

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Perkins, Jacob, Papers, 1795-1934

**LOCATION:**

Manuscript boxes "P"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

1 manuscript box

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For biographical notes, see *DAB*, vol. 14, p. 472-473.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Charles Henry Taylor, 1938

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Jacob Perkins (1766-1849), of Newburyport, Mass., was an engraver, inventor, and silversmith, having produced the first steel plate for bank notes and the dies for minting state coins during the Confederate period. He was a prolific inventor in the fields of steam power and the outfitting of ships. Perkins established a factory in England in 1819 for making plates and printing bank notes, and also produced millions of British postage stamps. His steel plate, a preventive against counterfeiting, was eventually adopted by law throughout this country. Perkins was elected to the London Institute of Civil Engineers and received many awards and medals for his achievements.

This collection is a compilation of research materials on Jacob Perkins, assembled largely by Charles Henry Taylor (1867-1941), publisher of the Boston Globe, and includes several original items such as sample bank notes and dated newspaper and journal articles on Perkins. The folders contain notes on his many inventions, with copies of engravings and specifications, biographical and genealogical information, photographs of engravings, sketches, and his British postage stamps, and many copies of various printed articles concerning Perkins and his inventions.

See Contents List.

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Jacob Perkins, Papers, 1795-1934

Contents List

Manuscript Box

- Folder 1 Biographical notes; notes apparently compiled by Charles Henry Taylor re: Jacob Perkins' inventions, with copies of engravings, sketches, 1812-1849.
- a. Ships' pump
  - b. Paddle wheel
  - c. Hot water high pressure heating system
  - d. Water wheel
  - e. Transfer press
  - f. Steam-gun, its demonstration in England
  - g. Anti-counterfeiting steel-plates
  - h. Correspondence of Charles Henry Taylor with various people for an article re: Perkins
- Folder 2 Research material compiled by H. J. Moulton ( - ) for 1795-1849.
- a. Copy of Perkins' patent-list
  - b. Moulton's correspondence with Charles Henry Taylor, 1924-1934
  - c. Biographical and genealogical material on Perkins, including "Home Life" and "London"
  - d. Photographs of engravings
  - e. Articles re: burning of U.S. Patent Office, 1837
  - f. Copies of articles from various journals
- Folder 3 Original samples of engravings, 1795-1828.
- a. Bank-note samples
  - b. Two original notes written by Perkins
- Folder 4 Electroprint copy of London Journal of Arts and Sciences on "Perkins' Plans and Patents against Forgery of Bank Notes," 1820.
- Folder 5 Newclippings, originals and copies of magazine and journal articles on Perkins, 1806-193, some containing original samples of steel-plate engravings.
- a. Boston Monthly Magazine (1826), Philatelic Journal of Great Britain (1934), American Medical and Philosophical Register (1814), London Philatelist (1913)
  - b. 1809 General Court "Booklet of Laws" containing the steel-plate law
  - c. Copy of 1810 article on Joseph Chessborough Dyer's (1780-1871) improvement on Perkins' copperplate printing
- Folder 6 Photographs of Perkins' British postage stamps.
- Folder 7 Photographs of Perkins' British postage stamps.