

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Genet Family Papers

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Genet Family Papers

Call Number: CL543

Creator: Mrs. August Genet

Inclusive Dates: 1778-1909

Bulk Dates: 1790's-1840

Abstract: Collection manuscripts, letters, correspondences, compilations, circulars, and photographs relate to Edmond Charles Genet and his diverse career as diplomat, inventor, farmer, and correspondent with the leaders of American government, society, and scientific thought.

Quantity: 1 box, 5 linear inches

Administrative Information

Custodial History: In 1977 this collection was given new folders, new-labeled box, non-manuscript material isolated, and the collection was given an item count that totaled 56.

Preferred Citation: Genet Family Papers, CL543. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

Accession #: unknown

Accession Date: 1912

Processing Information:

Processed by Sarah Deen-Clingan; completed in April 2004.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: None

Index Term

Persons:

Adams, Samuel	Fanning, Henry
Bayeux, Captain Thomas [Commandant, Albany Burgesses Corps]	Ferussac, B. de
Beauharnais, Hortense de [daughter of Empress Josephine and married to Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland]	Fontaine, C.G.
Beaumarchaise, Pierre Augustin Caron de	Genet, Edmond
Bogert, J.G.	Genet, George Clinton
Bonaparte, Joseph	Genet, Henry James
Burke, Judge A.	Genet, Mrs. George Clinton
Campan, Jeanne Louise Henriette Genet	Hunt, Gaillard
Catherine the Great	Kemp, V.D.
Cambis	Louis XVI
Clinton, Dewitt	Martin, John
Conway, E.	Monroe, James
Conway, M.D.	Ney, Michel [Duc d' Elchingen, Prince de la Moskowa, was famous Napoleon marshal]
Davis, G.R.	Tonnele, John
	Webster, Childs
	Webster, George

Organizations:

Metropolitan Museum of Art	Mechanics and Farmers Bank
Universal des Sciences et de l'Industrie	Renssalaer Agricultural Society
Euterpean Club	Senate, New York State
Jupiter	

Subjects:

Aeronautics Research--Aeronautical research	Political parties--Parties, Political
Devices (Heraldry) --Coats of arms	Porcelain, French--Sevres porcelain
Erie Canal (N.Y.)--Canals--New York (State)	Textile industry--Textile industry and fabrics
Fugitive slaves--Runaway slaves	United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783
Genealogy--Family history	United States--History--War of 1812, 1812-1814
Hydrostatic experiments	Woolen and worsted manufacture--Wool manufacture
Mines and mineral resources--Mining	
Navigation--Research	
New York (State)--History	

Places:

Chesapeake Bay
 England--London
 Illinois--Chicago
 New York--Albany
 New York--East Green Bush

New York--New York City
 New York--Rensselaer
 New York--Sand Lake
 St. Domingo

Document Types:

Certificates
 Checks
 Coat of arms
 Compilations
 Correspondence
 Engraved portraits
 Family tree
 Letters
 Manuscript history

Monographs
 Photocopied newspaper article
 Photographs
 Playing cards
 Printed circular
 Proposal notes
 Resolutions
 Seals
 Translated copies of the original

Biography/History of

Edmond Charles Genet (January 18, 1763 - July 14, 1834) Son of Edmond Jacques and Marie Ann Louise Cardon. Was born in Versailles, France. During the years of 1781 to 1787 he was a member of Bureau of Interpretations of Foreign Affairs at Versailles. The sister of Edmond Charles Genet, Heriette, (Madam Campan) was first Lady-in-Waiting to Marie Antoinette. His niece, Egle Louise Auguie Genet married Marshal Michel Ney, one of Napoleon's generals.

In 1783 Genet became acting secretary of Legation to England with Count de Moustier to secure information useful for treaty of commerce between Great Britain and France. In 1787 he was put in charge of d'Affaires to the French Legation in Russia. Two years later, 1792 to be exact, he was expelled from Russia. Genet became the first Minister of the French Republic to the United States in 1793.

November 6, 1794 he married Cornelia Clinton who was the daughter of New York state governor, George Clinton. In 1804 he became an American Citizen. On July 31, 1814 he married Martha Osgood, daughter of former postmaster-general Samuel Osgood. In 1825 He published "Memorial on the Upward Forces of Fluids".

Genet had a diverse career as diplomat, inventor (32 patents), farmer, and correspondent with the leaders of American government, society and scientific thought, especially in the field of aeronautics about which Genet wrote frequently. Genet was an active member of the Albany Institute; advocated the Erie Canal and devised the fortification of New York harbor in the War of 1812. Genet died in 1834 in Rensselaer County, New York.

