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April 14, 2016
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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# Summary Information

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<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Haverford College Quaker &amp; Special Collections</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>William Penn facsimilies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>0.1 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Preferred Citation

William Penn facsimilies (MC.975.11.030), Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College, Haverford, PA.
Biographical note

William Penn (1644-1718), born in London, was the eldest son of Sir William Penn, an English Admiral, and Margaret Jasper. He was educated at The Free School, Chigwell and Christ Church, Oxford. Judged for his nonconformity, in 1661, his father sent him to Europe, from which he returned in 1664 a “modish person.” He entered Lincoln's Inn to study law in 1665, but soon after went to Ireland where he was convinced by Thomas Loe to Quakerism, and was shortly arrested at a Quaker Meeting in Cork. By 1668, he published The Sandy Foundation Shaken for which he was again arrested. He continued to publish works on Quaker doctrinal issues. In 1671, he travelled to Holland and Germany encouraging Quaker communities, preaching and writing against religious persecution. He used his family influence to help Quaker friends, including George Fox and Isaac Pennington. Penn married Gulielma Springett in 1672 and Hannah Callowhill in 1696.

In 1676, Penn became a trustee of the Quaker colony of West New Jersey and in 1681, in exchange for a large debt owed by Charles II to his father, he was granted the province of Pennsylvania. William Penn's aim was to create a colony with the greatest possible civil and religious liberty for all Christians. In 1682, Penn sailed to America, but returned to England in 1684. He spent most of the 1690s writing, preaching and trying to resolve the political, military, imperial and constitutional problems of his colony. Almost all his political writings addressed issues of liberty and conscience. The exception was his utopian idea for securing permanent peace in Europe (Essay Towards the Present and Future Peace of Europe). In 1699, he returned to America and then again to England in 1701. In 1707, he spent nine months in debtors' prison, and on his release, he mortgaged his American properties and tried to sell them back to the Crown. He suffered a paralytic stroke in 1712 from which he never recovered. Penn's philosophy was a combination of religious idealism and political practicalities. His arguments for toleration are grounded in a secular and expansive version of interest theory. He believed that oppressed subjects were a threat to peace, stability and prosperity and that true religion was a matter for individual conscience, not legislation. There was never a question of tolerating non-Christians or atheists. He never advocated a separation of Church and State, nor for the secularization of civil affairs.


Scope and Content note

This collection is comprised of the single volume of the facsimiles of the papers of William and Hannah Penn, including correspondence and deeds.
Administrative Information

Publication Information
Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections December 2015

Use Restrictions
Standard Federal Copyright Law Applies (U.S. Title 17).

Acquisition
The William Penn facsimilies were donated to Quaker & Special Collections, Haverford College in 1879 by Barnabas C. Hobbs.

Processing Information
Processed by Kara Flynn; completed December 2015.

Related Materials

Related Materials
- MC.853 William Penn papers
- MC.975.07.106 "Some Account of William Penn's Birth, Education, and Death"

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)
- Correspondence.
- Deeds
Personal Name(s)

- Penn, Hannah Callowhill, 1671-1726
- Penn, William, 1644-1718

Subject(s)

- Quakers
- Quakers--History
## Collection Inventory

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<th>Facsimiles Undated</th>
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