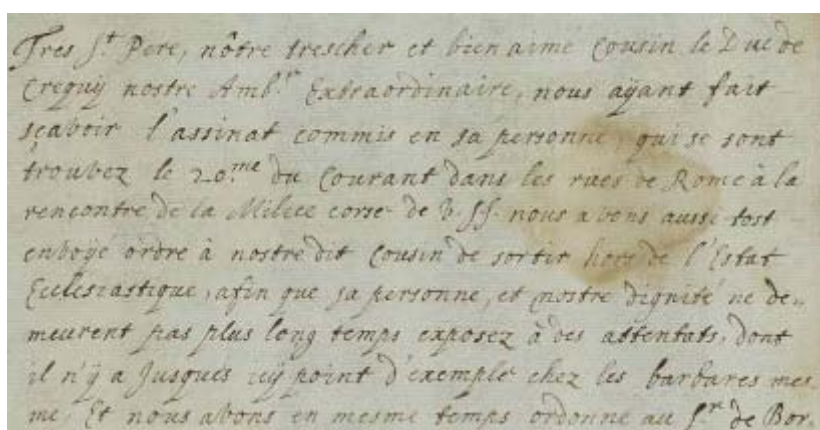
disregards them. Louis XIV and Charles II reported to be on friendly terms.
Need to write completely in cipher, owing to frequent interception of post. (Feb.
 12 1662)
 SP 84/165 f.68

Wickfort to [Williamson]. Visit of the Princess Dowager, who has petitioned the States General to write to Louis XIV asking him to desist from imposing a Roman Catholic regime on Orange; Charles II will probably also join in this protest. Swedish ambassador may negotiate a close treaty with the Dutch. Denmark's dissatisfaction. Probability of a special agreement between the States and France to facilitate a combined naval force to combat the Algerian Corsairs. Charles II has ordered the commissioners to expedite signature of the treat with the Dutch. (Aug. 3 1662)

SP 84/166 f.78 - in French

Louis XIV to the Pope. Expresses his outrage at the attack on the French ambassador to Rome committed by Papal militia. (Aug. 30 1662)

SP 84/166 f.107 - in French



Tres S^t Pere, nostre trescher et bien aime Cousin le Duc de Crequy nostre Amb^l Extraordinaire, nous ayant fait scavoir l'assinat commis en sa personne, qui se sont trouvez le 20^{me} du Courant dans les rues de Rome à la rencontre de la Milice corne de V. S^s. nous avons aussitost ordonné ordre à nostre dit Cousin de sortir hors de l'Etat Ecclesiastique, afin que sa personne, et nostre dignité ne demeurent pas plus long temps exposez à des affronts, dont il n'y a Jusques icy point d'exemple chez les barbares mesme. Et nous avons en mesme temps ordonné au S^r de Bor.

“...well loved cousin, the Duke of C., our extraordinary Ambassador, told us about the attack on himself at the hands of the Papal militia, when he was in the streets of Rome on the 20th of this month,

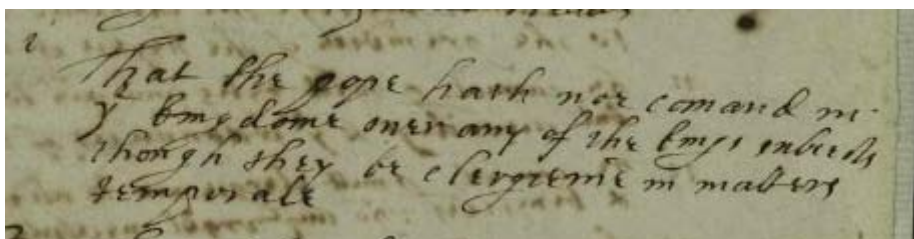
.....we ordered straight away for our cousin to come out of the Ecclesiastic State, so that his person and our dignity wouldn't stay any longer exposed to attacks....”

Parlement de Paris

Note of arrets of Parlement de Paris on exemptions of the church of France from the Pope's jurisdiction. (1614 Dec. 23/1615 Jan. 2 1614/1615)

SP 78/62 f.251 - in English

- “1 That the pope hath nor command in..kingdom over any of the kings subjects though they be clergie... in matters temporal
- 2 That although they confess him soverani in matters spiritual.....”

