

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
PAMPHLET DESCRIBING M332

**Miscellaneous Papers of the
Continental Congress
1774-1789**

**Records of the Continental and
Confederation Congresses and the
Constitutional Convention,
Record Group 360**



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Record Group 360
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MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

1774-89

On the 10 rolls of this microcopy are reproduced miscellaneous papers of the Continental Congress that are not part of the numbered series (Items) of bound volumes comprising the Papers of the Continental Congress, often referred to as PCC. Those records are in the National Archives Microfilm Publication M247 (204 rolls). The "Miscellaneous PCC" were presumably misplaced, overlooked, or in private hands in 1834 when the records in PCC were arranged and numbered by William A. Weaver, a clerk in the U.S. Department of State.

The records in Miscellaneous PCC are dated 1774-89 for the most part, although one letter is dated 1773 and a few papers are dated after 1789. Some of them duplicate documents in the numbered Items, but others do not. When copies of the same document are in both PCC and Miscellaneous PCC they sometimes differ as to the date received by or read in Congress, according to their endorsements. Occasionally there are textual variations between copies, or differences in deciphering those letters that are in cipher.

For most purposes the researcher will find it necessary to consult the numbered PCC (M247, 204 rolls) in conjunction with this microfilm publication. The descriptive pamphlet issued with M247 includes an introduction that relates the history of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and their records. Because of the identical origins and natures of PCC and Miscellaneous PCC, and because it is expected that researchers will not use M332 without some reference to M247, that introduction is not duplicated here.

The records in Miscellaneous PCC consist chiefly of loose papers and a few bound volumes relating to such subjects as foreign, naval, and fiscal affairs; papers relating to specific states; and papers kept by the Office of the Secretary of Congress. Among them are originals and copies of despatches and letters (including some letters from Louis XVI), reports of the Marine Committee, the Marine Committee letterbook, bonds, receipts, deeds of cession of western lands, credentials of delegates to the Continental Congress, and broadsides issued by the Continental Congress.

There are also significant constitutional documents, such as the Articles of Association, the Articles of Confederation, and copies of the Declaration of Independence, as well as documents relating directly to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. More documents concerning the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights are available on two National Archives Microfilm Publications--Certificates of Ratification of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, Including Related Correspondence and Rejections of Proposed Amendments, 1787-1792 (M338, 1 roll) and Records of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 (M866, 1 roll).

The records in Miscellaneous PCC are arranged according to their primary subject matter, such as foreign or naval affairs, or by type of document, such as credentials or imprints. Some of these categories contain a large number of documents in rough chronological order, and fugitive documents may appear. Other categories may contain only one or two papers.

Two published indexes will be helpful to researchers consulting Miscellaneous PCC. Both have entries for individual names, titles of entities such as Congressional committees, and some subjects. The entries in Index: The Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789 (5 vols. Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Service, 1978), compiled by John P. Butler, are keyed to roll numbers and frame or page numbers in M247 and M332, and also to Item numbers for records in PCC. Index: Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Service, 1976), compiled by Kenneth Harris and Steven D. Tilley, is keyed to page numbers in Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789 (34 vols. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, 1904-37). There are also older indexes on rolls 1-7 of M247 that may be helpful. A Guide to Pre-Federal Records in the National Archives (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, 1989), compiled by Howard H. Wehmann and revised by Benjamin L. DeWhitt, describes all of the holdings of the National Archives that predate March 4, 1789, or relate directly to that time before the federal system of government was begun in the United States.

This microfilm publication was first issued in 1962 under the same name and number. The 19 documents on roll 10, miscellaneous documents that were not located and filmed in 1962, were reproduced on microfilm for the first time in 1976. This is the first revision of the descriptive pamphlet after that addition. The records on roll 10 were prepared for filming by Alan F. Perry. He also drafted new editorial material for this descriptive pamphlet, which was supplemented and revised by Benjamin L. DeWhitt.

