Descriptive Summary

Creator: Derwentwater, James Radcliffe, Earl of, 1689-1716.
Title: James Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater speech, 1716
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 108
Extent: 0.1 cubic ft. (1 item)
Abstract: Contains a handwritten copy of the speech made by James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, from the scaffold on February 24, 1716.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], James Radcliffe, Earl of Derwentwater Speech, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed from Accession number 86-003.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
James Radcliffe, third Earl of Derwentwater, was born on June 28, 1689 in London. He was the eldest son of Edward Radcliffe, second Earl of Derwentwater, by Lady Mary Tudor, daughter of Sir George Tudor of Coughton Court, Warwickshire.

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of Charles II and the Actress Mary Davies. Radcliffe spent the greater part of his youth at the
exiled court of James Edward, the Old Pretender, at St. Germaine, France. He developed a close
friendship with Charles Edward the Young Pretender, often called James III by his supporters.

In 1715 Radcliffe joined in the conspiracy to reinstate the Stuarts. The rebellion failed.
Derwentwater surrendered and went to London to stand trial. On January 10, 1716 he appeared
before the privy council. He pled guilty and begged for mercy, blaming his participation on
youth and inexperience. The council denied the plea and sentenced him to death. Radcliffe was
beheaded on February 24, 1716. He was one of only two peers executed during the Rising of
1715.

Scope and Content Note
This manuscript consists of a handwritten copy of the speech made by James Radcliffe, third
Earl of Derwentwater, from the scaffold on February 24, 1716. Radcliffe was sentenced to death
by King George I because of his participation in the conspiracy to reinstate the Stuarts. In the
speech Radcliffe renounced his plea of guilt, affirmed his adherence to the Roman Catholic faith,
and professed his loyalty to James III.