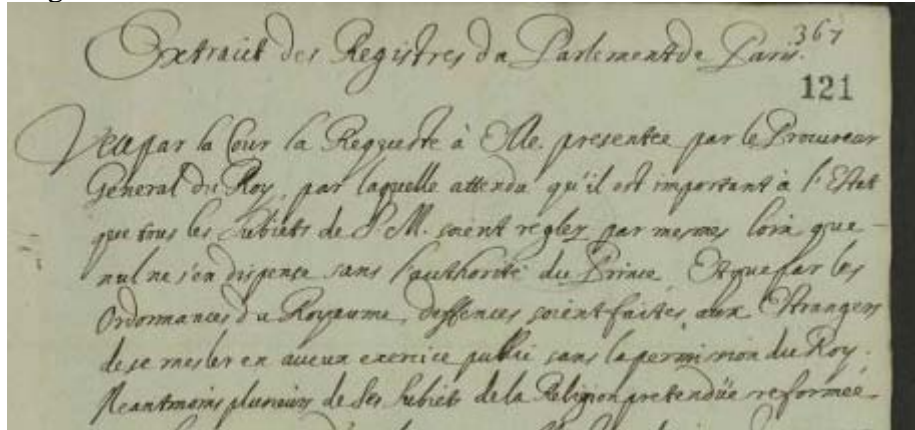


That the pope hath nor command in
y^e kingdom over any of the kings subjects
though they be clergie in matters
temporale

Arret of Parlement de Paris forbidding those of the Religion to appoint foreigners as their ministers (Feb. 24/Mar. 6 1634.)

SP 78/95 f.121

“...it is important for the State that all the Subjects are ruled by the same laws
.....foreigners must not mix in any public affairs without the permission of the
King.....”



Bourbon

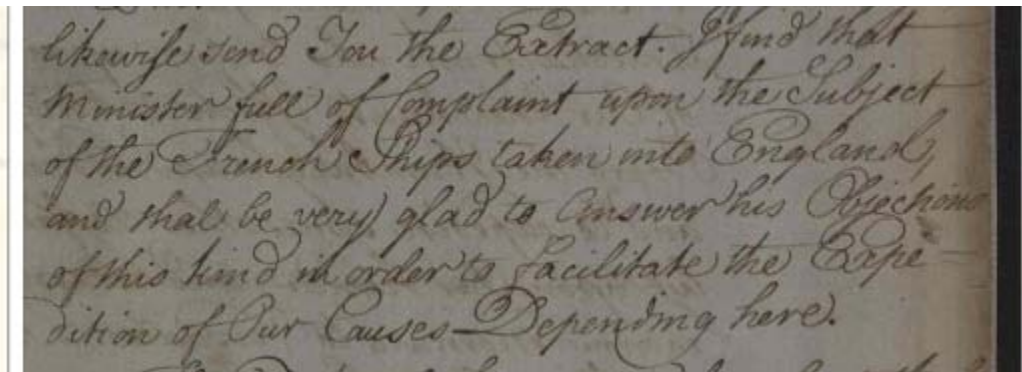
Lord Capell to the Duke of Shrewsbury re: Louis Alexander de Bourbon, Admiral of France (Feb. 22 1696)

SP 63/358 f.30 – in English

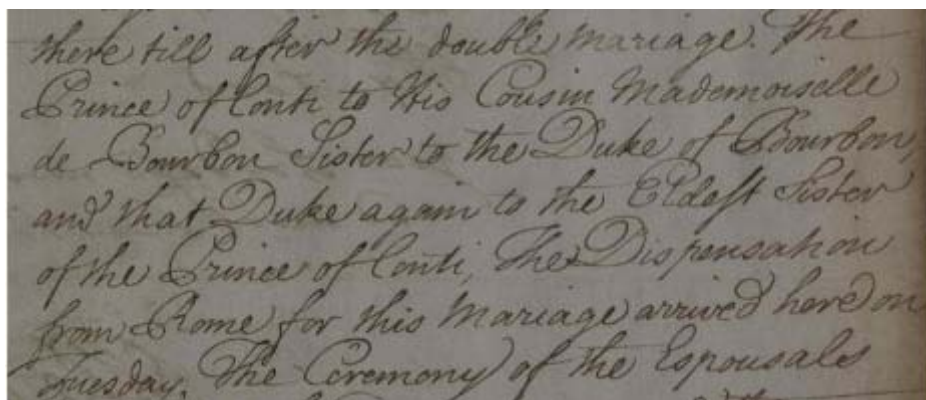
“Captain Richard Walsh, commander of a French privateer, has been indicted for piracy and robbing on the high sea, and also for high treason, in aiding and assisting the French King against his Majesty. He was on Thursday last found guilty of the last indictment, and judgment and execution awarded against him. In his defence he insisted that he was a Frenchman born, and that, supposing he was born in Ireland, which he denied, yet that he never had owned his Majesty's authority or government, nor had he ever submitted thereunto.

