

COLLECTIONS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

NAME OF COLLECTION: MILTON, JOHN--LETTERBOOK

SOURCE: Purchase--Sotheby's--June 1, 1921.

SUBJECT: Copies of Milton's letters as secretary to Cromwell, and other manuscripts.

DATES COVERED: 1649-1659 NUMBER OF ITEMS: \_\_\_\_\_

STATUS: (check appropriate description)  
Cataloged: X Listed: \_\_\_\_\_ Arranged: \_\_\_\_\_ Not organized: \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITION: (give number of vols., boxes, or shelves)  
Bound: 1 volume Boxed: \_\_\_\_\_ Stored: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: (Library) Special Collections CALL-NUMBER X823M64  
S62.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE MICROFILM  
readers must use 1

DESCRIPTION: A volume containing copies (probably in a secretary's hand) of 156 letters written by Milton when he was secretary to Oliver Cromwell. The letters are grouped roughly by recipient's name, thus making it appear that the manuscript was prepared at some time after 1659, the latest date of the letters. They are addressed to the various reigning monarchs of Europe, to Cardinal Mazarin, the Duke of Muscovy, Duke of Brandenburg, etc. The letters, with the exception of 10) are written in Latin.

The first 20 pages of the manuscript contain a series of essays, some of which have been ascribed to Milton, others of which seem to be materials he used in his official duties. (See Milton's Works, Columbia University Press edition, vols. 13, 18)

The manuscript appears to have been in the possession of Bernard Gardiner, Warden of All Soul's College, Oxford University, who kept accounts on some of its blank pages (ca.1703). It was later acquired by Sir Thomas Phillipps (Phillipps ms. 3993) and sold through Sotheby's to Columbia University in 1921.