



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Gilbert H. Montague collection of Robert Fulton manuscripts

1790-1815 [bulk 1807-1814]

MssCol 18136

Processed by Donald R. Mennerich.

Summary

Creator: Montague, Gilbert Holland, 1880-1961

Title: Gilbert H. Montague collection of Robert Fulton manuscripts

Date: 1790-1815 [bulk 1807-1814]

Size: .4 linear feet (1 box, 1 volume, 1 oversize folder)

Source: Donated by Gilbert H. Montague.

Abstract: The Gilbert H. Montague Collection of Robert Fulton Manuscripts contains correspondence, writings and drawings by the famed American civil engineer and inventor.

Access: Advance notice required.

Alternative Form Available: Selected items have been digitized.

Preferred citation: Gilbert H. Montague collection of Robert Fulton manuscripts, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Processed by Donald R. Mennerich.

Related Materials:

The William Barclay Parsons Collection of Robert Fulton Materials. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

The Robert Fulton Collection. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

The Montague Collection of Historical Autographs. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Montague-Collier Family Papers. Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

Gilbert Holland Montague was born in 1880 in Springfield, Massachusetts. After receiving degrees from Harvard in economics and law Montague became a foremost practitioner of antitrust law. Montague

authored many journal articles on business law and two books: *Rise and Progress of the Standard Oil Company* (1903) and *Business Competition and the Law* (1917). In addition to his legal work Montague was a lifelong collector of manuscripts and rare books. His collection consisted of over 15,000 books, 20,000 pamphlets and included a 14th century copy of the Magna Carta.

Scope and Content Note

The majority of the correspondence and writings in the Montague Collection of Fulton manuscripts is concerned with Fulton's operation of his steamship company with Robert R. Livingston. Correspondents include Robert R. Livingston, John Stevens, Edward T. Livingston and Benjamin H. Latrobe. In addition to correspondence, the collection includes Fulton's 1812 travel diary of a trip to Washington D.C., and sketches he made, including those illustrating his treatise, "On the Mode of Using Sleeping Torpedoes."

Arrangement: The Gilbert H. Montague Collection of Robert Fulton Manuscripts are organized in the following series: I. Correspondence, 1796-1815 II. Writings, business and legal documents, 1790-1815 III. Other Material IV. Material transferred from the Montague Autograph Collection

Key Terms

Occupations

Civil engineers
Inventors

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries
Drawings (visual works)
Sketches

