

Edmond Charles Genet Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78022079>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010166>

Prepared by Joseph D. Sullivan

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Edmond Charles Genet Papers

Span Dates: 1734-1895

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1789-1793)

ID No.: MSS22079

Creator: Genet, Edmond Charles, 1763-1834

Extent: 35,000 items

Extent: 53 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 21.2 linear feet

Extent: 41 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in French and English with German

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78022079>

Summary: French diplomat and first minister of the French Republic to the United States. Correspondence written and received during Genet's diplomatic service in Russia and the United States; also legation accounts, extracts from English newspapers, notes relating to England and America, scientific papers, a memoir prepared by his son, Geo. Clinton Genet, and other descendants, and printed material.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Clark, George Rogers, 1752-1818--Correspondence.

Clinton family.

Clinton, DeWitt, 1769-1828--Correspondence.

Clinton, George, 1739-1812--Correspondence.

Dana, Francis, 1743-1811--Correspondence.

Genet family.

Genet, Edme Jacques, -1781--Correspondence.

Genet, Edmond Charles, 1763-1834.

Genet, Geo. Clinton (George Clinton)

Izard, Ralph, 1742-1804--Correspondence.

Michaux, André, 1746-1802--Correspondence.

Monroe, James, 1758-1831--Correspondence.

Montbary, Alexandre Marie Léonor de Saint Mauris, prince de, 1732-1796--Correspondence.

Noailles, Jean-Louis-Paul-François, duc de, 1739-1824--Correspondence.

Osgood family.

Sartine, Antoine de, comte d'Alby, 1729-1801--Correspondence.

Vergennes, Charles Gravier, comte de, 1719-1787--Correspondence.

Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, French--England.

Diplomatic and consular service, French--Russia.

Diplomatic and consular service, French--United States.

Political science.

Science.

Places

England--Foreign relations--France.

France--Foreign relations--England.

France--Foreign relations--Russia.

France--Foreign relations--United States.

Russia--Foreign relations--France.
United States--Foreign relations--France.

Occupations

Authors.
Diplomats.

Provenance

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet, French diplomat and first minister of the French Republic to the United States, were obtained by the Library of Congress through gift and purchase, 1918-1955.

Processing History

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet were arranged and described in 1964. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Newspapers have been transferred to the Serial & Government Publications Division. Broad­sides have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edmond Charles Genet is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on forty-one reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Edmond Charles Genet Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1763, Jan. 8	Born in France
1777	Secretary to his father in the Bureau of Interpretations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1780	Student, Gressen and Berlin, Germany
1780-1781	Served in secretariat of Baron de Breteuil, Vienna, Austria
1781-1783	Assumed offices held by his father
1783	Acting secretary, French legation in England
1787	Sent to French embassy, St. Petersburg, Russia
1789	Chargé d'affaires, French embassy, St. Petersburg, Russia
1792	Expelled from Russia
	Appointed French minister plenipotentiary to the United States
1793	Arrived at Charleston, S. C.
	Toured eastern United States
	Recalled from United States
1794	Purchased a farm on Long Island, N.Y.
	Married Cornelia Tappen Clinton
1800	Moved to a farm in Rensselaer County, N. Y.
1814	Married Martha Brandon Osgood
1834, July 15	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet (1763-1834) span the years 1734-1895, with the largest concentration of material between 1789 and 1793.

Edmond Genet's brief career as the French Republic's first minister to the United States, and his earlier diplomatic assignments in London and Saint Petersburg, are documented in the first two series of the collection. Genet's early career and education are described in a series of letters from Genet's father, Edme Jacques Genet, and other members of his family, together with draft replies by Genet, dated between 1776 and 1781. Of special interest are several letters of Ralph Izard addressed to Genet, dated 1778-1779, while the latter was chief of the interpreter's bureau at Versailles. Genet's St. Petersburg mission is represented by material in this collection that is not available in the archives at Leningrad. The correspondence series also includes many letters and drafts from officials of the various French ministries, letters relating to the Clinton and Osgood families, and commissions and diplomas, some of which are signed by the kings of France.

Aside from the series of news abstracts prepared by Genet as part of his official duties, a good portion of the remaining notes, drafts, and essays reflect Genet's interest in political theory and scientific research. There also are newspaper clippings, accounts of legation and secret expenses, memoirs by Genet's son, Charles, and miscellaneous papers.

