Please note, this guide has not been updated since it was published. We therefore recommend that you also check the Archives catalogue (http://archives.collections.ed.ac.uk) and Print catalogue (http://discovered.ed.ac.uk) in addition to using this guide.

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GUIDE TO SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA

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NOTE

Much of the historical material in the Laing collection - the largest single manuscript collection in the University of Edinburgh Library - has been calendared by the Historical Manuscripts Commission. Where an item relevant to the present survey is mentioned in their published report, the appropriate page reference in H.M.C. Laing (2 vols., 1914, 1925) has been given, but entries in the present report are derived from examination of the actual documents, rather than from the published calendar. All entries, from Laing and all other collections, have been arranged in a single chronological list.

4. Proposals from Sir Thomas Lynch regarding trial of criminal maritime cases in Jamaica, with particular reference to Jamaica, late 17th century.

5. Diary of Rev. Francis Revell,including account of residence in Surinam, 1685-90; visited in Brazil in 1694 (pp. 15-16) of colony of Caledonia (Savannah), 1692-1707; and its evacuation by Jamaica, 1706; with brief comments on locations, conditions, personalities, etc.

5. Part of an account of a voyage to Darien, 1696, including impressions on arrival and events following.

(Staff, 1957, 1958 - noted in H.M.C. Laing I, 196)

(MS. La. I. 273— noted in H.M.C. Laing I, 149)

2. Obligation of Sir William Davidson and partners to pay Earl of Lauderdale fifth part of proceeds on "the holle Breissillia wood and peper" imported from Jamaica, and sixth part of net proceeds of gold obtained there, 1662.

(MS. La. I. 133— noted in H.M.C. Laing I, 329)

3. Letter from Earl of Tweeddale to Earl of Lauderdale, 1668, mentioning possibility of transporting a prisoner to Barbados.

(MS. La. I. 147— printed in H.M.C. Laing I, 369)

4. Proposals from Sir Thomas Lynch regarding trial of criminal maritime cases in colonies, with particular reference to Jamaica, late 17th century.

(MS. La. I. 338/7— noted in H.M.C. Laing II, 2)

5. Diary of Rev. Francis Borland, including accounts of residence in Surinam, 1685–90; visits to Barbados, 1690–1 (pp. 12–16); of colony of Caledonia [Darien], 1699–1700; and its evacuation to Jamaica, 1700; with brief comments on locations, conditions, personalities, &c.

(MS. La. III. 262— noted in H.M.C. Laing I, 331)

6. Part of an account of a voyage to Darien, 1698, including impressions on arrival and events following.

(MS. La. II. 669— noted in H.M.C. Laing I, 438)
7. 'Caledonia's Complaint' and 'Answer to Caledonia's Complaint': verses on Darien question, 1699.
(MS. La. II. 89/162-3, ff. 253-9 [Lauder of Fountainhall Collection])

8. Lists of queries about Darien addressed to P. Smith and R. Gray by Robert Wodrow, 1699, 1700.

9. List of items suitable for trade with Spaniards and natives in Chile and Peru, c. 1700.
(MS. La. I. 338/4 - noted in H.M.C. Laing II, 2)

(MS. La. III. 320)

11. Will of George Somervill, Jamaica, 1754, including disposal of property, manumission of slaves, &c.
(MS. La. II. 92)

12. Translation of edict of King of Denmark regulating trade to his sugar islands in the West Indies, 1755.
(MS. Dc. I. 67, pp. 197-200)

(MS. La. II. 79/3 - printed in H.M.C. Laing II, 437)
13. About 20 letters regarding affairs of William and Lewis Gordon, 1759-61, concerning residence in and dealings with Jamaica, including comments on commercial, social and economic matters.

(Ms. La. II. 493 - extracts from two letters printed in H.M.G. Laing II, 419-20, 428-9)

10. Descriptive notes relating to island of Trinidad (or Trinidad) off Brazil, and Brazil, as naval papers of Commodore George Johnston.

14. Copy of letter of 1761 from J. Stewart, merchant in Monte Cristi, Hispaniola, to Messrs. Fairholme and partners, Scotland, discussing commercial conditions and British policy towards the Monte Cristi trade; with a list of English goods suitable for that trade.

(Ms. La. II. 92 - cf. note in H.M.G. Laing II, 210-1)

15. Letter to Earl Dundonald, 1763, referring to reversion of Receiver-Generalship in Jamaica, worth £700 to £800 per year.

(Ms. La. II. 98/3 - extract printed in H.M.G. Laing II, 437)


(Ms. Dc. 1. 67, p. 763)

17. 3 letters from John Dalziel, Grenada, 1773, 1774, discussing social and economic conditions on Bellmont and Mount Riche estates, and from Tobago, 1778, mentioning political views and effects of American war; and 2 letters from Archibald Dalziel, 1771, 1778, mentioning visits to Jamaica.

(Ms. Dk. 7, 52/19, 34, 53, 60, 61)


20. Civil commission of George III nominating J. Jackson as member of Council.

(Ms. La. II. 73/3 - printed in H.M.G. Laing II, 437)

(Ms. La. 641/2, no. 39 - noted in H.M.G. Laing II, 529)

(MS. Dk. 1. 30, f. 169)

20. Descriptive notes relating to island of Trindade (or Trinidad) off Brazil, c. 1780, in naval papers of Commodore George Johnstone.

