



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**James Wilkinson letters and documents**

1776-1823

MssCol 4680

Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

## Summary

**Creator:** Wilkinson, James, 1757-1825

**Title:** James Wilkinson letters and documents

**Date:** 1776-1823

**Size:** .1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Donated by John Stewart Kennedy, 1896 as part of the Emmet Collection; by J. Pierpont Morgan, 1899, as part of the Ford Collection; and various purchases, 1940-1941

**Abstract:** James Wilkinson (1757-1825) of Maryland was a United States Army officer and first governor of the Louisiana Territory. Wilkinson was implicated in the Burr Conspiracy and resigned from the Army in 1815. He was later appointed U.S. envoy to Mexico and died there in 1825. Suspicions that he had long been an agent of the Spanish government were confirmed after his death. The collection consists chiefly of letters written by Wilkinson to military personnel and politicians, especially at Fort Washington during the Northwest Indian War and later 1790s. Recipients include John Armstrong, 1792; Bartholomew Shaumburg, 1796, David Holmes, 1812, and James Monroe, 1814. Wilkinson's letter of 1823 April 17, Mexico, to an unidentified correspondent (probably to Thomas Aspinwall, U.S. Consul in London), describes the election of Agustín de Iturbide as emperor of Mexico. Also included is Wilkinson's 1793 bill to the government for expenses of his servants, and an order of payment to James Wilkinson by Joseph Reed, 1781.

**Alternative Form Available:** Available on microfilm; New York Public Library; \*ZL-455

**Preferred citation:** James Wilkinson letters and documents, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2017

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Financial records

**Subjects**

Indians of North America -- Wars -- 1790-1794

**Geographic Names**

Mexico -- History -- 1821-1861

United States -- History -- 1783-1815

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

**Occupations**

Politicians

Soldiers

**Names**

Armstrong, John, 1758-1843

Aspinwall, Thomas, 1786-1876

Holmes, David, 1770-1832

Iturbide, Agustín de, 1783-1824

Monroe, James, 1758-1831

Shaumburg, Bartholomew

Varick, Richard, 1753-1831

Wilkinson, James, 1757-1825 -- Correspondence