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Processing Information: Viscounts Melville Papers, William L. Correspondence and Documents Series II: Bound Volumes Series I is ordered chronologically with undated items at the end. He began practicing law in , and three years later became solicitor general for Scotland. Melville entered Parliament for Edinburghshire in , and within a year was appointed lord advocate. In , he was made joint keeper of the signet. Melville proved to be an effective spokesperson for the North ministry, supporting the American War, arguing against any acknowledgment of American independence, and opposing economic reform. In , Melville began his long involvement in India affairs as chairman of the secret committee investigating the Carnatic Wars. In the second Rockingham ministry, Dundas continued as lord advocate and was a member of the Privy Council. Under the Shelburne administration, Dundas was made treasurer of the navy, and held the position from to As a military leader, Melville played a major role in the conduct of the war with France. Politically, he dominated Scottish politics in Parliament, defended government control of the East India Company, and opposed abolishing the British slave trade. He was forced to resign from the Admiralty in when accused, and later acquitted, of misappropriating funds. Melville married Elizabeth Rannie d. They divorced in , and in he married Lady Jane Hope d. He was created Viscount Melville in He entered politics as private secretary to this father, and was elected to Parliament for Hastings in , for Rye in , and for Edinburghshire in That same year he was appointed joint keeper of the signet for Scotland. In , the Duke of Portland appointed him president of the Board of Control for Indian Affairs, and he remained in the position throughout the Perceval ministry. During his admiralty tenure, he oversaw British naval operations against the Americans during the War of , and against the French, including the Battle of Trafalgar. Robert married Anne Saunders d. Together they had six children, including Henry Dundas, later 3rd viscount Melville. The collection contains approximately 1, Henry Dundas items and Robert Dundas items, and is primarily comprised of incoming official correspondence, some copies of outgoing letters, and drafts of memoranda by the Melvilles. The papers are almost entirely political in nature and deal with English, Scottish, American, Indian, and European affairs. The majority of these span to , and relate to his tenure as secretary at war and first lord of the admiralty. Included in the collection are: Diplomatic correspondence Letters dealing with Indian and British patronage Military intelligence reports, defense plans, and secret naval memoranda concerning the war with France Secret reports on internal affairs of France covering to from his nephew George Buchan, Financier Walter Boyd, and J. Topics discussed include compensation claims from American Loyalists for losses during the war, and claims of British merchants against Americans for unpaid debts incurred during the war. Of particular interest are the letters between Melville and Grenville that relate to American debt issues with a concentration in Below is a selection of notable items: Secretary of State Charles Wyndham, 2nd earl of Egremont to the Privy Council, concerning trade in the American colonies after the French and Indian War and a proposal to create a frontier military force June 12, Secret intelligence from Admiral William Cornwallis concerning attacks on Brest and plans to burn the French fleet there October 17, These include material concerning the War of , and secret admiralty memoranda documenting ship locations and movements, strength of forces, and instructions to and from various British admirals. Beasley to President James Madison from to The collection also provides insights into American-British tensions in the Great Lakes region in the years after the war. Between and , Melville received many reports and letters related to the treatment of scurvy in the navy. Richard Bickerton concerning proposed attacks on Boulogne and Dieppe October 6, Anthony Maitland, 10th earl of Lauderdale, to Robert Melville concerning Trieste and Malta with detailed information on affairs August 25, Account of scurvy patients received yearly at naval hospitals at Haslar, Plymouth, Yarmouth, Deal, and Paington for the years The Melville Correspondence, items , containing official letters to

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1756**

and from the viscounts Melville Frederick Duke of York letters to Melville 32 letters , relating to militia and military matters, and including a color portrait of the Duke, and and accounts for field work expenses incurred by the Home Office, covering the years to "Precis of Mr.