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- 1 Despatches received from diplomatic representatives, 1779-83, 1785, consists of documents received from John Adams in Europe, December 11, 1779-June 23, 1783, and July 14 and 27, 1785 (771 frames). Enclosures include copies of letters to or from foreign officials, frequently the Comte de Vergennes; extracts of Dutch official documents; Adams' financial accounts with Congress; and "remarks concerning the Bank of Amsterdam." A few letters are signed by Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, serving as peace commissioners in Paris. The documents from 1785 are copies of letters sent by Adams to the Marquis of Carmarthen.

- 2 Despatches received from diplomatic representatives, 1777-86, consists of documents received from the following representatives or agents of the United States in Europe:
 - William Carmichael, February 18, 1780-March 13, 1783, and December 9, 1785-August 14, 1786 (103 frames).
 - Francis W. Dana, February 18, 1780-October 1783 (91 frames).
 - Charles W. F. Dumas, August 14, 1777-October 24, 1782 (206 frames).
 - Benjamin Franklin and other Joint Commissioners to the Court of France, September 8-November 30, 1777, and September 30, 1779-May 3, 1785 (267 frames).Some of Dumas' letters are in cipher. Some enclosures are included, such as copies of letters to or from foreign officials or U.S. representatives or agents in Europe; a list of newspapers sent to Carmichael in 1790-92;

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- 2 a copy made in the 19th century of a letter from President of the Continental Congress Elias Boudinot to Dana; copies of letters from John Paul Jones to Franklin and others; a proclamation issued by commissioners Franklin, Deane, and Arthur Lee to the captains of U.S. vessels; and a copy of a letter from Baron Rosencrone to Baron Walterstorff.

- 3 Despatches and letters received from diplomatic representatives, agents, and consuls, 1777-87, 1790, includes documents received from the following U.S. representatives or agents in Europe, North Africa, and the West Indies:

Ralph Izard, October 6 and December 18, 1777, and January 28 and March 4, 1779 (21 frames).

John Jay, January 28-September 20, 1781, April 11 and May 19, 1785, January 10, 1786, and February 23, 1788 (30 frames).

Henry Laurens, December 20, 1781-April 24, 1784 (59 frames).

John Laurens, March 19-April 18, 1781 (37 frames).

Arthur Lee, November 27, 1777-June 21, 1779 (92 frames).

Thomas Barclay, January 27-November 14, 1783, May 14, 1786-March 29, 1787, and April 22, 1790 (92 frames).

John Bondfield, June 30, 1779, and December 10, 1780 (12 frames).

Richard Harrison, April 24, August 19, and November 1, 1782 (11 frames).

John Lamb, March 28-August 10, 1786 (17 frames).

Samuel Parsons and Parsons, Alston & Company, April 23, 1780-May 12, 1781 (55 frames).

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- 3 Jonathan Williams, March 21 and July 25, 1780, and June 15, 1781 (8 frames).

The four letters sent by John Jay from 1785 to 1788 were written in his capacity as Secretary for Foreign Affairs; his correspondents included the President of Congress, the President of Pennsylvania (Benjamin Franklin), and Sir John Temple. Some of the letters sent by Thomas Barclay were directed to John Adams and Thomas Jefferson in Europe. Many of the letters from John Laurens and a few of the letters sent by Jay and Arthur Lee include portions in cipher. Some of the letters written by John Lamb are addressed to John Jay in his capacity as one of the Joint Commissioners for the Formation of Treaties of Amity and Commerce. Some enclosures are included, such as a letter from Benjamin Franklin to Comte de Vergennes, translations of letters from the Emperor of Morocco to the President of Congress and to the King of Spain, a letter from Henry Laurens to Lord Cornwallis, and instructions to Barclay from Adams and Jefferson.

