

# Edmond Charles Genet Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2009

Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010166>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm78022079>

Prepared by Joseph D. Sullivan

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Edmond Charles Genet Papers

**Span Dates:** 1734-1895

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1789-1793)

**ID No.:** MSS22079

**Creator:** Genet, Edmond Charles, 1763-1834

**Extent:** 35,000 items ; 53 containers plus 1 oversize ; 21.2 linear feet ; 41 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in French and English with German

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

**Summary:** French diplomat and first minister of the French Republic to the United States. Correspondence written and received during Genet's diplomatic service in Russia and the United States; also legation accounts, extracts from English newspapers, notes relating to England and America, scientific papers, a memoir prepared by his son, Geo. Clinton Genet, and other descendants, and printed material.

## 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

Clark, George Rogers, 1752-1818--Correspondence.

Clinton family.

Clinton, DeWitt, 1769-1828--Correspondence.

Clinton, George, 1739-1812--Correspondence.

Dana, Francis, 1743-1811--Correspondence.

Genet family.

Genet, Edme Jacques, -1781--Correspondence.

Genet, Edmond Charles, 1763-1834.

Genet, Geo. Clinton (George Clinton)

Izard, Ralph, 1742-1804--Correspondence.

Michaux, André, 1746-1802--Correspondence.

Monroe, James, 1758-1831--Correspondence.

Montbary, Alexandre Marie Léonor de Saint Mauris, prince de, 1732-1796--Correspondence.

Noailles, Jean-Louis-Paul-François, duc de, 1739-1824--Correspondence.

Osgood family.

Sartine, Antoine de, comte d'Alby, 1729-1801--Correspondence.

Vergennes, Charles Gravier, comte de, 1719-1787--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, French--England.

Diplomatic and consular service, French--Russia.

Diplomatic and consular service, French--United States.

Political science.

Science.

### Places

England--Foreign relations--France.

France--Foreign relations--England.

France--Foreign relations--Russia.

France--Foreign relations--United States.

Russia--Foreign relations--France.

United States--Foreign relations--France.

### Occupations

Authors.  
Diplomats.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet, French diplomat and first minister of the French Republic to the United States, were obtained by the Library of Congress through gift and purchase, 1918-1955.

### Processing History

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet were arranged and described in 1964. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

### Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Newspapers have been transferred to the Serial & Government Publications Division. Broad­sides have been transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of these papers.

### Copyright Status

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

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet 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.

### Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on forty-one reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Edmond Charles Genet Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1763, Jan. 8	Born in France
1777	Secretary to his father in the Bureau of Interpretations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1780	Student, Gressen and Berlin, Germany
1780-1781	Served in secretariat of Baron de Breteuil, Vienna, Austria
1781-1783	Assumed offices held by his father
1783	Acting secretary, French legation in England

1787	Sent to French embassy, St. Petersburg, Russia
1789	Chargé d'affaires, French embassy, St. Petersburg, Russia
1792	Expelled from Russia Appointed French minister plenipotentiary to the United States
1793	Arrived at Charleston, S. C. Toured eastern United States Recalled from United States
1794	Purchased a farm on Long Island, N.Y. Married Cornelia Tappen Clinton
1800	Moved to a farm in Rensselaer County, N. Y.
1814	Married Martha Brandon Osgood
1834, July 15	Died

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edmond Charles Genet (1763-1834) span the years 1734-1895, with the largest concentration of material between 1789 and 1793.

Edmond Genet's brief career as the French Republic's first minister to the United States, and his earlier diplomatic assignments in London and Saint Petersburg, are documented in the first two series of the collection. Genet's early career and education are described in a series of letters from Genet's father, Edme Jacques Genet, and other members of his family, together with draft replies by Genet, dated between 1776 and 1781. Of special interest are several letters of Ralph Izard addressed to Genet, dated 1778-1779, while the latter was chief of the interpreter's bureau at Versailles. Genet's St. Petersburg mission is represented by material in this collection that is not available in the archives at Leningrad. The correspondence series also includes many letters and drafts from officials of the various French ministries, letters relating to the Clinton and Osgood families, and commissions and diplomas, some of which are signed by the kings of France.

Aside from the series of news abstracts prepared by Genet as part of his official duties, a good portion of the remaining notes, drafts, and essays reflect Genet's interest in political theory and scientific research. There also are newspaper clippings, accounts of legation and secret expenses, memoirs by Genet's son, Charles, and miscellaneous papers.

