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American Historical Financial Documents Collection

GEN MSS 1081



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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1081

TITLE: American Historical Financial Documents Collection

DATES: 1734-1874

BULK DATES: 1777-1790

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 4.76 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, accounts, receipts, checks, printed currency, circular letters, printed forms filled out in manuscript, and other printed material related to American finance, currency and lotteries during and after the Revolutionary War. Series I, Currency and Public Debt Documents, includes letters by Jacques-Pierre Brissot de Warville; Albert Gallatin; John Gibson; Alexander Hamilton; Gouverneur Morris; Robert Morris, and Thomas Willing. There is a small group of letters between Gouverneur Morris and the London bankers Sir Francis Baring, Edmund Boehm, and Thomas Henchman concerning their possible investment in the "new American funds" in 1790 and 1791. Printed material includes Thomas Paine's *Decline and Fall of the English System of Finance* (Philadelphia, 1796) as well as circular letters and debt payment tables. Other contents include reports on Revolutionary War loans and other contemporary financial matters; receipts issued by several states, particularly Connecticut and Massachusetts, between 1780 and 1789; and samples of state and Continental Congress paper money. Series II, United States Lottery Documents, contains letters by state agents for the Continental Lottery; accounts and account logs for the lottery; memoranda; and a printed lottery ticket from 1779.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund and the Library Associates Fund, 2003.

Custodial History

This collection was formed by the firm Donaldson, Lufkin, & Jenrette [DLJ]. and was known in the research community for a long period of time as the DLJ Collection.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

American Historical Financial Documents Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

This collection consists of materials formerly classed as Uncat MSS 474 and Uncat MSS 516. In 2014, the collection received a baseline level of processing, including rehousing. The existing arrangement of material in each accession was retained. Folder titles were based on information provided by the bookdealer. Some names were updated to conform to Library of Congress name authorities.

Existence and Location of Copies

The entire collection is available in digital form.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, accounts, receipts, checks, printed currency, circular letters, printed forms filled out in manuscript, and other printed material related to American finance, currency and lotteries during and after the Revolutionary War. Series I, Currency and Public Debt Documents, includes letters by Jacques-Pierre Brissot de Warville; Albert Gallatin; John Gibson; Alexander Hamilton; Gouverneur Morris; Robert Morris, and Thomas Willing. There is a small group of letters between Gouverneur Morris and the London bankers Sir Francis Baring, Edmund Boehm, and Thomas Henchman concerning their possible investment in the "new American funds" in 1790 and 1791. Printed material includes Thomas Paine's *Decline and Fall of the English System of Finance* (Philadelphia, 1796) as well as circular letters and debt payment tables. Other contents include reports on Revolutionary War loans and other contemporary financial matters; receipts issued by several states, particularly Connecticut and Massachusetts, between 1780 and 1789; and samples of state and Continental Congress paper money. Series II, United States Lottery Documents, contains letters by state agents for the Continental Lottery; accounts and account logs for the lottery; memoranda; and a printed lottery ticket from 1779.

Arrangement

Organized into two series, both arranged in the order in which the material was received. Series I., Currency and Public Debt Documents, contains examples of currency and printed forms issued by various states and the Continental Congress, followed by alphabetically arranged correspondence, circular letters, official documents and printed ephemera. Series II, United States Lottery Documents, contains roughly chronologically arranged correspondence and other papers.