- 4 Papers of business firms in Holland relating to U.S. commercial affairs and loans, 1779-85, include:

Letters received and copies of letters sent by John de Neufville & Son of Amsterdam, and related records, December 20, 1778-January 12, 1782, August 17, 1783, and February 19-November 23, 1785 (563 frames). Among the individuals who wrote letters to the firm are William Lee, Le Ray de Chaumont, Benjamin Franklin, John Paul Jones, Charles W. F. Dumas, Alexander Gillon, Maj. William Jackson, and various persons with Dutch surnames. There are copies of letters sent by de Neufville & Son to American and European business associates. There are also original letters to a Mr. Van Temmel from persons named Baudouin, La Rippe, and Du

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- 4 Noyer; copies of letters exchanged between Dumas and Chaumont, Dumas and Jones, and between other correspondents of de Neufville & Son; and a few related legal and financial records. Some of the letters are in Dutch; some are partly in cipher, which is usually translated into French.

Letters and enclosures received from John de Neufville & Son, June 15, 1780-October 24, 1782 (82 frames). Enclosures include copies of three letters exchanged between the firm, Alexander Gillon, and "Major Jackson." The principal subject of the correspondence is the transportation of supplies to the United States.

Copies of letters received from Nicolaas and Jacob van Staphorst, Wilhem and Jan Willink, and De la Lande and Fynje of Amsterdam, July 11, 1782-February 27, 1783, and November 24, 1785-June 30, 1787 (63 frames). The correspondence concerns commercial transactions between the Dutch firms and the United States. There are some enclosures.

- 5 Letters Related to Spain and the Barbary States, 1779-80, 1784-86, and other papers, 1778-88, 1791,
consist of:

A copy of a letter from U.S. Consul in Morocco Etienne D'Audibert Caille, and related records concerning trade and diplomatic relations (19 frames).

Letters from Joseph Gardoqui & Sons and James Gardoqui, and enclosures, January 24 and February 1 and 24, 1780, and October 12, 1785 (13 frames), concerning commercial, naval, and diplomatic relations with Spain.

Letters from Don Diego de Gardoqui, May 25 and June 30, 1786 (20 frames), concerning diplomatic relations with Spain and the U.S.-Florida border.

Copies of letters relating to the capture of the

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- 5 U.S. brig Betsey by a Moroccan corsair, November 24, 1784, and January 3 and 15, 1785 (7 frames).
- Copies of letters received from Conrad A. Gerard, Minister of France in the United States, and the Chevalier de la Luzerne, and related records, January 30, 1778-May 1782 (102 frames), concerning a treaty of amity and commerce, foreign loans, Jean Holker, and ceremonial activities.
- Copies of letters written by and to the Marquis de Lafayette, March 30 and April 12, 1782, and February 19, 1783 (41 frames), concerning relations with Spain and peace negotiations.
- Bills of exchange drawn by Superintendent of Finance Robert Morris on Ferdinand Grand, banker for the United States in Paris, August 6, 1782-May 21, 1783 (28 frames).
- Letters received from King Louis XVI of France, March 28, 1778-September 30, 1787 (59 frames).
- A draft of a proclamation declaring the cessation of hostilities between the United States and Great Britain, April 19, 1783 (7 frames).
- A draft of a commission for John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson authorizing them to negotiate a commercial treaty with Denmark, May 12, 1784 (3 frames).
- An extract from the proceedings of the Continental Congress, May 17, 1786, pertaining to ratification of the September 10, 1785, treaty of amity and commerce with Prussia (31 frames).
- Invoices, accounts, and related records of Jonathan Williams and John Daniel Schweighhauser, U.S. agents at Nantes, France, January 8, 1778-May 31, 1781 (50 frames).
- A draft of an ordinance to reorganize the Department of Foreign Affairs, ca. January 1782 (56 frames).

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- 5 Drafts of reports written by Secretary for Foreign Affairs Robert R. Livingston, February 3-September 26, 1782 (16 frames).

Drafts of letters written by Secretary for Foreign Affairs Robert Livingston, February 7, 1782-May 26, 1783 (27 frames).

Lists of letters and papers in the Department of Foreign Affairs and receipts signed by N. Remsen for the transmittal of papers, ca. October 1781-May 23, 1793 (82 frames).

