Collection Summary

Title: Charles Henri, comte d'Estaing Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1778-2006
Bulk Dates: 1778-1779
ID No.: MSS4422
Creator: Estaing, Charles Henri, comte d', 1729-1794
Extent: 6 items
Extent: 1 oversize container
Extent: 0.1 linear feet
Language: Collection material in French
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79004422
Summary: French naval officer. Notebook, correspondence, photographs, and other papers primarily relating to d'Estaing’s involvement during the American Revolutionary War.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Charles Henri, comte d'Estaing, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1920, with additional material purchased in 2007.

Processing History

The papers of Charles Henri, comte d'Estaing, were arranged and described by Andrea J. Briggs in 2022.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Henri, comte d'Estaing, is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles Henri, comte d'Estaing, are open to research. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Charles Henri, comte d'Estaing Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Jean Baptiste Charles Henri Hector, comte d'Estaing, marquis de Saillans (1729-1794), was a vice admiral in the French navy and senior naval officer during the American Revolutionary War. He was born on November 24, 1729, in Auvergne, France, and in 1746 married Marie Sophie Rousselet de Crozon de Châteaurenault, the granddaughter of François-Louis Rousselet, marquis de Châteaurenault. In 1778, d'Estaing led a contingent of French forces to aid the American colonists and participated in the Siege of Savannah in September, 1779. After returning to France in 1780, d'Estaing supported the revolutionaries during the French Revolution, but personal loyalty to the French royal family ultimately led to his execution on April 28, 1794.
Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Henri, comte d'Estaing, span the years 1778-2006, with the bulk of the material dating from 1778 to 1779, primarily relating to d'Estaing’s participation in the American Revolutionary War.

A handwritten notebook chronicles d’Estaing’s naval involvement in the American Revolutionary War in 1779, including the Siege of Savannah, Georgia, with General Benjamin Lincoln in September 1779. Two letters written by d’Estaing to George Washington, on September 5 and November 8, 1778, describe relations between America and France, military tactics and the defense of Boston, Massachusetts, British military strategy, and the preparedness and strength of the American and French naval forces. The collection also includes an illustrated document, circa 1778, which pictures a key to American naval signal flags, as well as two color photographs, taken in 2006, of unidentified portraits of d’Estaing.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Estaing, Charles Henri, comte d', 1729-1794.
Lincoln, Benjamin, 1733-1810.
Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.

Subjects
Signals and signaling.
Strategy.

Places
Boston (Mass.)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
France--Foreign relations--United States.
Georgia--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
Savannah (Ga.)--History--Siege, 1779.
United States--Foreign relations--France.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--American forces.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--British forces.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Campaigns.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Naval operations.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Participation, French.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.

Occupations
Naval officers, French.
## Container List

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