

Richard Rush Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.**

2000

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Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms006051>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm73038554>

Prepared by Nan Thompson Ernst

Collection Summary

Title: Richard Rush Papers

Span Dates: 1805-1852

ID No.: MSS38554

Creator: Rush, Richard, 1780-1859

Extent: 60 items ; 1 containers plus 1 oversize ; .2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Lawyer and statesman. Correspondence, diary, notes, writings, and engraved portraits relating primarily to Rush's duties as attorney general, secretary of state, minister to Great Britain, and secretary of the treasury, and legal documents concerning a loan from the Netherlands he arranged to finance the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company in and near the District of Columbia.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Binns, John, 1772-1860--Correspondence.

Coxe, Richard S. (Richard Smith), 1792-1865--Correspondence.

Gallatin, Albert, 1761-1849--Correspondence.

Hallett, Benjamin Franklin, 1797-1862--Correspondence.

Hiester, Joseph, 1752-1832--Correspondence.

Mercer, Charles Fenton, 1778-1858--Correspondence.

Miranda, Francisco de, 1750-1816.

Rush, Richard, 1780-1859.

Russell, Jonathan, 1771-1832--Correspondence.

Walker, Robert J. (Robert John), 1801-1869--Correspondence.

Organizations

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company.

United States. Department of Justice.

United States. Department of State.

United States. Department of the Treasury.

Subjects

Canals--Washington (D.C.)

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Loans, Foreign.

Places

Cuba--History--1810-1899.

Great Britain--Foreign relations--Cuba.

Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.

Netherlands--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

United States--Foreign relations--Netherlands.

United States--Politics and government--1817-1825.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Lawyers.

Statesmen.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Richard Rush, lawyer, statesman, and diplomat, were primarily purchased by the Library of Congress, 1906-1997. Copies of Rush's letters were given to the Library by Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss in 1954 and Stuart A. Goldman in 1988.

Processing History

The papers of Richard Rush were arranged in 1972. Additional material was added to the collection in 1977, 1983, and 2000 when a finding aid was created.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Richard Rush is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Richard Rush are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Richard Rush Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|---------------|--|
| 1780, Aug. 29 | Born, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1797 | Graduated, College of New Jersey (now Princeton University), Princeton, N.J. |
| 1800 | Admitted to the Philadelphia, Pa., bar |
| 1809 | Married Catherine Eliza Murray |
| 1811 | Comptroller, United States Treasury |
| 1814-1817 | U.S. attorney general |
| 1817 | U.S. secretary of state |
| 1817-1825 | U.S. minister to Great Britain |
| 1825-1828 | U.S. secretary of the treasury |
| 1836-1838 | U.S. agent in Great Britain to secure Smithson bequest which established the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. |
| 1847-1849 | U.S. minister to France |
| 1859, July 30 | Died, Philadelphia, Pa. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Richard Rush (1780-1859) span the years 1805-1852. Correspondence comprising the bulk of the collection dates from 1809 to 1852. It primarily concerns Rush's duties as United States attorney general, secretary of state, minister to Great Britain, secretary of the treasury, and as an agent negotiating loans from the Netherlands to finance the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company in and near the District of Columbia. A letter dated 1816 from Rush to his mother, Julia Rush, concerning his father, Benjamin Rush is the only family item in the collection. Correspondents include John Binns, Richard S. Coxe, Albert Gallatin, Benjamin Franklin Hallett, Joseph Hiester, Charles Fenton Mercer, Jonathan Russell, and Robert J. Walker.

Also included in the collection is a diary, 1829, concerning Rush's trip to England and the Netherlands. Diary notes include his record of a conversation in 1805 with the Venezuelan general Francisco de Miranda during a visit to Philadelphia, and notes from 1821 concern Rush's experiences as United States minister to Great Britain. An essay in draft form entitled "Cuba," 1823, concerns Rush's opposition to the possible transfer of Cuba to Great Britain. Notes on the Bible complete his writings.

A comprehensive edition of Rush's papers in numerous repositories is available on twenty-six reels of microfilm prepared by Scholarly Resources.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1 | Correspondence, 1809-1852 (2 folders) |
| BOX 1 | Diary, "England and Holland," 1829 |
| BOX 1 | Diary notes |
| BOX 1 | 1805, "General Miranda" |
| BOX 1 | 1821, miscellaneous |
| BOX 1 | Financial and legal documents, loan from the Netherlands to finance the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Co., 1828-1829 <i>See also Oversize</i> |
| BOX 1 | Portraits, engraved, undated |
| BOX 1 | Writings |
| BOX 1 | "Cuba," 1823 |
| BOX 1 | Notes on the Bible, undated |
| BOX OV 1 | Financial and legal documents, list of funded debt certificates, Daniel Crommelin & Sons, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1829 |