

Voltaire:

An Inventory of His Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Voltaire, 1694-1778
Title:	Voltaire Collection
Dates:	1742-1780, undated
Extent:	2 boxes (84 linear feet)
Abstract:	Includes manuscripts and correspondence by or related to the French Enlightenment writer, historian and philosopher François Marie Arouet, better known by his pen name Voltaire.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-4364
Language:	French and English
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Michael Ramsey, 2011 Note: This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Works:

Untitled lines of verse, handwritten manuscript, possibly in Voltaire's hand, 2 pages **Container**
on 1 leaf, undated. Withdrawn from PQ 2080 H4 1724. 1.1

Monsr de Voltaire a la Princesse Royale de Prusse, handwritten manuscript written on front
flyleaf of a printed book, 1 page, undated. Verses in French and English. See PQ 2077 B7
1731d.

Notes and signed presentation inscription in a copy of La Henriade, handwritten manuscript, 4
leaves, undated. Inscribed to Monsier della Chaussée by Voltaire. Three leaves of additions to
text are in a secretary's hand with place of their insertion indicated by Voltaire at pages 261,
271, and 320. See PQ 2080 H4 1730.

Works I:

La pucelle d'Orleans, handwritten manuscript / copy in unknown hand, 366 pages,
circa 1756. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

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Works II:

La pucelle d'Orleans, poëme héroï-comique en 24 chants... à Londres, 1758,
handwritten manuscript / copy possibly in the hand of Voltaire's secretary Wagnière,
ii, 311 pages, 1758. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

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Works III:

Fragments sur l'Inde et sur le général Lally, handwritten manuscript annotations and additions to the first edition, 1773, 62 pages plus extensive marginalia, primarily in the hand of Trophime Gérard Lally-Tollendal, circa 1780. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

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Works IV:

Unidentified author. ALS to Feydeau de Marville, Claude Henri re François Marie Arouet de Voltaire, 18 December 1742. From the Desmond Flower Collection. **Container** 2.1

Maurepas, Jean Frédéric Phélypeaux, comte de. AL / copy to Feydeau de Marville, Claude Henri, 18 December 1742. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

La Henriade de Mr. de Voltaire, handwritten manuscript in unknown hand, 213 pages, 18th century. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

Voltaire, François Marie Arouet de. ALS / copy to Maurepas, Jean Frédéric Phélypeaux, comte de, 17 December 1742. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

Works V:

La pucelle d'Orleans, handwritten annotations and additions to the Louvain, 1756 edition, 92 pages plus extensive marginalia in the hand of Maubert de Gouvest, circa 1756. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

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Miscellaneous:

Berès, Pierre firm, Paris. TLS to Flower, Desmond, 8 April 1948.

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Miscellaneous I:

Byng, John. ALS to Brough, William, 10 March 1757. Found in *La mort de l'Amiral Bing*, poème. Avec l'extrait d'une lettre de M. de Voltaire. A Londres, 1761. From the Desmond Flower Collection. **Container**
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Miscellaneous II:

Requête des Soldats Français, à l'occasion de l'establisement de la punission des coups de plat de sabre en 1776, handwritten manuscript in unknown hand, 5 pages on 3 leaves, undated. From the Desmond Flower Collection.

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Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date