The evidence on his Majesty's behalf proved he was born at Wexford, and he offered no proof to the contrary. Then he produced a commission from Louis Alexander de **Bourbon**, Admiral of France, which gave him leave to set forth this privateer, On producing this, he was cleared of the indictment of piracy.

Being called to shew cause why judgment and execution should not be awarded, he owned his trial was fair, but withal said there was a cartell with the French King for the exchange of prisoners, wherein he was assured he was included.”

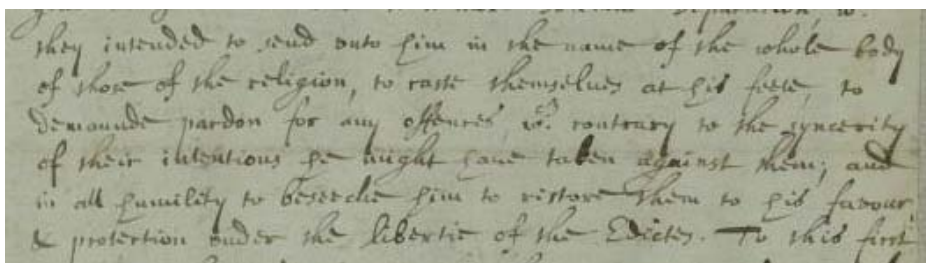


Prior to Dartmouth. Pontchartrain's complaints about French ships taken to England. Shrewsbury will stay at Versailles until after the double marriage of Prince of Conti to Mademoiselle de Bourbon (Marie Anne de Bourbon - the eldest daughter of the infamous Libertine, Francois Louis, Le Grand Conti) and Duke of Bourbon to Conti's eldest sister (July 7 1713) – in English



Huguenot

Viscount Doncaster to Calvert – with two letters of Huguenot deputies of La Rochelle assembly to Doncaster (Jan.17 1622)
SP 78/70 f.12



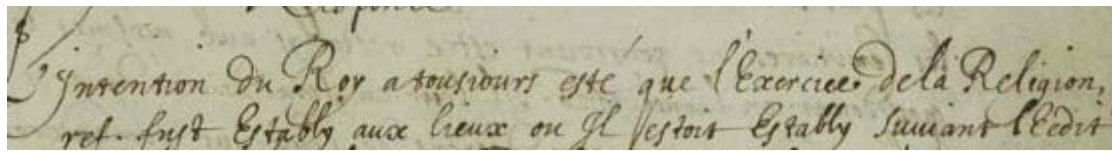
“...in the name of the whole body of religion...to dimande pardon for

any offenses..contrary to ...their intentions...taken against them, and in all humility to beseech himprotection under the liberties of the Edict” referring to the Edict of Nantes which established Catholicism as the state religion of France, but granted the Protestants equality with Catholics under the throne and a degree of religious and political freedom within their domains.

Petition of Huguenot deputies to the King, with replies (Undated - 1627)

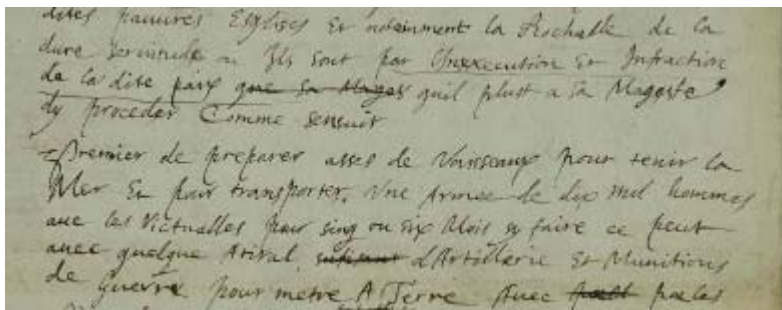
SP 78/82 f.218 – in French

Including the intentions of the King in defending the Religion and the Edicts.