Miscellaneous letters and other documents pertaining to various subjects, July 24, 1779-December 23, 1788, and January 8, 1791 (69 frames). Many documents deal with the Pennsylvania-Connecticut land dispute, George Washington's election as President of the United States, the federal constitution, and Pennsylvania politics. There are single documents on a wide variety of subjects.

- 6 Reports of the Marine Committee, Marine Committee letterbook, and commissions for private armed vessels, 1776-83, include:

Reports from the Marine Committee with related and other records, July 11, 1776-October 27, 1779, and January 6 and December 26, 1781 (84 frames). One report of December 24, 1777, is not here, but is on roll 10.

Marine Committee letterbook, August 22, 1776-September 19, 1780 (190 frames), that also contains copies of letters of the Board of Admiralty.

An account of commissions for privateers, and related documents received and issued, August 28, 1779-March 29, 1783 (27 frames), kept by the Secretary of Congress. Some accounts dated December 10, 1782-January 13, 1783, are not here, but are on roll 10.

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7 Papers relating to specific states and deeds of cession of western lands, with related documents, 1779-89, 1791-1802, include:

Instructions to the Massachusetts delegates to the Continental Congress, November 10, 1784 (3 frames), concerning the peace treaty with Great Britain and debts owed to British subjects by U.S. citizens.

"Inspection rolls of Negroes" carried away by the British upon the evacuation of New York City, April 23-November 19, 1783 (66 frames). There are two volumes of lists, that usually include the name, age, description, destination, and "claimants" to the blacks as slaves, as well as the name of the ship on which they were to travel, its captain, and "remarks."

Extracts and copies of proceedings from the minutes of the New York Supreme Court concerning indictments for adhering to the enemy, April 21-November 1, 1783, and October 26 and November 18, 1785 (31 frames).

The engrossed proclamation of the Continental Congress naming commissioners to settle the land dispute between Pennsylvania and Connecticut, August 28, 1782 (4 frames).

Copies and extracts of proclamations and acts of the Commonwealth of Virginia, December 18, 1776-December 12, 1787 (87 frames), pertaining mainly to issues surrounding the cessation of hostilities against, and a treaty of peace with, the British.

Correspondence and other records pertaining to the settlement of Virginia's claim against the United States "for the northwestern territory ceded to Congress," January 7 and May 15, 1788 (108 frames).

Deeds of cession of western and other lands with related documents, March 1, 1784-April 24, 1802 (50 frames), pertaining to the states of Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

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8 Credentials of delegates to the Continental Congress
and related records, 1774-89:

Connecticut	1774-87	(54 frames)
Delaware	1775-87	(31 frames)
Georgia	1775-87	(54 frames)
Maryland	1774-89	(80 frames)
Massachusetts	1774-88	(112 frames)
New Hampshire	1775-88	(64 frames)
New Jersey	1775-88	(49 frames)
New York	1775-89	(77 frames)
North Carolina	1775-88	(75 frames)
Pennsylvania	1774-88	(85 frames)
Rhode Island	1774-88	(53 frames)
South Carolina	1775-88	(103 frames)
Virginia	1775-88	(91 frames)

The credentials are often in the form of resolutions of state assemblies. The related records mainly consist of general and specific instructions to delegates. Some credentials include an attached seal, which has not been filmed. Credentials of Pennsylvania delegates, March 6, 1775, and instructions to Connecticut delegates, April 7, 1779, are not reproduced here, but are on roll 10.

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9 Papers kept by the Office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress, papers relating to fiscal affairs, and broadsides issued by the Continental Congress, 1773, 1775-88, consist of:

Minutes of the Congress, May 10-July 27, 1775 (45 frames). This is a contemporary copy of a portion of the journals of Congress which varies in many cases from the rough journals filmed on M247.

Lists of letters and committee reports on various subjects (43 frames). The lists themselves are undated, but include documents for 1775-88, that cover the full range of congressional and military activity. Some are lists of letters to or from specific individuals.

Letters and certificates of commendation and recommendation pertaining to various civil and military officials and applicants, September 20, 1773, January 2, 1778-September 1, 1788, February 15, 1793 (21 frames).

