



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Notes on Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787**

1791

MssCol 23110

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Madison, James, 1751-1836

**Title:** Notes on Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787

**Date:** 1791

**Size:** .84 linear feet (4 volumes)

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

**Abstract:** Letterpress copy (rebound in 4 volumes) of a transcript of James Madison's Notes on Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787, made in 1791 with Madison's approval by John Wayles Eppes of Virginia (1773-1823). Eppes was sent to Philadelphia in 1791 by his family to study and work under the guidance of Thomas Jefferson, his relative. James Madison (1751-1836), the fourth President of the United States, was a Virginia delegate at the Constitutional Convention and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1789. Debate notes, 1787 May 14-September 17, are incomplete. Notes are followed by two texts: "Copy of a paper communicated to J.M. by Colo. Hamilton about the close of the Convention in Philadelphia 1787: which he said delineated the Constitution which he would have wished to be proposed by the Convention. He had stated the principles of it in the course of the deliberations" (15 p.) and "Recommended by Mr. Randolph July 10th as an accommodating proposition to small States" (2 p.). The original transcript is held in the Edward Everett Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

**Preferred citation:** Notes on Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

### Related Materials:

Forms part of [Emmet Collection](#)  
Edward Everett Papers, Ms. N-1201. Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts..

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Constitutional conventions -- United States

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Letterpress copies

### **Occupations**

Politicians

Statesmen

### **Geographic Names**

United States -- Politics and government -- 1783-1865

### **Names**

Eppes, John Wayles, 1773-1823

Madison, James, 1751-1836

United States. Constitutional Convention (1787)

## Container List

- v. 1 1787 May 14-Jun 12 (part)
- v. 2 1787 [Jun 13, part]-20; [Aug 20, part]-Aug 21
- v. 3 1787 Aug 22-29  
Volume ends with page 65. Page 66, part of August 29 entry, is lacking
- v. 4 1787 Aug 29 (continued)-Sep 17; additional texts  
Volume begins page 67