Chapter 2 : Edward Boscawen - Wikipedia

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I received yours yesterday morning together with the Prussian, papers, which I have read with great attention. If courts could blush, those of Vienna and Dresden ought, to have their falsehoods so publicly, and so undeniably exposed. I well remember the treaty so often referred to in those pieces, between the two Empresses, in The King was strongly pressed by the Empress Queen to accede to it. Wassenaer communicated it to me for that purpose. I asked him if there were no secret articles; suspecting that there were some, because the ostensible treaty was a mere harmless, defensive one. He assured me that there were none. This offer by no means satisfied him; which was a plain proof of the secret articles now brought to light, and into which the court of Vienna hoped to draw us. I told Wassenaer so, and after that I heard no more of his invitation. I am still bewildered in the changes at Court, of which I find that all the particulars are not yet fixed. Who would have thought, a year ago, that Mr. Fox, the Chancellor, and the Duke of Newcastle, should all three have quitted together? Nor can I yet account for it; explain it to me if you can. I cannot see, neither, what the Duke of Devonshire and Fox, whom I looked upon as intimately united, can have quarreled about, with relation to the Treasury; inform me, if you know. I never doubted of the prudent versatility of your Vicar of Bray: Having found myself rather worse, these two or three last days, I was obliged to take some ipecacuanha last night; and, what you will think odd, for a vomit, I brought it all up again in about an hour, to my great satisfaction and emolument, which is seldom the case in restitutions. You did well to go to the Duke of Newcastle, who, I suppose, will have no more levees; however, go from time to time, and leave your name at his door, for you have obligations to him. The same nothings succeed one another every day with me, as, regularly and uniformly as the hours of the day. You will think this tiresome, and so it is; but how can I help it? Cut off from society by my deafness, and dispirited by my ill health, where could I be better? You will say, perhaps, where could you be worse? Only in prison, or the galleys, I confess. However, I see a period to my stay here; and I have fixed, in my own mind, a time for my return to London; not invited there by either politics or pleasures, to both which I am equally a stranger, but merely to be at home; which, after all, according to the vulgar saying, is home, be it ever so homely. The political settlement, as it is called, is, I find, by no means settled; Mr. I had a very long conversation with him, in which he was, seemingly at least, very frank and communicative; but still I own myself in the dark. In those matters, as in most others, half knowledge and mine is at most that is more apt to lead one into error, than to carry one to truth; and our own vanity contributes to the seduction. Our conjectures pass upon us for truths; we will know what we do not know, and often, what we cannot know: It has been reported here that the Empress of Russia is dying; this would be a fortunate event indeed for the King of Prussia, and necessarily produce the neutrality and inaction, at least, of that great power; which would be a heavy weight taken out of the opposite scale to the King of Prussia. The Augustissima must, in that case, do all herself; for though France will, no doubt, promise largely, it will, I believe, perform but scantily; as it desires no better than that the different powers of Germany should tear one another to pieces. I hope you frequent all the courts: Long habit produces favor insensibly; and acquaintance often does more than friendship, in that climate where les beaux sentimens are not the natural growth. I am going to the ball, to save my eyes from reading, and my mind from thinking. I waited quietly, to see when either your leisure, or your inclinations, would allow you to honor me with a letter; and at last I received one this morning, very near a fortnight after you went from hence. You will say, that you had no news to write me; and that probably may be true; but, without news, one has always something to say to those with whom one desires to have anything to do. Your observation is very just with regard to the King of Prussia, whom the most august House of Austria would most unquestionably have poisoned a century or two