La Rochelle

“Mem. Of Revolt of Soubise (1626) to Charles I on behalf of the Huguenots and La Rochelle » (Apr 1627)



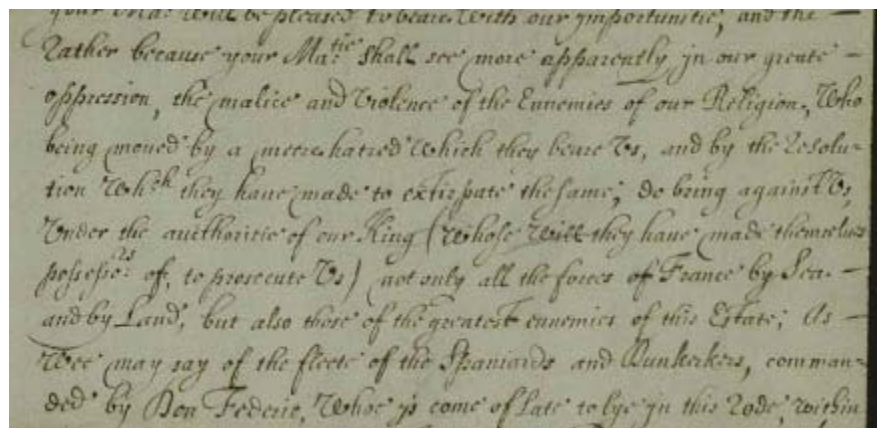
Referring to the breaking of the peace agreement by his Majesty the King and also about the preparations necessary for preparing for the vessels and food etc. for an army of 10,000 men.

SP 78/81 f.119 in French

Mayor of La Rochelle writes to King Charles I (Jan. 14/24 1628)

SP 78/83 f.7 – in French and translated into English

“.....rather because your Majesty shall see more apparently in our great oppression, the malice and violence of the Enemies of our Religion, Who being moved by a mere hatred which they beare us, and by the resolution which they have made to extirpate the same, do bring against us under the authorities of our King.....not only all the forces of France, but also those of the greatest enemies of this Estate.....”



Mazarin

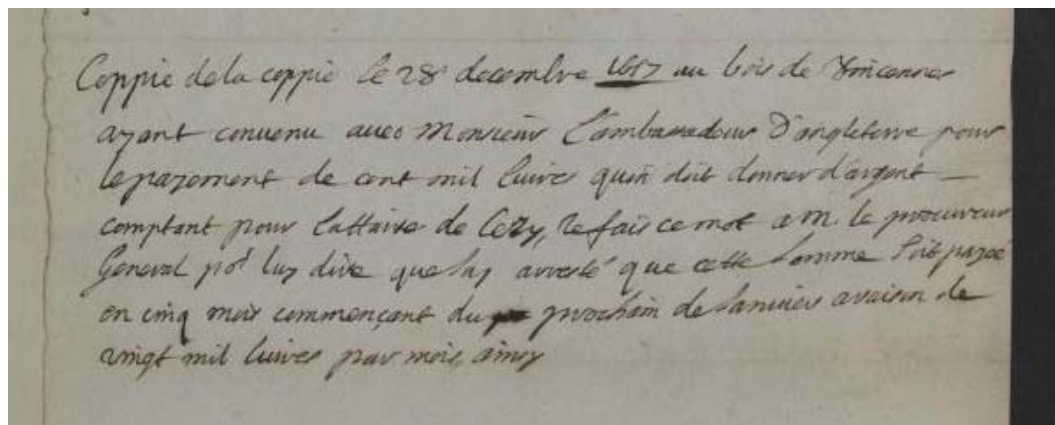
Thomas Dowling to Parker on the purchase of frigates- (May 18, 1650)

SP 63/282 f.74 – in English

“Knowing you I feel I may write to inform you that “your Prince's Navy with all their prizes of great value lately taken from the Parliamentarians of England are admitted by the King of Portugal into Lisbon, where they have all the freedom that they can expect, with protection suitable; and further I am given to understand, which I believe is ere now come to your own knowledge, of the munificent and free gift of twelve gallant frigates completely manned and furnished, presented by Cardinal Massarine [Mazarin], the Great Admiral of France, unto Prince Rupert, and now joined with three other chHolce frigates lately revolted from the Parliament to your Prince's Navy.” There is no news here except that the King's agents tell the people that if they keep in a posture of defence for two months they will be relieved with men, money and munition. He was, at the despatch of the messenger, about to go to Scotland. “