Subjects

Steam-navigation
Steamboats
Submarines (Ships)
Torpedoes

Names

Fulton, Robert, 1765-1815
Montague, Gilbert Holland, 1880-1961
Livingston family

Container List

I. Correspondence 1796-1815

Letters to and from Fulton

- b. 1 f. 1 **Fulton, at Paris, to Molar, Bordel and Montgolfier** 1803 Jan 24 (3 pages)
Translation of M. Barlow's letter from Paris, dated 4 Pluviose XI. This letter was included with an early model of his steamship. (Colden, 157)
- b. 1 f. 2 **Fulton, at London, to Betsy Scott, his sister** 1805 Oct 20 (4 pages, signed)
Includes typewritten copy and 4 promissory notes originally pasted to the letter.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Fulton, at Washington, to unidentified** 1808 Aug 2 (4 pages, draft)
Fulton on Robert Stevens' steamship voyage of June 1808. Stevens was the first to navigate a steam vessel on the open sea. (Thurston, 121)
- b. 1 f. 4 **Fulton, at Washington, to John Stevens** 1808 Oct 28th (5 pages, signed)
- b. 1 f. 5 **Fulton to John Stevens** 1808 Dec 6 (8 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 6 **Fulton, at Clermont Manor, to John Stevens** 1809 Aug 11 (3 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 7 **Fulton to Volney, Monge and La Place** 1810 Mar 12 (4 pages, draft)
Fulton's solicitation of his publication "Torpedo War and Submarine Explosions" to the scientists who examined his work for Napoleon in 1803 (Colden 30). Includes typewritten copy.
- b. 1 f. 8 **Fulton, at New York to the Earl of Stanhope, Charles Stanhope** 1810 Apr 3 (3 pages, draft, signed)
Stanhope was an fellow engineer and scientist who began corresponding with Fulton in 1793 through there mutual work on England's canal system. In this letter Fulton boldly reiterates his belief that his inventions would free American trade from possible British blockades. Includes typewritten copy
- b. 1 f. 9 **Fulton, at New York, to Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton** 1810 May 3 (3 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 10 **Fulton, at New York, to Henry Fulton** 1810 Jun 14 (3 pages, draft)
Includes typewritten copy
- b. 1 f. 11 **Fulton, at New York, to Nicholas Roosevelt** 1810 Oct 16 (7 pages, signed)
- b. 1 f. 12 **Fulton to Mr. Lyon** 1811 Aug 12 (2 pages, signed)
Sketch "Groundplan of the frame for the bridges" on verso
- b. 1 f. 13 **Fulton, at New York, to Cadwallader Colden** 1812 Apr 14 (4 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 14 **Fulton, at New York, to Edward Livingston** (3 pages, signed)
- b. 1 f. 15 **Fulton and Livingston, at Clermont Manor, to Mr. Hoffman** 1812 Aug 17 (4 pages, signed)
Fulton Reports on the profits of the steamship Clermont and the possible expansion of service to other rivers. Hoffman was likely a stockholder in Fulton and Livingston's venture. Includes typewritten copy
- b. 1 f. 16 **Fulton, at New York, to Alexander Davidson** 1813 Aug 8 (3 pages, signed)
Discussion of expansion of steamboat service to Europe. Includes typewritten copy.
- b. 1 f. 17 **Samuel Mitchell, at New York, to Fulton** 1813 Nov 13 (2 pages, signed)
- b. 1 f. 18 **Fulton, at New York, to Robert L. Livingston** 1813 Dec 1 (4 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 19 **Fulton, at New York, to Thomas Addis Emmet** 1813 Dec 6 (1 pages, signed)

I. Correspondence (cont.)

Letters to and from Fulton (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 20 Fulton, at New York, to Robert L. Livingston 1813 Dec 16 (2 pages, signed)
- b. 1 f. 21 Fulton, at New York, to unknown "Dear Abraham" 1814 Jan 24 (3 pages, draft)
Likely addressed to Fulton's brother Abraham
- b. 1 f. 22 Fulton, at New York, to Edward Livingston 1814 Feb 1 (3 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 23 Fulton, at New York, to Edward Livingston 1814 May 23 (2 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 24 Fulton, at New York, to Edward and Robert L. Livingston 1814 Jul 23 (4 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 25 Fulton, at New York, to David Cooke 1814 Oct 24 (2 pages, draft)
In regards to Henry Latrobe's unpaid accounts
- b. 1 f. 26 Fulton, at New York, to Benjamin H. Latrobe 1815 Jan 24 (2 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 27 Fulton, at Trenton, to Nathaniel Cutting 1815 Jan 26 (3 pages, signed)
- b. 1 f. 28 Fulton to Edward Livingston undated (1 page, signed, mutilated)
Listing of "Bills to be paid in June"
- b. 1 f. 29 Fulton to Edward Livingston undated (3 pages, draft, mutilated)
Discussion of contracts and settlement with Chancellor Robert R. Livingston's heirs.
- b. 1 f. 30 Fulton to John R. Livingston undated (5 pages, draft, mutilated)
- b. 1 f. 31 Fulton to William Thornton undated (3 pages, draft)
Fulton refutes Thornton's claims that his ideas of steamboats and submarines were stolen from others in his pamphlet from 1814 "The origin of steamboats"
- b. 1 f. 32 Fulton to unidentified correspondent undated (3 pages, draft)

Third party correspondence

- b. 1 f. 33 Unknown transcription 1796 July 28 (6 pages, autograph)
Copy in Fulton's hand
- b. 1 f. 34 Ferdinand Fairfax to Nathaniel Cutting 1814 (4 pages, autograph)
Copy in Fulton's hand