(MS. La. II. 78 – noted in H.M.C. Laing II, 509)

21. Notes, including passages from journal and naval log-book of W. Robertson, 1773-1801, but mainly 1781-2, including discussions of naval actions in West Indies.

(MS. La. II. 379 – cf. note in H.M.C. Laing II, 509)

22. Letter to Lord Advocate Dundas, 1798, regarding conduct of Captain Wallace


(MS. La. II. 431 – noted in H.M.C. Laing II, 512)

24. Military commissions of George III, including 17 relating to West Indies, 1783-1811.

(MS. La. II. 641/3 – details printed in H.M.C. Laing II, 471-7)

25. Letter from P. Lindsay, Nassau, 1798, giving account of productions, opportunities for investment, and recognition of French colonists from Guernes.

26. Meteorological journals kept in Jamaica, 1735-1792, by John Lindsay, surgeon, 1 vol., 89 ff.

(MS. Dc. 6. 96)

27. Letter from A. Thomson, Grenada, 1799, regarding purchase of an estate and military affairs.

28. Civil commission of George III nominating J. Jackson as member of Council of Jamaica in place of T. Davison, deceased, 1787.

(MS. La. 641/2, no. 33 – noted in H.M.C. Laing II, 525)
26. Requisition, Jamaica, 1796, for supplies for invalid troops from St Domingo.
   (MS. La. II. 643/37)

27. Letter from Thomas Dundas to Lord Advocate Dundas, H.M.S. Merlin, Belize, 1797, describing military and social situation.
   (MS. La. II. 501 - extract printed in H.M.C. Laing II, 606-7)

28. Letter in Spanish from Simón Bolívar, Caracas, 1814, to Admiral Durham, recommending Venezuelan commissioners and their mission to seek
   (MS. La. III. 353/1)

29. Letter from Jaques, Laing and Ewing, Jamaica, 1797, regarding the selling of books there.
   (MS. La. II. 129 - noted in H.M.C. Laing II, 758)

30. Letter from Admiral Cochrane, Bermuda, to Admiral Durham, Leeward Islands, 1798.
   (MS. La. II. 174 - printed in H.M.C. Laing II, 758-9)

31. Letter from Lord Advocate Dundas, 1798, regarding conduct of Captain Wallace and others at St Domingo.
   (MS. La. II. 501 - printed in H.M.C. Laing II, 604-5)

32. Letter from Lord Balcarres, Governor of Jamaica, 1798, to Henry Dundas, commenting on political activities of Mr Atkinson.
   (MS. Dk. 7. 63/5)

33. About 50 letters to Admiral Durham, 1814-5, from various correspondents in Spanish colonies, including some of slaves.
   (MS. La. II. 74/29-36 and loose papers - cf. note in H.M.C. Laing II, 715)

34. Letter from F. Lindsay, Demerara, 1798, giving account of productions, opportunities for investment, and reception of French royalists from Cayenne.
   (MS. Dk. 4. 41/145)

35. Letter from A. Thomson, Grenada, 1798, regarding purchase of an estate and military affairs.
33. Copy of will of John Drummond, Westmorland, Jamaica, 1802.

(MS. Da.)

34. Manumission of John Pierre, slave of Wm. Phillip, Grenada, 1811.

(MS. La. II. 79/5)

35. Letter in Spanish from Simón Bolívar, Caracas, 1814, to Admiral Durham, Barbados, recommending Venezuelan commissioners and their mission to seek British assistance.

(MS. La. II. 160 - noted in H.M.C. Laing II, 758)

36. Letter from Admiral Cochrane, Bermuda, to Admiral Durham, Leeward Islands, 1814, requesting ammunition to be sent from West Indies.

(MS. La. II. 159 - printed in H.M.C. Laing II, 758-9)

37. About 50 letters to Admiral Durham, 1814-5, from various correspondents in the West Indies and the Guianas, but mainly Barbados, with some communications from Admiralty, discussing naval matters and giving news, including some of situation in Spanish colonies.

(MS. La. II. 79/29-36 and loose papers - cf. note in H.M.C. Laing II, 715)

38. Legal document relating to property in Grenada, c. 1817, including detailed list of slaves.

(Mackinnon Collection MS. 11)

39. Prize Essay on 'Dysentery, particularly as it occurs among Troops serving in the East and West Indies' by George Mackay, M.D., 1841, including some military medical statistics for West Indies, 1817-1836.

(MS. Gen. 583)
40. Letter from C. Mackenzie, 1832, regarding mineralogy in Cuba, and letter from J. Vetch, 1829, regarding geology of Mexico.

(MS. Gen. 129)

41. Copy of printed book, Account of a voyage to Manilla in a Series of Letters from ... M. Adolphe Barrot to her uncle, Captain George W. Manby (Yarmouth, 1842), with corrected proofs and MS. of work, and 6 additional letters from or concerning the author, 1840-1.

(MS. Dh. 6. 37 - this volume formed part of a collection of some 200 printed books relating to the Philippines presented to Edinburgh University Library by D. M. Forbes in 1917)

42. Journal of Sir William Jardine, naturalist, of visit to Bermuda, Barbados, Trinidad and Jamaica, 1860-1, including descriptions of places, people, sugar manufacture, pitch lake, &c.

(MS. Dk. 6. 20)

43. Letter from C. F. Hartt to Sir Charles Lyell, Brazil, 1870, regarding geological investigations of Amazon basin.

(MS. Lyell. 1, f. 1975)