Cardinal Mazarin : order for payment of 100,000 livres for Césy affair (Dec 25 1657/Jan 4 1658)

SP 78/113 f.357

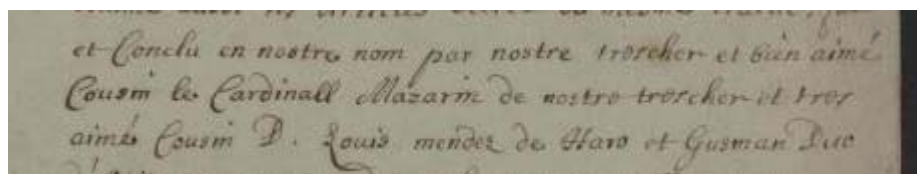


Copie de la copie le 28 decembre 1657 au Vis de Amicours
ayant convenu avec Monsieur l'ambassadeur d'Angleterre pour
le payement de cent mil livres qui ont été d'argent
comptant pour l'affaire de Césy, le fait ce mot à M. le procureur
General par lui dire que les arrêts que cette somme fut payée
en cinq mois commençant du 1^{er} prochain de Janvier avaient de
cinq mil livres par mois ainsi

Louis XIV writes praising Mazarin (June 1660)

SP 78/115 f.1

‘notreet bien aimé Cousin le cardinall Mazarin de..... »

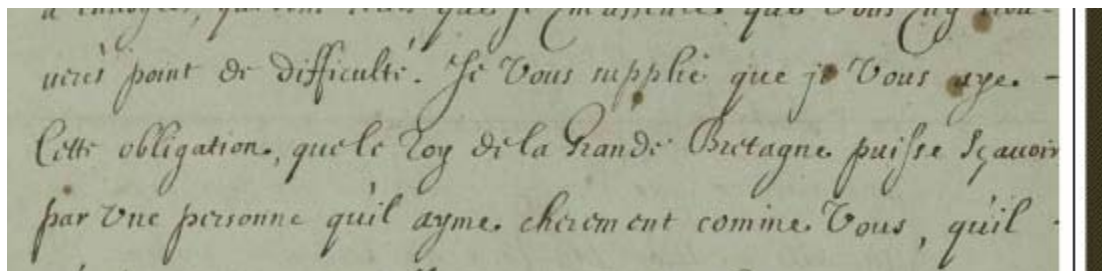


et conclu en nostre nom par nostre trescher et bien aimé
Cousin le Cardinall Mazarin de nostre trescher et tres
aimé Cousin D. Louis mander de Haro et Gusman Duc

Cardinal Richelieu

Cardinal Richelieu to Buckingham – writing of the affection that the King of England, James I, has for him “une personne qu’il ayme chèrement comme Vous” and about the relationship between the two countries. (Aug 22/Sept 1 1624)

SP 78/73 f.87 – in French

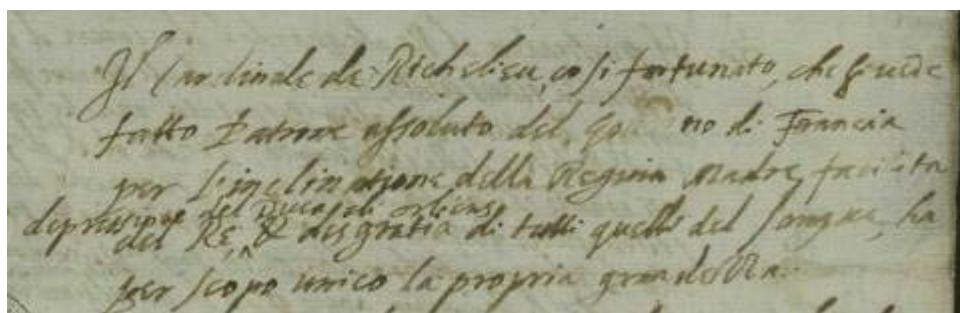


Cardinal Richelieu to Charles I – sends his condolences to the new King on the death of his father, James I (Apr 1625)