ago. But now that terras Astraea reliquit, kings and princes die of natural deaths; even war is pusillanimously carried on in this degenerate age; quarter is given; towns are taken, and the people spared: Whereas such was the humanity of former days prisoners were killed by thousands in cold blood, and the generous victors spared neither man, woman, nor child. Heroic actions of this kind were performed at the taking of Magdebourg. The King of Prussia is certainly now in a situation that must soon decide his fate, and make him Caesar or nothing. Notwithstanding the march of the Russians, his great danger, in my mind, lies westward. But Brown, Piccolomini, Lucchese, and many other veteran officers in the Austrian troops, are respectable enemies. Pitt seems to me to have almost as many enemies to encounter as his Prussian Majesty. His best, if not his only chance of supporting himself would be, if he had credit enough in the city, to hinder the advancing of the money to any administration but his own; and I have met with some people here who think that he has. I have put off my journey from hence for a week, but no longer. I find I still gain some strength and some flesh here, and therefore I will not cut while the run is for me. By a letter which I received this morning from Lady Allen, I observe that you are extremely well with her; and it is well for you to be so, for she is an excellent and warm puff. It would not be refused you; and the sooner you have them the better. I do not mean them as models for your manner of writing, but as outlines of the matter you are to write upon. He thinks impartially, deep, often new; and, in my mind, commonly just. Lord Holderness has been so kind as to communicate to me all the letters which he has received from you hitherto, dated the 15th, 19th, 23d, and 26th August; and also a draught of that which he wrote to you the 9th instant. So that here is both praise to flatter, and a hint to warn you. Had I been to wish an advantageous situation for you, and a good debut in it, I could not have wished you either better than both have hitherto proved. The rest will depend entirely upon yourself; and I own I begin to have much better hopes than I had; for I know, by my own experience, that the more one works, the more willing one is to work. I remember very well, that when I was in business, I wrote four or five hours together every day, more willingly than I should now half an hour; and this is most certain, that when a man has applied himself to business half the day, the other half, goes off the more cheerfully and agreeably. This I found so sensibly, when I was at The Hague, that I never tasted company so well nor was so good company myself, as at the suppers of my post days. I take Hamburg now to be le centre du refuge Allemand. If you have any Hanover refugees among them, pray take care to be particularly attentive to them. How do you like your house? Is it a convenient one? Have the Casserolles been employed in it yet? You will find les petits soupers fins less expensive, and turn to better account, than large dinners for great companies. I hope you have written to the Duke of Newcastle; I take it for granted that you have to all your brother ministers of the northern department. You want nothing but labor and industry to be, one day, whatever you please, in your own way. We think and talk of nothing here but Brest, which is universally supposed to be the object of our great expedition. A great and important object it is. I suppose the affair must be brusque, or it will not do. If we succeed, it will make France put some water to its wine. As for my own private opinion, I own I rather wish than hope success. However, should our expedition fail, Magnis tamen excidit ausis, and that will be better than our late languid manner of making war. To mention a person to you whom I am very indifferent about, I mean myself, I vegetate still just as I did when we parted; but I think I begin to be sensible of the autumn of the year; as well as of the autumn of my own life. I feel an internal awkwardness, which, in about three weeks, I shall carry with me to the Bath, where I hope to get rid of it, as I did last year. The best cordial I could take, would be to hear, from time to time, of your industry and diligence; for in that case I should consequently hear of your success. Remember your own motto, Nullum numen abest si sit prudentia. I received but the day before yesterday your letter of the 3d, from the headquarters at Selsingen; and, by the way, it is but the second that I have received from you since your arrival at Hamburg. Whatever was the cause of your going to the army, I approve of the effect; for I would have you, as much as possible, see everything that is to be seen. That is the true useful knowledge, which informs and improves us when we are young, and amuses us and others when we are old; Olim haec meminisse juvabit. I could wish that you would but I know you will not enter in a book, a short note only, of whatever you see or hear, that is very remarkable: A propos de bottes, for I am told

