## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Johann Georg II, Elector of Saxony, 1613-1680.  
**Title:** John George II, Elector of Saxony letter to Agents in Dresden, 1670  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 025  
**Extent:** 0.01 cubic ft. (1 folder)  
**Abstract:** Contains one letter written by John George II, Elector of Saxony, to his chancellors and advisors in Dresden.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in German.

## Administrative Information

**Restrictions on Access**  
Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**  
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Citation**  
[after identification of item(s)], John George II, Elector of Saxony Letter to Agents in Dresden, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

**Processing**  
Processed by Anne Graham, June 2000.

## Collection Description

**Biographical Note**  
The Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) began as the rebellion of the independent Protestant states of John George I (1611-1656), Elector of Saxony; Gustavus II Adolphus of Sweden (1611-1632); and Frederick William of Brandenburg (1640-1688) against the attempted imposition of Roman
Catholicism by the Habsburg Ferdinand II, Holy Roman emperor (1619-37). Denmark and the newly independent United Netherlands joined the Protestant side and with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, the nations of the former Holy Roman Empire were granted sovereignty, thus dashing any hopes of a united Roman Catholic Europe.

The legacy of the Thirty Years’ War was widespread devastation to the German states in which the majority of it was fought and the ascendancy of Brandenburg over Saxony. Nine years after the Treaty of Westphalia, John George II (1657-1680) ascended the throne as Elector of Saxony. He engineered a rapprochement with both the Roman Catholic Louis XIV of France (1643-1715) and the Habsburg emperor Leopold I (1658-1705) of Austria and made his court at Dresden a haven to artists.

Scope and Content Note
This letter is written by John George II, Elector of Saxony, to his “best and most highly learned” chancellors and advisors in Dresden concerning a rental contract they were negotiating with Count Franz Mansfeld and refers to the advisors’ letter of July 11, 1670. Written on July 26, 1670, the letter is written in an ornate German script in ink on paper. The letter has been encapsulated.