Madam Jeanne Louise Henriette Genet Campan (1752-1822) Sister to Edmond Charles Genet. First lady in waiting to Marie Antoinette and a French educator and author who established a school for girls at St. Germain after the Revolution and from

1805-1814 was placed by Napoleon as head of the school of Ecouen for daughters of officers of the Legion of Honor.

Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchaise (1732-1799) Was a French dramatist (*Le Barbier de Seville* 1776; *Le Mariage de Figaro* 1785) who served as a secret agent to the King and induced him to grant secret aid to the Americans in the American Revolution before the open alliance with France was concluded in 1778.

Scope and Contents of the Papers

This collection concerns Edmond Charles Genet. The articles in this collection deal with political and scientific matter and little to do with familial except being the family history, seal, and tree. Many of the letters are written in French. Most of the letters written in French have copied translations within the same folder. There are a few pieces, however, that are not translated.

There is only one box for this collection. The box contains fourteen folders. The material ranges from handmade playing cards, to photographs, to a letter from King Louis XVI sent to Catherine the Great of Russia, to invention ideas.

The earliest item is from 1778. It is a secret memoir to the ministers of Louis XVI of France from Caron de Beaumarchaise. It is in French. The newest piece is from 1909. It is the bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Volume IV, No. 8. It contains the notice of gift of Sevres porcelain from Mrs. George Clinton Genet (page 141). There are many pieces in this collection that do not have dates, including the photographs.

Organization of the Papers

The collection starts in chronological order from 1778 to 1902 then starting in folder nine there seems to be no order at all. The dates found on these letters range from 1755 to 1909.

In folder 11, items 1-5 are photostatic copies sent to Albany Institute by Mme. Guy de Rohan-Chabot, 118 Rue St. Honore, Paris. They are apparently from the Royal Archives of France.

There are no oversized materials with this collection. The items in the folders are numbered individually.

The collection has 1 box, and 14 folders. The item number is located on the material in pencil.

Related Material

Catalog -- 629.1322 GEN MEM 1969; *Memorial on the upward forces of fluids / Edmond Charles Genet*; 1969.

Catalog -- 92 GEN WAR 1918; *War letters of Edmond Genet : the first American aviator killed flying the stars and stripes / ed., by Grace Ellery Channing*; 1918.

Catalog -- 920 MIN LIV 1925; *Lives and times: four informal American biographies* / Meade Minnigerode; 1925.

Catalog -- 974.703092 GEN BAT 1946; *Citizen Genet, diplomat & inventor* / Greville Bathe; 1946.

Catalog -- 974.703092 GEN Cop. 1-2; Washington, Jefferson, and "Citizen" Genet, 1793 / New York; 1899.

Catalog -- ms-2088; Letter : Albany, N.Y., to Stephen Van Rensselaer, 1817 Sep 19.

Catalog -- ms-2089; Letter : New York, N.Y., to Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, New York, 1941 Nov. 6.

Catalog -- ms-695; Letter to Monsieur Genet re: steam engines.-- Birmingham, England, August 31, 1783.

Catalog -- SpC 629.1322 GEN MEM 1825; Memorial on the upward forces of fluids, and their applicability to several arts, science, and public improvements / for which a patent has been granted by the government of the United States to the author, Edmond Charles Genet / Albany; 1825.

Catalog -- SpC 944.035095 CAM MEM 1822; Campan, Mme (Jeanne-Louise-Henriette), 1752-1822. *Memoires sur la vie privee de Marie-Antoinette : reine de France et de Navarre* / par Mme. Campan; 1822.

Catalog -- SpC 973.3 GEN; *Affaires de l'Angleterre et de l'Amêrique.*-- Anvers : s.n, 1776-1779.

Separated Materials

Paintings, miniatures, prints, branding iron, clothing, and other materials relating to the Genet family can be found in the curatorial department.

Other Finding Aids

Several finding aids have been made in the past, which are located in the control files.

