



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

John Hancock papers

1753-1783

MssCol 4434

Summary

Creator: Hancock, John, 1737-1793

Title: John Hancock papers

Date: 1753-1783

Size: .2 linear feet (1 folder)

Abstract: Collection consists of correspondence, speeches, and documents signed by Hancock in his capacity as president of the Continental Congress and governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Letters are largely outgoing and most pertain to his official duties in the Continental Congress, including several letters to Col. Jeremiah Powell in the days leading up to the Battle of Rhode Island, expressing great distress at the desertion of the French fleet under Admiral d'Estaing. Several bills and accounts dating between 1753 and 1771 relate to the building and fitting out of ships for Hancock during his mercantile career. One oversize folder contains a letter dated October 17th, 1777 pertaining to an order to send more clothes to the troops, and references enclosures from General Washington so convincing that the Assembly would see that "the troops are in the greatest distress, and likely to suffer still more from the indemnity of the approaching season," though the enclosures are not present

Physical Location: MssCol 4434

Preferred citation: John Hancock papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Custodial History

Some material was originally received as part of the Ford, Bancroft, and Thomas J. Taylor collections.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Accounts

Certificates

Subjects

Rhode Island, Battle of, R.I., 1778

Occupations

Statesmen

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Campaigns

Names

Hancock, John, 1737-1793

Powell, Jeremiah, 1714-1789

Bancroft collection

Ford collection

Thomas J. Taylor collection

United States. Continental Congress