

# A Guide to the Charles Steuart Papers, 1762-1789

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A Collection in the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library DMS 55.4

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

2002

## History

**Processed by:** Special Collections staff

**Funding:** Web version of the finding aid funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Charles Steuart Papers, 1762-1789

**Subtitle:** Steuart, Charles; 1725-1797.

**Collection:** DMS 55.4

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## Publication Statement

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## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word 2000, created by Doug Mayo, 10/25/2002

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Revision Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Manuscript number**

DMS 55.4

**Language**

English

**Creator**

Charles Steuart, 1725-1797.

**Extent**

20 items.

**Repository**

John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

## Administrative Information

**Access**

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**Acquisition Information**

Gift, 1955.

**Preferred Citation**

Charles Steuart Papers, Manuscript DMS 55.4, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

## Alternative Form

Also available on microfilm M-1130.

## Biographical/Historical Information

Born in Scotland, Steuart was sent to Virginia in 1742 as an apprentice to a Scottish tobacco factor. He was a merchant in Norfolk and Portsmouth. His diplomatic handling of a Norfolk riot led to his appointment as Receiver-General of Customs for the eastern central district and Receiver and Paymaster General of the American Board of Customs. Steuart retired to Edinburgh in 1788 and died there in 1797.

## Scope and Content Information

Letters, 1762-1763, between Charles Steuart (1725-1797), merchant in Norfolk, Va., and later receiver general of customs for the Eastern-Middle District of North America, and lieutenant governor Francis Fauquier (1703-1768) concerning the conditions of Don Pedro Bermudez and his party, who were attacked by English seamen while in Portsmouth, Va. Because of Don Pedro's importance as second in command of the Spanish Navy at Havana, and the diplomatic negotiations proceeding between England and Spain, this situation was a sensitive one, and Steuart's diplomatic handling of it is credited with gaining him the position of receiver general of the customs. There is also a letter, February 21, 1763, from Don Pedro's son to Steuart, and a narrative of the so-called "Spanish Affair," signed by Steuart and dated August 16, 1789.

## Index Terms

**Persons:**

Bermudez, Pedro.

Bermudez, Francisco.

Fauquier, Francis, 1704?-1768.

Steuart, Charles, 1725-1797.

**Subjects:**

Riots--Virginia-- Norfolk--History--18th century.

Ships--Equipment and supplies.

Ships--Maintenance and repair.

## **Geographical Names:**

Spain--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Spain.

Spain--Foreign relations-- 18th century.

United States--Foreign relations--To 1775.

## **Arrangement**

Chronologically arranged.

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