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b. 1, f. 2	State of Connecticut: Treasury certificate. [Hartford, Connecticut]	1781 February 1
b. 1, f. 3	State of Connecticut: Treasury certificate. [Hartford, Connecticut]	1782 June 1
b. 1, f. 4	State of Connecticut: Treasury certificate. [Hartford, Connecticut]	1782 June 1
b. 1, f. 5	State of Connecticut: Treasury certificate. [Hartford, Connecticut]	1782 June 1
b. 1, f. 6	State of Connecticut: Treasury certificate. [Hartford, Connecticut]	1789 February 1
b. 1, f. 7	Continental and state currency: 15 samples of Continental Congress currency and state emissions. Various places, including Philadelphia, New London, Newcastle, Annapolis, etc.	circa 1774-1780
b. 1, f. 8	State of Massachusetts Bay: Committee of War certificate. [Boston, Massachusetts]	1777 March 21
b. 1, f. 9	State of Massachusetts Bay: Committee of War certificate. [Boston, Massachusetts]	1778 July 29
b. 1, f. 10	State of Massachusetts Bay: Treasury certificate. [Boston, Massachusetts]	1778 February 28
b. 1, f. 11	State of Massachusetts Bay: Treasury certificate. [Boston, Massachusetts]	1779
b. 1, f. 12	State of Massachusetts Bay: Treasury certificate. [Boston, Massachusetts]	1780 January 1
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b. 1, f. 13	Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Treasury certificate. [Boston, Massachusetts]	1782 January 1
b. 1, f. 14	Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Treasury certificate. [Boston, Massachusetts]	1783 January 1
b. 1, f. 15	Commonwealth of Massachusetts: partially printed form, completed in manuscript, acknowledging receipt of interest on a loan to the Massachusetts Treasury by Nathaniel Appleton	1789 January 9
b. 1, f. 16	State of Pennsylvania (Morris, Robert): three blank checks. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	circa 1780
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b. 1, f. 19	Beckley, John: manuscript copy of an extract from the journals of Congress regarding the public creditors of Pennsylvania	1789 September 28
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b. 1, f. 21	Blaine, Ephraim: manuscript circular letter, signed, requesting the total sum owed to merchant John Ladd Howell by the Commissary General's Office. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1782 November 25
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b. 1, f. 23	Carey, H. C.: Currency Inflation: How it has Been Produced, and How it May Profitably Be Reduced: Letters to the Honorable B. H. Bristow, Secretary of the Treasury. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1874
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b. 1, f. 27	Dallas, Alexander J.: manuscript notice concerning acceptable forms of currency	1815 August 15
b. 1, f. 28	De Berdt, Dearman, and Co.: An Account of the Nature and Prices of American Stocks. London, England	circa 1790
b. 1, f. 29	Gallatin, Albert: letter from the Secretary of the Treasury transmitting a statement of claims. Washington, D. C.	circa 1810
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b. 1, f. 36	Hamilton, Alexander: autograph letter, signed, from Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, to an unidentified recipient	1791 January 14

b. 1, f. 37	Hamilton, Alexander: The Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, (Alexander Hamilton), on the Subject of a National Bank, Read in the House of Representatives, 1790 December 13. New York, New York	1811
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b. 2, f. 60	Revolutionary War Finance: four letters between Michael Hillegas, first Treasurer of the United States, and Nathaniel Appleton, Continental Loan Officer for Massachusetts. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Boston, Massachusetts.	1780
b. 2, f. 61	Revolutionary War Finance: Table for the Payment of the Second Year's Interest Due on All Sums Loaned to the United States between 1778 February 28 and 1780 February 28. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1780
b. 2, f. 62	Revolutionary War Finance: signed letter from Arthur Lee, Samuel Osgood, and Walter Livingston, to Thomas Smith, regarding counterfeit certificates.	1787 February 12
b. 2, f. 63	Revolutionary War Finance: The Registered Debt of the United States	circa 1790
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b. 2, f. 66	Trumbull, John: partially printed loan certificate, completed in manuscript, regarding interest on a loan. Connecticut	1782 August 9
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b. 2, f. 68	Willing, Thomas: autograph letter, signed, from Thomas Willing, President of the Bank of North America, to Thomas Mifflin, Governor of Pennsylvania.	1791 March 12
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Series II: United States Lottery Documents, 1777–1781

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b. 3, f. 105	Continental Lottery: Autograph letter, signed, from Samuel Purviance, lottery agent for Maryland, to Sharpe Delany, manager of the Continental Lottery. Baltimore, Maryland.	1781 January 3
b. 3, f. 106	Continental Lottery: Morris, Robert. Manuscript note regarding Robert Morris and the managers of the Continental Lottery. [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania?]	1781 December 12
b. 3, f. 107	Continental Lottery: Manuscript warrant, signed by Oliver Ellsworth as member of the Connecticut Governor's Council, commanding Hezekiah and Joshua Welles to appear before the county court of Hartford regarding a fraudulent lottery. Hartford, Connecticut.	1781 March 24

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Debts, Public -- Law and legislation -- United States
Debts, Public -- United States
Debts, Public -- United States -- States
Finance, Public -- United States
Finance, Public -- United States -- States
Lotteries -- United States
Paper money -- United States

Corporate Bodies

United States. Board of Treasury
United States. Congress
United States. Continental Congress
United States. Department of the Treasury

Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1789
United States -- Politics and government -- 1789-1797
United States -- Politics and government -- 1797-1801
United States -- Politics and government -- 1801-1815

Genres / Formats

Accounts -- United States -- 18th century
Checks (bank checks) -- United States -- 18th century
Continental currency -- United States -- 18th century
Paper money -- United States -- 18th century

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Baring, Francis, Sir, 1740-1810
Boehm, Edmund
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Gallatin, Albert, 1761-1849
Gibson, John, 1729-1782
Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804
Henchman, Thomas
Morris, Gouverneur, 1752-1816
Morris, Robert, 1734-1806
Reed, Joseph, 1741-1785
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