SP 78/74 f.223 – in French

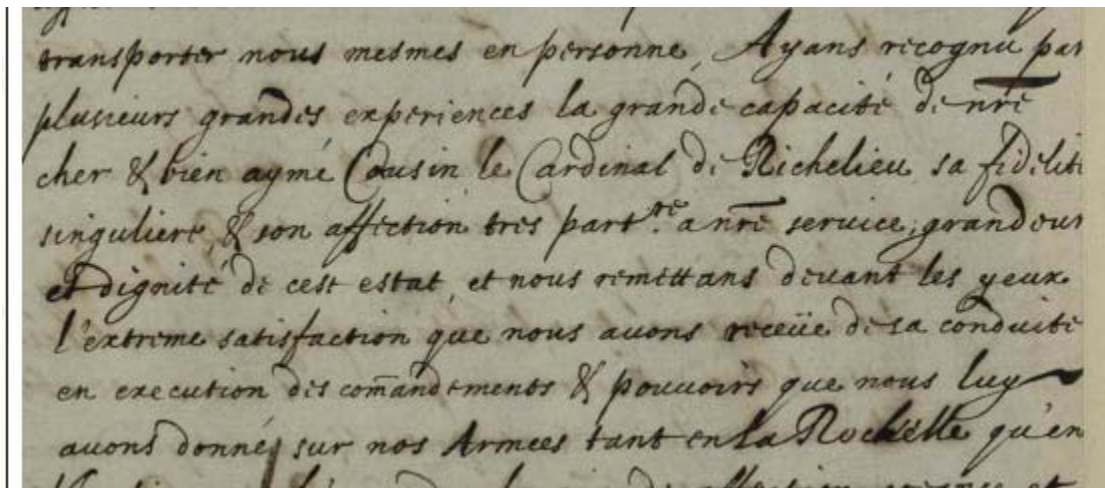
Unsigned note on policy of Richelieu to obtain power – this note describes how Richelieu, favoured by the Queen mother, has become absolute chief minister of France, but that his only aim is the gaining of power for himself. The note continues in this same vein. (Undated – 1625)

SP 78/76 f.296 – in Italian



A letter from Louis XIII, with the commission for Richelieu as lieutenant general in France, recognised “par plusieurs grandes experiences” for his great abilities (in La Rochelle, Italy, Languedoc and more) and reliability. The letter also details the Wars of Succession in Mantua and Montferrat and how are now happily enjoying the ‘Fruits of the Peace’ between the different warring factions – the King of Great Britain, King of Spain and Dukes of Savoy. (Dec. 14/24 1629)

SP 78/85 f.181 – in French



transporter nous mesmes en personne. Ayans reconnu par plusieurs grandes experiences la grande capacite de nre cher & bien aime Cousin le Cardinal de Richelieu sa fidelite singuliere & son affection tres part. a nre service, grand our Dignite de cest estat, et nous remettans devant les yeux l'extreme satisfaction que nous auons receue de sa conduite en execution des comandements & pouvoirs que nous luy auons donnez sur nos Armees tant en La Rochelle qu'en

Prince Eugene



Marlborough [to Harley]: he is awaiting artillery from Nuremberg to attack Rain and meantime building and repairing bridges on the Lech and Danube. Villeroi and Tallard have crossed the Rhine near Strasbourg. He is detaching 30 squadrons of cavalry to **Prince Eugene**. (Jul 13 1704)
SP 87/2 f.92 - in English

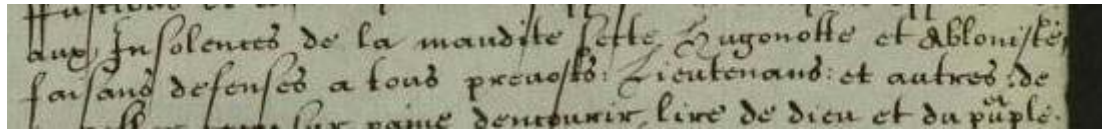
Marlborough to Harley: Friedberg has surrendered and the garrison has withdrawn beyond the river Lech. Prince Eugene is observing Tallard, who is attacking Villingen. (Jul 23 1704)
SP 87/2 f.107 - in English

Marlborough [to Prince Eugene]: Tallard having joined with the elector of Bavaria and Marsin means that they have a force of more than 40,000 men. He has written to Mainz for 20 pieces of artillery. (July 31 1704)
SP 87/2 f.107 – in English

