



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**The Life of Robert Fulton / by Cadwallader D. Colden ; illustrated by  
Thos. Addis Emmet M.D**

1887

MssCol 18116

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

## Summary

**Creator:** Emmet, Thomas Addis, 1828-1919

**Title:** The Life of Robert Fulton / by Cadwallader D. Colden ; illustrated by Thos. Addis Emmet M.D

**Date:** 1887

**Size:** .31 linear feet (1 volume, 1 folder)

**Source:** Donated by John S. Kennedy, 1896, as part of the Emmet collection.

**Abstract:** Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet (1828-1919) was a renowned surgeon and early collector of American manuscripts of the Revolutionary Era. Cadwallader D. Colden (1769-1834), a lawyer and politician, was Mayor of New York City from 1818 to 1821. The collection comprises an extra-illustrated copy (disbound) of Cadwallader D. Colden's *The Life of Robert Fulton* (New York: Kirk & Mercein, 1817) compiled by Thomas Addis Emmet in 1887. Inserted material depicting Fulton's life and work consists of original manuscript letters and documents, 1767-1829, and numerous 18th and 19th-century engraved and lithograph portraits and views. A watercolor drawing by Fulton of ship boilers appears on the verso of his letter of 1808 October 12 (1 leaf only). The imprint also contains small engraved Fulton portraits and steamboat pictures added as inlaid vignettes.

**Preferred citation:** *The Life of Robert Fulton / by Cadwallader D. Colden ; illustrated by Thos. Addis Emmet M.D.*, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017 Twenty-eight prints were transferred to the Library's Print Collection in 1909.

## Creator History

Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet (1828-1919) was a renowned surgeon and early collector of American manuscripts of the Revolutionary Era. Cadwallader D. Colden (1769-1834), a lawyer and politician, was Mayor of New York City from 1818 to 1821. He also served in the U.S. Congress and New York State Legislature.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises an extra-illustrated copy (disbound) of Cadwallader D. Colden's *The Life of Robert Fulton* (New York: Kirk & Mercein, 1817) compiled by Thomas Addis Emmet in 1887. Inserted material illustrating Fulton's life and work consists of original manuscript letters and documents, 1767-1829, and numerous 18th and 19th-century engraved and lithograph portraits and views. A watercolor drawing by Fulton of ship boilers appears on the verso of his letter of 1808 October 12 (1 leaf only). The imprint also contains small engraved Fulton portraits and steamboat pictures added as inlaid vignettes. Only manuscript letters and documents, with the exception of one printed table, are listed in the collection guide.

## Key Terms

### Occupations

Civil engineers  
Inventors

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence  
Drawings (visual works)  
Extra-illustration  
Legal documents  
Pictorial views  
Portraits  
Promissory notes  
Stock certificates

### Subjects

Illustrated books -- Extra-illustrated  
Steam-navigation

### Names

Carey, Mathew, 1760-1839  
Chauncey, Isaac, 1772-1840\_  
Edgar, William, 1739-1820  
Fulton, Robert, 1765-1815  
Fulton, Robert, 1765-1815 -- Biography  
Gates, Horatio, 1728-1806  
Hare, Robert, 1781-1858\_  
Jones, Samuel, \_ 1770-1853  
Porter, David, 1780-1843  
Rumsey, James, 1743?-1792\_  
Yates, Joseph Christopher, 1768-1837\_  
\_Colden, Cadwallader D.\_ (Cadwallader David), 1769-1834

## Container List

- v. 1 *The Life of Robert Fulton by Cadwallader D. Colden (New York: Kirk & Mercein) 1817*
- f. 1 Robert Fulton promissory note to Seth [Duncan] 1767 June 11 (1 page, document signed)
- f. 1 Frances Fulton to John Miler 1769 March 31 (1 page, autograph note signed)
- f. 1 James Rumsey at Shepherdstown to [Horatio Gates] 1785 July 18 (1 page, autograph letter signed)
- f. 1 Robert Fulton at Washington, D.C. to unidentified correspondent 1808 October 12 (1 leaf only, autograph letter with drawing of boilers on verso, figures 1, 2, and 3)
- f. 1 Emmet's opinion on Robert R. Livingston and Robert Fulton's patent rights for steamboats 1811 January 19 (11 pages, autograph document signed)
- f. 1 Robert Fulton to William Edgar 1811 April 5 (1 page, autograph note signed)
- f. 1 Joseph C. Yates promissory note to Robert Fulton 1814 August 1 (1 page, printed document signed by Yates, Fulton and Thomas Morris)  
 Bond for the remainder of payment on Certificate 71 in Hudson River Steam-Boat stock
- f. 1 Certificate Number 334 issued to Samuel Jones Junior for Hudson River Steam-Boat stock 1814 August 1 (1 page, printed document signed by Fulton)  
 Receipt for \$200.00 for partial payment towards cost of one share
- f. 1 Isaac Chauncey, U.S. Ship Superior at Sackets Harbor, to Robert Fulton 1814 November 15 (4 pages, autograph letter signed)
- f. 1 *Steam-Vessels, built in the City of New-York, under the Direction and Superintendence of Robert Fulton, or according to his Plan* 1817 September 7 (1 page, printed table (folded), issued with Colden's *The Life of Robert Fulton* (1817))
- f. 1 Cadwallader D. Colden and J. Griscom letter to an unidentified correspondent 1824 January 7 (1 page, letter signed)
- f. 1 Robert Hare to [Mathew Carey] 1827 March 19 (1 page, autograph letter signed)
- f. 1 David Porter at Chester to J. Barker 1829 December 27 (1 page, autograph document signed)
- f. 1 Unidentified correspondent [I. or J. Rougey?] to [J.P. Todd] undated (1 page, autograph letter signed)