

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**Name of collection:**

Jay, John, Papers, 1779-1798

**Location:**

Misc. mss. boxes "J"

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**Size of collection:**

1 folder (25 items)

**N.U.C.M.C. #:**

**RLIN id:**

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**Sources of information on collection:**

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**Source of collection:**

Unknown

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**Collection description:**

John Jay (1745-1829) was a lawyer and statesman. During his active political career, he served as President of the Continental Congress, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Chief Justice of the United States, and Governor of New York.

This collection of papers is made up mostly of circulars sent by Jay, as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, to the Governor of Connecticut, for 1785 to 1788.

These circulars, signed by Jay, were not written in his hand. Many of the circulars relay letters or extracts of letters by other persons and inform the recipients of current affairs and political issues. Unfortunately, some of the circulars only state their subject and the enclosure elaborating on the issues are missing.

Circulars with enclosures include a letter of [John?] Paul Jones (1747-1792) informing Jay that Algeria has declared war on the United States. This accompanies a letter of DeSoulanges regarding the Algerian navy. There is also a copy of a John Adams (1735-1826) letter mentioning a possible treaty with Portugal.

Another circular contains a series of items relating to tobacco trade and its competition with France. There is a Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) letter discussing the tobacco trade, a resolution, and a contract negotiated by Robert Morris (1734-1806). This contract bears a note by Le Couteulx & Company regarding the Treaty of Paris.

One circular concerns slaves taken by the British during the American Revolution. A xerox copy lists those seized by the British (the original is in

the Connecticut papers).

There is also a circular including extracts of letters by John Adams discussing an attempt in England to print counterfeit North Carolina and South Carolina money. The counterfeiter, Robert [Moor?], was arrested.

This collection contains a partially printed Jay document authorizing Samuel Hobbs' ship Fame as a privateer in Boston, 1779. The document is also signed John Avery (1739-1806) and Charles Thomson (1729-1824).

(cont.)

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**Name of collection:**

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**Collection description (continued):**

A three-page autograph manuscript, apparently a message to the New York Legislature from Jay as governor of New York, discusses maritime grievances with France in 1798. It is apparently in Jay's hand and signed by him.

See Contents List.

17 May 1976  
revised 26 February 2010

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John Jay, Papers, 1779-1798

Contents List

- 1779 April 15            John Jay to Samuel Hobbs  
                                 Partially printed ADS  
                                 also signed John Avery and Charles Thomson
- 1785 January 29        John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
                                 Circular
- 1785 October 14        John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
                                 Circular
- Enclosing Cy1785 August 6        Paul Jones to John Jay
- Enclosing Cy1785 July 14 DeSoulanges to Judges and Consuls of Nantes
- 1785 November 18      John Jay to [Gov. of Conn.]  
                                 Copy

1786 January 10            John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

1786 February 13         John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

1786 May 3                John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

1786 July 6              John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

1786 August 28          John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

Enclosing Cy1786 May 27        [Thomas] Jefferson to [John] Jay

Enclosing Cy1786 February 20    Contract of Farmers General, Robert Morris and  
Le Normand, note by Le Couteulx & Company

Enclosing Cy1786 May 30        DeVergennes to Thomas Jefferson

Enclosing Cy1786 March 24      Resolution made at Berni re tobacco

1786 October 23         John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

1787 July 3              John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

Enclosing Cy1787 April 10      John Adams to [John] Jay

Enclosing Cy1787 April 30      [John Adams to John Jay]

Enclosing Cy1787 April 22      Dr. Wren to [John] Adams

Enclosing Cy1787 April 12      Bill from Wm. Caston

Enclosing Cy1787 April 25      Waller Mowbray to [John] Adams

1788 May 26              John Jay to Gov. of Conn.  
Circular

John Jay, Papers, 1779-1798 Contents List (cont.)

Enclosing Cyn.d.

Schultz Von Ascheraden

[1798 August 2]

John Jay to Senate & Assembly  
Message relating to demands of France (3 p.)