he always wears his; was his Royal Highness very gracious to you, or not? I have my doubts about it. The neutrality which he has concluded with Marechal de Richelieu, will prevent that bloody battle which you expected; but what the King of Prussia will say to it is another point. He was our only ally; at present, probably we have not one in the world. He has three hundred thousand men to encounter afterward. He must submit; but he may say with truth, Si Pergama dextra defendi potuissent. Upon my word, our species will pay very dear for the quarrels and ambition of a few, and those by no means the most valuable part of it. If the many were wiser than they are, the few must be quieter, and would perhaps be juster and better than they are. I am glad of it, for you must necessarily be in the midst of them; and I am still more glad, that, being in the midst of them, you must necessarily be under some constraint of ceremony; a thing which you do not love, but which is, however, very useful. I desired you in my last, and I repeat it again in this, to give me an account of your private and domestic life. How do you pass your evenings? Have they, at Hamburg, what are called at Paris des Maisons, where one goes without ceremony, sups or not, as one pleases? Are you adopted in any society? Have you any rational brother ministers, and which? What sort of things are your operas? In the tender, I doubt they do not excel; for mein lieber schatz, and the other tendernesses of the Teutonic language, would, in my mind, sound but indifferently, set to soft music; for the bravura parts, I have a great opinion of them; and das, der donner dich erschlage, must no doubt, make a tremendously fine piece of recitativo, when uttered by an angry hero, to the rumble of a whole orchestra, including drums, trumpets, and French horns. Tell me your whole allotment of the day, in which I hope four hours, at least, are sacred to writing; the others cannot be better employed than in LIBERAL pleasures. In short, give me a full account of yourself, in your unministerial character, your incognito, without your fiocchi. I love to see those, in whom I interest myself, in their undress, rather than in gala; I know them better so. I recommend to you, etiam atque etiam, method and order in everything you undertake. Do you observe it in your accounts? If you do not, you will be a beggar, though you were to receive the appointments of a Spanish Ambassador extraordinary, which are a thousand pistoles a month; and in your ministerial business, if you have no regular and stated hours for such and such parts of it, you will be in the hurry and confusion of the Duke of Nâ€™” â€™” doing everything by halves, and nothing well, nor soon.

Chapter 3 : Federico Carlos Gravina y Náipoli - Wikipedia

Intercepted letters to the Duke de Mirepoix, [microform] Item Preview remove-circle Intercepted letters to the Duke de Mirepoix, [microform].

Streets were named after Porto Bello throughout Britain and its colonies. When the fleet returned to Port Royal , Jamaica Shoreham had been refitted and Boscawen resumed command of her. Battle of Cartagena de Indias Attack at Cartagena de Indias by the British in , oil on canvas, 18th century In Boscawen was part of the fleet sent to attack another Caribbean port, Cartagena de Indias. The Spanish had roughly 6, troops made up of regular soldiers, sailors and local loyalist natives. The siege lasted for over two months during which period the British troops suffered over 18, casualties, the vast majority from disease. The defeat of Vernon was a contributing factor to the increased hostilities of the War of the Austrian Succession. Boscawen had however distinguished himself once more. The land forces that he commanded had been instrumental in capturing Fort San Luis and Boca Chica Castle, and together with Knowles he destroyed the captured forts when the siege was abandoned. In the same year he was returned as a Member of Parliament for Truro, a position he held until his death. The French under Admiral Rocquefeuil retreated and the British attempts to engage were confounded by a violent storm that swept the English Channel. The French fleet was almost completely annihilated with all but two of the escorts taken and six merchantmen. Boscawen was injured in the shoulder during the battle by a musket ball. On the outward voyage Boscawen made an abortive attempt to capture Mauritius by surprise but was driven off by French forces. David near the town of Cuddalore on 29 July [4]: The British forces amounting to some 5, men captured and destroyed the outlying fort of Aranciopang. Lawrence was captured by the French during the retreat and exchanged after the news of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle had reached India. Fortunately, for the Admiral and his staff, when a storm hit the British outpost Boscawen was ashore but his flagship Namur went down with over men aboard. Siege of Louisbourg On 4 February Boscawen was promoted vice admiral [4]: Despite the fact that Britain and France were not formally at war, preparations were being made for a conflict by then considered inevitable. A squadron of partially disarmed French ships of the line were dispatched to Canada loaded with reinforcements and Boscawen was ordered to intercept them. The French ambassador to London, the Duc de Mirepoix had informed the government of George II that any act of hostility taken by British ships would be considered an act of war. In the ensuing engagement the British captured the Alcide and Lys but the Dauphin Royal escaped into the fog. The British squadron headed for Halifax to regroup but a fever spread through the ships and the Vice-admiral was forced to return to England. Boscawen signed the order of execution after the King had refused to grant the unfortunate admiral a pardon. On 7 February Boscawen was promoted to Admiral of the blue squadron. Once there, he took naval command at the Siege of Louisburg during June and July The Siege of Louisburg was one of the key contributors to the capture of French possessions in Canada. The capture of the town took away from the French the only effective naval base that they had in Canada, as well as leading to the destruction of four of their ships of the line and the capture of another. The King made Boscawen a Privy Counsellor [26] in recognition for his continued service both as a member of the Board of Admiralty and commander-in-chief.