Detailed Description of the Papers

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	1. Not dated. Coat of Arms for families with the name Genet, Genest or Geneste
1	1	2. Not dated. Genealogy (in French) of the French branch of the Genet family.
1	2	1. Manuscript History (169 pp) in French of Genet family. "A Mes Neveux et Nieces" by Madame Jeanne Louise Henriette Genet Campan. This was written for the children of Edmond Charles Genet by their Aunt, Madame Campan.
1	3	1. Not dated. Letter to Louis XVI of France from Caron de Beaumarchaise urging the King to give aid to the American colonies secretly and describing underground plans of French friends of the American Revolution. In French.
1	3	2. 1778. March 13. Secret Memoir to Ministers of Louis XVI of France from Caron de Beaumarchaise. In French.
1	4	1. Not dated. Letter from Hortense de Beauharnais to Madame Campan about a portrait mailed to Madame Campan. In French
1	4	2. 1802? Letter from Michel Ney to Edmond Charles Genet shortly after Ney's marriage to Genet's neice Egle Auguie.
1	4	3. English translation of item 2, letter from Michel Ney to Edmond Charles Genet.
1	5	1. 1791. Letter from King Louis XVI to Catherine the Great of Russia. (Described in original finding list as "unopened") In Latin. The general gist of the letter is urging her not to be upset by the recent action of the Nation Assembly (of France) as it should not disturb friendship between the great monarchs and administrators.
1	5	2. Not dated. Contemporary copy of the above.
1	5	3. English copy of the general gist of the letter of item 1 in folder 5.
1	6	1. 1805, Dec. 16. Letter to DeWitt Clinton, Mayor of New York City, from Edmond Charles Genet concerning business matters, a runaway slave and expressing confidence in defeat of Clinton's adversary in forthcoming political campaign.
1	6	2. 1806, Feb. 26. Letter to DeWitt Clinton from Edmond Charles Genet about a plan of defense for New York State. Also talks of Genet's affection for the United States.
1	6	3. 1813, Dec. 16. To Edmond Charles Genet from C.G. Fontaine. About announcements being placed in local papers. In French.
1	6	4. English translation of the above (item 3)
1	6	5. 1813. To Edmond Charles Genet from J. G. Bogert. Concerning the formation of a wool manufacturing company.

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	6	6. 1814, Jan. 29. To Edmond Charles Genet from J. Tonnele. Concerning the formation of a wool manufacturing company. In French.
1	6	7. English translation of the above (item 6).
1	6	8. 1814, July. How to obtain a charter for the wool manufacturing company.
1	6	9. 1814, July 17. From J.G. Bogert to Edmond Charles Genet. Will explain details to Genet in person.
1	6	10. 1814, Feb. 2. From J.G. Bogert to Edmond Charles Genet. Bogert left for Albany and will be there as soon as possible.
1	6	11. 1814, Feb. 4. From H. Fanning to Edmond Charles Genet. Fanning wants Genet to provide N.G. Ingraham all the service in Genet's power.
1	6	12. 1814, Feb. 15. From H. Fanning to Edmond Charles Genet. Fanning makes reference to his loss of \$40,000 with the capture by the British of the Zepher.
1	6	13. 1814. From C. G. Fontaine to Edmond Charles Genet. In French.
1	6	14. 1814, March 7. Printed copy of New York State Senate Bill. "An Act for the Purpose of Encouraging Domestic Manufacturers". Incorporating N.Y. Wood Stapling and Manufacturing Company of which Genet was to be a director.
1	6	15. 1814, July 7. From J.G. Bogert to Edmond Charles Genet. Bogert had just arrived and states location on where he is staying.
1	6	16. 1815, Jan. 7. Check of Mechanics and Farmers Bank signed by Genet.
1	6	17. 1815, Jan. 7. Check of Mechanics and Farmers Bank signed by Genet.
1	7	1. Not dated. "Plan for the Institution of Company for Exploration of Mines".
1	7	2. Not dated. "Reflections on the Change and Denomination of Parties in the U.S.".
1	7	3. 1824, Jan. 1. Printed "Direction Generale du Bulletin Universal des Sciences et de l'Industrie". In French.
1	7	4. 1824, Jan. 7. Communication from B. deFerussac, Director General of Bulletin Universal des Sciences et de l'Industrie. In French.
1	7	5. 1824, Feb. 17. Notice of Genet's election as an honorary member of Euterpean Club.
1	7	6. 1824, May 10. Resolution of Renssalaer Agricultural Society appointing Genet and L.L. Viele to thank G.R. Davis for oration.
1	7	7. 1825, Jan. 11. Letter from Genet concerning his desire to transform Albany to a seaport and extend the Erie Canal by improving the Hudson's Channel.