In addition to the above mentioned letters of Edme Jacques Genet and Ralph Izard, the following are prominent correspondents in the collection: George Rogers Clark, DeWitt Clinton, George Clinton, Francis Dana, André Michaux, James Monroe, Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes, Antoine Raymond Gabriel de Sartine, Jean-Louis- Paul Francois, duc de Noailles, and Alexandre Marie Léonor de Saint-Mauris, Prince de Montbarey.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- [General Correspondence I, 1756-1895](#)
- [General Correspondence II, 1761-1821](#)
- [Copies of Letters, 1740-1823](#)
- [Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824](#)
- [News File, 1764-1787](#)
- [Newspaper File, 1776](#)
- [Expense File, 1792-1794](#)
- [Miscellany, 1792](#)
- [Oversize, 1792](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-19 REEL 1-10	<p><u>General Correspondence I, 1756-1895</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 20 REEL 10	<p><u>General Correspondence II, 1761-1821</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 21 REEL 11	<p><u>Copies of Letters, 1740-1823</u></p> <p>Transcripts of letters to and from Edmond Charles Genet, his father, Edme Jacques Genet, and his son, Charles.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically. Filed separately are French transcripts of several John Paul Jones letters, 1780-1781.</p>
BOX 22-37 REEL 12-15	<p><u>Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792</u></p> <p>Official instructions and extracts to and from Genet, his father, Edme Genet, and others. Also a small amount of correspondence, copies of diplomatic drafts, maps and notes.</p> <p>Arranged by origin of despatch and thereunder chronologically.</p>
BOX 38-46 REEL 23-34	<p><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824</u></p> <p>Numerous articles, essays, and notes prepared by Genet with special emphasis on the natural and political sciences. In addition, a compilation of the history of the Genet family (called memoirs) from Edme to Edmond Charles Genet edited by Edmond Charles from notes and drafts left by his father.</p> <p>Arranged by type of writing.</p>
BOX 47-49 REEL 35-37	<p><u>News File, 1764-1787</u></p> <p>Extracts from English newspapers as well as précis of events in Great Britain and America abstracted from newspapers and personal observations.</p> <p>Chronologically arranged.</p>
BOX 50 REEL 38	<p><u>Newspaper File, 1776</u></p> <p>Newspaper clippings from contemporary newspapers relating to America and its war for independence.</p>
BOX 51 REEL 38	<p><u>Expense File, 1792-1794</u></p> <p>Receipts, declared accounts, and personal and official expense vouchers of Genet and others while he was minister plenipotentiary to the United States. Also a small quantity of expense accounts incurred by secret agents of Genet working in the southeastern United States.</p>
BOX 52-53 REEL 39-40	<p><u>Miscellany, 1792</u></p> <p>Mainly newspaper clippings, fragments of letters, undated notes, drafts, extracts, and reports.</p>
BOX OV 1 not filmed	<p><u>Oversize, 1792</u></p> <p>Passport.</p>

Arranged and described according the series and container from which it was removed.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,286

Container	Contents
BOX 1-19 REEL 1-10	General Correspondence I, 1756-1895 Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	27 Oct. 1756-15 Jan. 1771
BOX 2 REEL 1	8 Feb. 1771-25 July 1778
BOX 3 REEL 2	26 July 1778-13 Jan. 1780
BOX 4 REEL 2	21 Jan. 1780-12 Sept. 1781
BOX 5 REEL 3	22 Sept. 1781-19 Aug. 1783
BOX 6 REEL 3	29 Aug. 1783-31 Dec. 1789, undated
BOX 7 REEL 4	15 Jan. 1790-20 Sept. 1792
BOX 8 REEL 4	26 Sept. 1792-16 Apr. 1793
BOX 9 REEL 5	17 Apr.-16 June 1793
BOX 10 REEL 5	17 June-18 Aug. 1793
BOX 11 REEL 6	19 Aug.-1 Oct. 1793
BOX 12 REEL 6	2 Aug.-7 Nov. 1793
BOX 13 REEL 7	8 Nov.-31 Dec. 1793
BOX 14 REEL 7	1793, undated-23 Jan. 1794
BOX 15 REEL 8	24 Jan. 1794-5 Apr. 1795
BOX 16 REEL 8	14 Apr. 1795-27 Mar. 1799
BOX 17 REEL 9	30 Mar. 1799-15 Apr. 1816
BOX 18 REEL 9	28 Oct. 1816-18 Sept. 1895, undated
BOX 19 REEL 10	Undated
BOX 20 REEL 10	General Correspondence II, 1761-1821 Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 20 REEL 10	1761-1797, 1821
BOX 21 REEL 11	Copies of Letters, 1740-1823 Transcripts of letters to and from Edmond Charles Genet, his father, Edme Jacques Genet, and his son, Charles. Arranged chronologically. Filed separately are French transcripts of several John Paul Jones letters, 1780-1781.
BOX 21 REEL 11	1740-1823
BOX 22-37 REEL 12-15	Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792 Official instructions and extracts to and from Genet, his father, Edme Genet, and others. Also a small amount of correspondence, copies of diplomatic drafts, maps and notes.

Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792

Container

Contents

Arranged by origin of despatch and thereunder chronologically.

BOX 22 REEL 12	Saint Petersburg, Russia
BOX 22 REEL 12	1740-1783
BOX 23 REEL 13	1784-1788
BOX 24 REEL 13	1789
BOX 25 REEL 14	Jan.-Aug. 1790
BOX 26 REEL 14	Sept.-Dec. 1790
BOX 27 REEL 15	Jan.-June 1791
BOX 28 REEL 16a	Jul-Dec. 1791
BOX 29 REEL 16	1792
BOX 30 REEL 17	Miscellaneous and undated
BOX 31 REEL 18	Miscellaneous and undated
BOX 32 REEL 18	Miscellaneous and undated
BOX 33 REEL 19	Constantinople, Turkey, 1763-1791
BOX 34 REEL 19	Sweden, 1776-1791
BOX 34 REEL 19	Vienna, Austria, 1789-1792
BOX 35 REEL 20	London, England, and Hague, Netherlands
BOX 35 REEL 20	1761
BOX 36 REEL 21	1762, 1776, 1790-1791
BOX 37 REEL 22	Berlin, Germany, and Danzig, Poland, 1775-1777
BOX 37 REEL 22	Berlin, Germany and St. Petersburg, Russia, 1789-1790
BOX 37 REEL 22	Berlin, Germany, 1791
BOX 37 REEL 22	Hamburg, Germany, 1789-1790
BOX 37 REEL 22	Santa Domingo, 1789-1792

BOX 38-46 REEL 23-34 **Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824**

Numerous articles, essays, and notes prepared by Genet with special emphasis on the natural and political sciences. In addition, a compilation of the history of the Genet family (called memoirs) from Edme to Edmond Charles Genet edited by Edmond Charles from notes and drafts left by his father.

Arranged by type of writing.

BOX 38 REEL 23	Scientific papers
BOX 39 REEL 24	1769-1778
BOX 39 REEL 24	Undated
BOX 40 REEL 25	Undated
BOX 41 REEL 26	Studies relating to England and the English Constitution, 1766-1770, undated
BOX 42 REEL 26-27	Essays on American politics, 1783-1787, undated
BOX 43 REEL 28	Notes relating to America, 1782-1783, 1786, undated
BOX 44 REEL 28	Speeches, 1824, undated
BOX 44 REEL 29-30	Memoirs
BOX 44 REEL 29-30	Books I-IX, XII-XIX
BOX 45 REEL 31-32	Drafts, 1734-1798 (with gaps)

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824

Container	Contents
BOX 46 REEL 33	Fragments
BOX 47-49 REEL 35-37	News File, 1764-1787 Extracts from English newspapers as well as précis of events in Great Britain and America abstracted from newspapers and personal observations. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 47 REEL 35	London, England, news abstracts
BOX 47 REEL 35	1783-1785
BOX 48 REEL 36	1787
BOX 48 REEL 36	American news abstracts, 1783-1787
BOX 49 REEL 37	Extracts from British newspapers, 1764-1775
BOX 49 REEL 37	Miscellaneous extracts, 1765, undated
BOX 50 REEL 38	Newspaper File, 1776 Newspaper clippings from contemporary newspapers relating to America and its war for independence.
BOX 50 REEL 38	Clippings from various newspapers, 1776
BOX 51 REEL 38	Expense File, 1792-1794 Receipts, declared accounts, and personal and official expense vouchers of Genet and others while he was minister plenipotentiary to the United States. Also a small quantity of expense accounts incurred by secret agents of Genet working in the southeastern United States.
BOX 51 REEL 38	Legation accounts, secret expenses, 1792-1794
BOX 52-53 REEL 39-40	Miscellany, 1792 Mainly newspaper clippings, fragments of letters, undated notes, drafts, extracts, and reports.
BOX 52 REEL 39	Miscellany
BOX 53 REEL 40	Miscellany
BOX 53 not filmed	Passport, 1792 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1 not filmed	Oversize, 1792 Passport. Arranged and described according the series and container from which it was removed.
BOX OV 1 not filmed	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Passport, 1792 (Container 53)