A blank form of a Continental Army commission, ca. November 1, 1777-December 9, 1778 (1 frame).

A printed copy of a Congressional resolution revising the Articles of War, April 14, 1777 (1 frame).

Receipts for and lists of documents removed from the Office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress, September 19, 1780-November 27, 1782, May 7, 1784-December 23, 1788 (95 frames).

Various records pertaining mainly to the Office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress, August 20, 1715, and June 14, 1775-April 17, 1792 (156 frames). The documents relate to a wide variety of subjects, including paper manufacturers in Taunton, MA; plans for an American hereditary order; foreign, fiscal, commercial, military, and naval affairs; and state governments. The document from 1715 is a deed for land in Maryland.

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- 9 "Note Book no. 3," recording the issuance and payment of numbered notes issued by the Superintendent of Finance, June 18, 1782-November 4, 1783 (45 frames).

Bonds submitted to the Continental Congress by the Commissioners of the Board of Treasury, February 17-September 26, 1785, and November 2-10, 1787 (35 frames).

Broadsides and other imprints issued by the Continental Congress, November 12, 1775-September 1, 1788 (278 frames). The documents cover a wide range of subjects. Two additional broadsides are on roll 10. This is not a complete set of the documents ordered printed by Congress.

- 10 Miscellaneous records, 1774-88, consist of:

The Articles of Association, October 20, 1774, (3 frames).

A resolve of the Pennsylvania General Assembly naming delegates to the Continental Congress, May 6, 1775 (2 frames), that belongs with the credentials filmed on roll 8.

Minutes of the Continental Congress, May 10-June 22, 1775 (49 frames), similar to the minutes reproduced on roll 9.

North Carolina's instructions to its delegates regarding independence, April 12, 1776 (4 frames).

Virginia's instructions to its delegates regarding independence, May 15, 1776 (3 frames).

Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence, June 7, 1776 (2 frames).

The proposal to appoint a committee to prepare a declaration of independence, June 10, 1776 (1 frame).

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- The engrossed Declaration of Independence, August 2, 1776 (1 frame), microfilmed from a photograph of the document taken sometime after 1942.
- A report of the Marine Committee, December 24, 1777 (3 frames).
- Two blank Continental Army commissions, ca. 1777-78 (2 frames), that vary slightly from the commission filmed on roll 9.
- The engrossed Articles of Confederation, July 9, 1778 (11 frames).
- A resolve of the Connecticut General Assembly concerning the power of delegates to the Continental Congress, April 7, 1779 (2 frames), that belongs with the credentials filmed on roll 8.
- A map of the siege of Yorktown by Lt. Col. Jean-Baptiste Gouvion, October 29, 1781 (2 frames), often referred to as Washington's map of Yorktown.
- Accounts of blank commissions, bonds, and instruction for privateers, December 10 1782-January 13, 1783 (2 frames), that belong with the accounts filmed on roll 6.
- A broadside concerning the definitive peace treaty between the United States and Great Britain, January 14, 1784 (2 frames).
- Proceedings of the Annapolis Convention, September 11-14, 1786 (7 frames).
- A volume labelled "Ratification of the Constitution," 1786-91 (98 frames). This is commonly known as Bankson's Journal. Most of it consists of transcriptions of documents relating to the adoption of the Constitution, including the report of the Annapolis Convention; the Constitution; resolutions of the Constitutional Convention, of state ratification conventions, and of Congress; the Bill of Rights; instruments of ratification; and some remarks on the Constitution by Benjamin Bankson, a clerk of

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the Congress. The copies of the credentials of delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Bankson's Journal are the only ones extant. They have not been filmed here, but are part of National Archives Microfilm Publication M866.

Statements concerning Virginia's expenditures in the Northwest Territory, July 5, 1787 (4 frames), that belong with other records relating to Virginia's claims against the United States filmed on roll 7.

A broadside calling for the first federal presidential election, September 13, 1788 (1 frame).