II. Writings, business and legal documents 1790-1815

Chronological

- b. 1 f. 35 Diary of John Fitch 1790 (12 pages)
Copy in Fulton's hand of two fragments of John Fitch's diary dated Jan. 29th to April 17th and May 10th to June 5th. Includes typewritten copy
- b. 1 f. 36 John Armstrong's "Admiration of Joshua" 1800 Mar 14 (3 pages)
Copy in Fulton's hand.
- b. 1 f. 37 Brief for the case of Livingston and Fulton vs. James Van Ingen, Hamilton Boyd and others 1811 July 23 (3 pages)
Deposition of shipbuilder Charles Brownne before the Supreme Court.
- f. 38 Notes for Patent of 1809 1811 Aug 4 (8 pages, draft, signed)
Includes typewritten copy
- b. 1 f. 39 Extract from the affidavit of Nicholas Roosevelt 1811 Sep 2 (2 pages)
- b. 1 f. 40 Invention in Mechanics 1811 (16 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 41 Contract with John Livingston's to form the Ohio Steamboat Company 1812 Mar 20 (3 pages, signed)
Contract giving John Livingston permission to run a steamboat from New Orleans to St. Louis on the Mississippi and from St. Louis to Louisville on the Ohio River.

II. Writings, business and legal documents (cont.)

Chronological (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 42 **Proposals for two steamboats on the Mississippi** 1812 May 23 (7 pages, draft)
Set of fifteen articles by Fulton to shareholders on how to exploit the Fulton and Livingston patent to operate steamboats on the Mississippi.
- b. 1 f. 43 **Specification of Fulton's ferry boat invention** 1813 Oct 8 (4 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 44 **Considerations on the North River Steamboats** 1813 Nov. 27 (4 pages, draft, incomplete)
Proposal to the heirs of Chancellor Livingston concerning the expansion of their steamship operations beyond the Hudson and East rivers. Includes typewritten copy.
- b. 1 f. 45 **Fulton's diary of his trip to Washington, D.C** 1814 Sep 1-11 (24 pages)
- b. 1 f. 46 **Memo regarding the grounding of the steamboat "Vesuvius"** 1814 Nov 29 (2 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 47 **Memo on the receipts and expenses of steamboats "Paragon" and "Car of Neptune"** 1814 (4 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 48 **Notes on the patents of John Fitch, Robert Dodds, John Stevens and Nicholas Roosevelt** 1815 Jan 25 (18 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 49 **Harbour and coastal defense, to the citizens of New York** (4 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 50 **Notes for a biography of John Armstrong** undated (4 pages)
- b. 1 f. 51 **Notes on Fulton's case vs. the Albany Company** undated (7 pages, draft)
- b. 1 f. 52 **Plan for the Mississippi Steamboat Company** undated (6 pages)
- b. 1 f. 53 **Specification of the invention for injuring or destroying ships of war** undated (2 pages)
- b. 1 f. 54 **Torpedoes: to the members of Congress who voted for the torpedo bill** undated (4 pages, draft)
Includes typewritten copy
- b. 1 f. 55 **Promissory note endorsed by Fulton and Robert R. Livingston** 1812 Sep 11 (1 page, signed)

III. Other Material

- b. 1 f. 56 **Pen sketches of Wittengen Bridge and Crown Prince Bernadotte** 1813 Oct 6 (1 page, signed)
- b. X-17 **On the mode of using Sleeping Torpedoes** (4 pages, includes water color sketches)
- b. 1 f. 57 ***Torpedo War and Sub-marine Attack*** 1810 (57 pages, illustrated, 21 x 27 cm. New-York, Printed by W. Elliot, 1810. Disbound)
Imprint: New-York, Printed by W. Elliot, 1810.
- b. --- f. --- **Pen drawing of war vessel** undated (1 page)
Missing from the collection

IV. Material transferred from the Montague Autograph Collection

- b. 2 f. 1 **Fulton to Mrs. West** 1804 Oct 4
Describes his submarine attack on gunboats in the outer harbor of Boulogne
- b. 2 f. 2 **Memorandum of agreement between Robert Fulton and Samuel Swartwout** 1813 Jul 22
- b. 2 f. 3 **Power of attorney granted by Robert Fulton to John Devereux DeLacy** 1813 Feb 1
- b. 2 f. 4 **Fulton to Walter Jones** 1815 Jan 28
- b. 2 f. 5 ***A Treatise on the Improvement of Canal Navigation*** 1796
Montague's copy of Fulton's work published by I. And J. Taylor, London