Paris

Affiche put up in Paris against Huguenots talking of the insolence and evil nature of the Huguenots (Sept 8/18 1605)

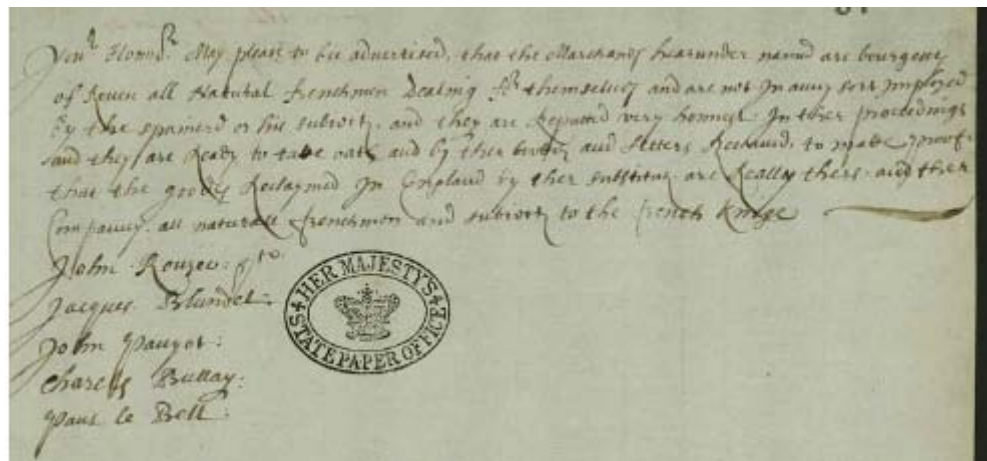
SP 78/52 f.226



Rouen

Names of Frenchmen of Rouen, claiming goods in England. Which they have obtained by honest means, for which they are prepared to take oath and that they are natural Frenchmen and subjects of the French King. ([Undated] [? 1605])

SP 78/52 f.97 – in English

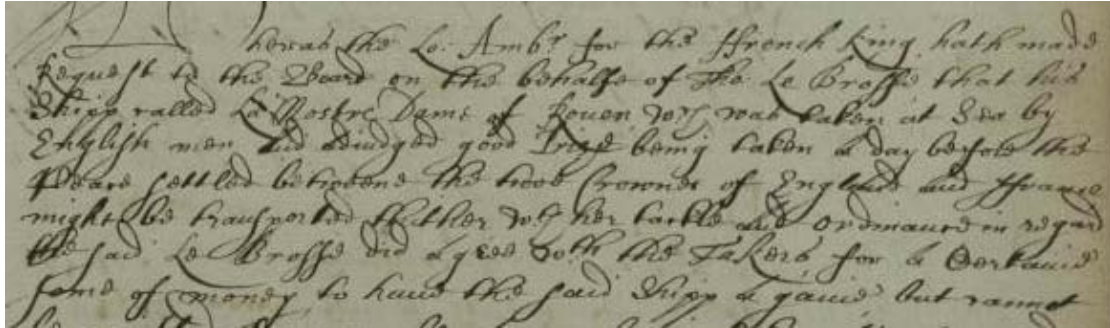


Wheras the Lord Ambassador for the French King hath made request to the Board on the behalfe of Thomas Le Brosse that his Shipp called *La Nostre Dame* of Rouen which was taken at Sea by English men and adjudged good ... (31 December.) 1629)

PC 2/39 f.565 - in English

“Wheras the Lord Ambassador for the French King hath made request to the Board on the behalfe of Thomas Le Brosse that his Shipp called *La Nostre Dame* of Rouen which was taken at Sea by English men and adjudged good prize, being taken a day before the Peace settled betweene the twoe Crownes of England and France, might be transported thither with her tackle and ordinance in regard the said Le Brosse did agree with the takers for a certaine some of money to have the said Shipp againe but cannot be permitted to carry her away being taken as aforesaid. Their Lordships upon consideracion had therof have thought fitt and ordered that the said Le Brosse be

permitted to transporte the said Shipp into France according to the Ambassadors request. Wherof as well the said takers as all other his Majesties officers and loveing Subjects whom it may concerne are required to take notice and to see the performance of this order accordingly.”



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