Chapter 4 : From Benjamin Franklin to Thomas Pownall, [August?]

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His family originated in Sicily , which was then part of the Kingdom of Naples and ruled by a Spanish Bourbon dynasty. With the help of his uncle, the Neapolitan Ambassador to Spain, he entered the Spanish Navy , as a naval cadet aged 14. He then served as Midshipman on board the frigate Santa Clara in Brazil. In 1751, he survived a boat accident in the River Plate in which most of the crew drowned. In 1752, on returning to Spain, he served as a lieutenant aboard a ship suppressing Algerian pirates. He then obtained his first command - the xebec San Luis - in which he participated in the Siege of Gibraltar between 1752 and 1753. After promotion to Commander he participated in the expedition against Menorca then under British control , distinguishing himself in the attack on the fortress of San Felipe. After this, and for other actions, he was promoted to Captain. In 1754 he commanded a squadron operating against Algerian corsairs. In 1755 he travelled to Constantinople returning the Ambassador Jussuf Efendi. While there he made and published various astronomical observations. After the death of King Charles III , Gravina took the news to the colonies, where his frigate Paz recorded one of the fastest-ever times for passages from Cadiz to the Spanish possessions in Central America. In 1756 he was given command of a ship-of-the line, the Paula, in which he took part in the evacuation of Oran. The same year saw him demonstrate his administrative talents for the first time. During the Nootka Sound Crisis , Gravina organised the formation of a Spanish fleet, the largest in years. However, the crisis was eventually solved by diplomatic means. During this period of the alliance with England he also visited Portsmouth to study British methods and tactics. On his return to Spain he was appointed to command a squadron of four ships, with which he served in the Mediterranean taking an active part in the war against Revolutionary France. His flagship was the Hermenegildo. In 1763 Spain signed the treaty of San Ildefonso with France, making peace and later entering the war against Britain. Gravina fought in a squadron under Don Jose de Mazarredo. In 1764 he was appointed Ambassador to France in Paris. He accepted this position on one condition: Trafalgar[edit] When Napoleon proposed to invade Great Britain, following the orders of the government of Godoy , Gravina was placed under the command of French Admiral Villeneuve , who took the Franco-Spanish fleet into Caribbean waters to confuse the British fleet. The objective was to allow the crossing of the English Channel by 15,000 men that Napoleon had waiting around Boulogne. The deception did not have desired effect. The French soldiers never embarked, and were moved to the interior of Europe, freeing many of them to take part in the Battle of Austerlitz. He later moved his flag to Principe de Asturias. In 1797 Cadiz relations between the supposed allies were poor. Gravina and other Spanish commanders argued strongly with the French, who wanted to sail immediately, whereas the Spaniards recommended waiting for more favourable conditions. Gravina was also concerned about the yellow fever epidemic that had left his ships short of men, as well as the lingering resentment against the French, for their perceived lack of support at the Battle of Cape Finisterre. The fleet finally left Cadiz on 20 October , leading to the Battle of Trafalgar the next day. During the battle Gravina, in his flagship Principe de Asturias, found himself attacked by three British ships at once. The main mast and mizzen were shot through, rigging and sails shot to pieces. On his death-bed he said, "I am a dying man, but I die happy; I am going, I hope and trust, to join Nelson , the greatest hero that the world perhaps has produced. If Villeneuve had had those qualities, the battle of Finisterre would have been a complete victory".

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