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	7	8. 1825, April 12. Paper "On Aeronautics" signed by Genet.
1	7	9. 1827, June 12. Letter from Genet about hydrostatic experiments to navigate waters.
1	7	10. 1827, June 16. Letter to Genet from DeWitt Clinton, Governor, thanking him for pamphlets.
1	7	11. 1827, Aug. 2. Letter from Joseph Bonaparte, Comte de Survilliers. Appears to be about business matters. In French.
1	7	12. Not dated. Appears to be a rough draft.
1	8	1. 1836, May 17. Printed Circular for 8th Brigade Officer Drill and Review that includes a note to Captain Bayeux from Henry James Genet.
1	8	2. 1893, June 25. Postcard from London from M.D. Conway to George Clinton Genet.
1	8	3. 1893, July 12. Registered envelop from World's Fair in Chicago, 1893.
1	8	4. 1893, July 3. To George Clinton Genet from Gaillard Hunt. Hunt is returning the Beaumarchaise letters.
1	8	5. 1893, July 18. To G. Hunt from George Clinton Genet. Concerning the Beaumarchaise letters.
1	8	6. 1893, July 15. To George Clinton Genet from G. Hunt stating that the Beaumarchaise letters had been found.
1	8	7. 1893, July 29. To George Clinton Genet from G. Hunt. Hunt is returning the Beaumarchaise letters after they were temporarily misplaced.
1	8	8. 1896, May 25. Partial letter apparently from George Clinton Genet (unsigned) to a Mr. Johnson translating French from a manuscript.
1	8	9. 1899, July 22. Letter to George Clinton Genet from M.D. Conway about having the Beaumarchaise manuscripts copied.
1	8	10. 1899, August 2. Letter to George Clinton Genet from E. Conway about having the Beaumarchaise manuscripts copied.
1	8	11. 1902, Aug. 2. Letter apparently from George Clinton Genet (unsigned) to a cousin answering inquires about family background and providing some genealogy.
1	8	12. Not dated. Notes apparently by George Clinton Genet (unsigned) concerning disposition of family papers and discussion of pamphlet circulated by French Foreign Office in 1776-77 edited Edme Genet. Also talks of fate of Marshal Ney.
1	9	1. 1808, Nov. 22. Compilation of classical quotations apparently by a V.D. Kemp sent to Childs and George Webster, booksellers, in Albany.
1	10	1. Not dated. "Washington, Jefferson and 'Citizen' Genet. 1793. A Set of Sevres China." 32 page monograph contains correspondence between James Monroe and Edmond Charles Genet (1800-1803) concerning a set of china sent to Genet by

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
		Madame Campan. Also contains letters to Genet from Samuel Adams (1793), Judge A. Burke of South Carolina (1794), John Martin, and a letter from Genet to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs (1793).
1	10	2. 1909, Aug. Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Volume IV, No. 8. Contains notice of gift of Sevres porcelain from Mrs. George Clinton Genet (page 141).
1	11	1. 1793, July 11. Communication from Genet to Commander of Squadron in Chesapeake Bay. Photostatic copy. In French.
1	11	2. 1793, July 18. Similar to above (item 1)
1	11	3. 1793, Aug. 1. Subscription List for refugees from St. Domingo. Photostatic copy.
1	11	4. 1793, Aug. 15. Letter from Genet to Cambis. In French. Photostatic copy.
1	11	5. 1793, Oct. 1. Certificate of confidence for Citoyen Le Tendre as a hospital administrator. Signed by Genet. In French. Photostatic copy.
1	11	6. 1793, Aug. 28. Copy from the N.Y. Daily Advertiser published Sept. 4, 1793. Proclamation by Genet offering discharge with full pay to all who would leave the ship, Jupiter.
1	12	1. 1755. To Monsieur Genet. In French.
1	12	2. 1756. To Monsieur Genet. In French.
1	12	3. 1757. From Genet. In French.
1	12	4. 1767. A letter written in French.
1	12	5. 1769. A letter written in French.
1	12	6. 1793. Engraved portrait of Edmond Charles Genet.
1	12	7. 1793. Engraved portrait of Edmond Charles Genet.
1	13	1. Not dated. Set of hand made playing cards. Each with notations in French.
1	13	2. Not dated. Three seals of "Citizen Genet.
1	14	1. Not dated. Res. of the Late Mrs. Mary A. Kirtland. Cantonment Farm. Picture.
1	14	2. Not dated. George Clinton Genet and dog. Photograph.
1	14	3. Not dated. George Clinton Genet. Photograph.
1	14	4. Not dated. Augusta Kirtland Genet. Photograph.
1	14	5. Not dated. Old Lyman Homestead on East bank of Hudson in Sand Lake.