

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 570

COPYBOOKS OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CORRESPONDENCE
WITH SECRETARIES OF STATE, 1789-1796



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CORRESPONDENCE WITH SECRETARIES OF STATE
1789-1796

On the single roll of this microfilm publication are reproduced volumes 20, 21, and 22 of the personal copybooks of George Washington, 1789-96. The volumes, once part of the Washington papers in the care of the Department of State, were retained by the Department when the majority of the Washington papers were transferred to the Library of Congress in 1909. Later, the three volumes were transferred to the National Archives.

The letters in these volumes are copies of those sent by President Washington principally to the Secretaries of State and of those sent by the Secretaries (John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Randolph, and Timothy Pickering) to the President. The correspondence illustrates how the President concerned himself with a great number of details in the young and relatively uncomplicated Government. The Secretary of State thought so much of the "neatness & simplicity" of the new silver coinage, for example, that he sent a new dollar to the President on October 16, 1794. Other examples of the wide scope of the correspondence are a plan advanced for forcing peace on the Barbary States (July 12, 1790); a communication concerning the jailing of a post rider carrying official mail eastbound from Fort Cumberland, who became involved in a dispute with soldiers at Bedford, Pa.; and letters showing the itinerary of Washington's tour to Savannah, Ga., in April and May 1791, and giving instructions to the Secretaries of State, Treasury, and War (June 16, 1794) to guide them during another absence of the President. A report of December 3, 1795, on the operation of the U. S. Mint, submitted by Director Elias Boudinot, gives the total number of coins so far manufactured and suggests that legislative action be requested to strengthen the authority of the Director in his efforts to curtail thefts of equipment and metal from the Mint.

The copies are entered in chronological order within each volume. The first volume (20), which is the only volume having an index, is for the period May 14, 1789-March 19, 1791; the next volume (21) covers the period March 27, 1791-March 18, 1794; and the third volume (22) is for the period March 19, 1794-October 11, 1796. The volumes are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State. Most of the papers in the collection are copies of documents that are in the Domestic Letters and the Miscellaneous Letters series in the

same record group. A catalog of letters written "by, for, or in the name of" Washington (1782-97), which was prepared late in the nineteenth century from the series of Miscellaneous Letters, is also in Record Group 59.

The price of the 1 roll of film comprising Microcopy 570 is \$5.