In addition to the above mentioned letters of Edme Jacques Genet and Ralph Izard, the following are prominent correspondents in the collection: George Rogers Clark, DeWitt Clinton, George Clinton, Francis Dana, André Michaux, James Monroe, Charles Gravier, comte de Vergennes, Antoine Raymond Gabriel de Sartine, Jean-Louis- Paul Francois, duc de Noailles, and Alexandre Marie Léonor de Saint-Mauris, Prince de Montbarey.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- [General Correspondence I, 1756-1895](#)
- [General Correspondence II, 1761-1821](#)
- [Copies of Letters, 1740-1823](#)
- [Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824](#)
- [News File, 1764-1787](#)

- Newspaper File, 1776
- Expense File, 1792-1794
- Miscellany, 1792
- Oversize, 1792

## Description of Series

### *Container*

BOX 1-19  
REEL 1-10

### *Series*

#### **General Correspondence I, 1756-1895**

Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 20  
REEL 10

#### **General Correspondence II, 1761-1821**

Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family.  
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 21  
REEL 11

#### **Copies of Letters, 1740-1823**

Transcripts of letters to and from Edmond Charles Genet, his father, Edme Jacques Genet, and his son, Charles.  
Arranged chronologically. Filed separately are French transcripts of several John Paul Jones letters, 1780-1781.

BOX 22-37  
REEL 12-15

#### **Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792**

Official instructions and extracts to and from Genet, his father, Edme Genet, and others. Also a small amount of correspondence, copies of diplomatic drafts, maps and notes.  
Arranged by origin of despatch and thereunder chronologically.

BOX 38-46  
REEL 23-34

#### **Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824**

Numerous articles, essays, and notes prepared by Genet with special emphasis on the natural and political sciences. In addition, a compilation of the history of the Genet family (called memoirs) from Edme to Edmond Charles Genet edited by Edmond Charles from notes and drafts left by his father.  
Arranged by type of writing.

BOX 47-49  
REEL 35-37

#### **News File, 1764-1787**

Extracts from English newspapers as well as précis of events in Great Britain and America abstracted from newspapers and personal observations.  
Chronologically arranged.

BOX 50  
REEL 38

#### **Newspaper File, 1776**

Newspaper clippings from contemporary newspapers relating to America and its war for independence.

BOX 51

#### **Expense File, 1792-1794**

REEL 38

Receipts, declared accounts, and personal and official expense vouchers of Genet and others while he was minister plenipotentiary to the United States. Also a small quantity of expense accounts incurred by secret agents of Genet working in the southeastern United States.

BOX 52-53  
REEL 39-40

Miscellany, 1792

Mainly newspaper clippings, fragments of letters, undated notes, drafts, extracts, and reports.

BOX OV 1  
not filmed

Oversize, 1792

Passport.

Arranged and described according the series and container from which it was removed.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 14,286

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
<b>BOX 1-19</b> <b>REEL 1-10</b>	<b>General Correspondence I, 1756-1895</b>  Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 1</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	27 Oct. 1756-15 Jan. 1771
<b>BOX 2</b> <b>REEL 1</b>	8 Feb. 1771-25 July 1778
<b>BOX 3</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	26 July 1778-13 Jan. 1780
<b>BOX 4</b> <b>REEL 2</b>	21 Jan. 1780-12 Sept. 1781
<b>BOX 5</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	22 Sept. 1781-19 Aug. 1783
<b>BOX 6</b> <b>REEL 3</b>	29 Aug. 1783-31 Dec. 1789, undated
<b>BOX 7</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	15 Jan. 1790-20 Sept. 1792
<b>BOX 8</b> <b>REEL 4</b>	26 Sept. 1792-16 Apr. 1793
<b>BOX 9</b> <b>REEL 5</b>	17 Apr.-16 June 1793
<b>BOX 10</b> <b>REEL 5</b>	17 June-18 Aug. 1793
<b>BOX 11</b> <b>REEL 6</b>	19 Aug.-1 Oct. 1793
<b>BOX 12</b> <b>REEL 6</b>	2 Aug.-7 Nov. 1793
<b>BOX 13</b> <b>REEL 7</b>	8 Nov.-31 Dec. 1793
<b>BOX 14</b> <b>REEL 7</b>	1793, undated-23 Jan. 1794
<b>BOX 15</b> <b>REEL 8</b>	24 Jan. 1794-5 Apr. 1795
<b>BOX 16</b> <b>REEL 8</b>	14 Apr. 1795-27 Mar. 1799
<b>BOX 17</b> <b>REEL 9</b>	30 Mar. 1799-15 Apr. 1816
<b>BOX 18</b> <b>REEL 9</b>	28 Oct. 1816-18 Sept. 1895, undated
<b>BOX 19</b>	Undated

## General Correspondence II, 1761-1821

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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REEL 10

BOX 20

### **General Correspondence II, 1761-1821**

REEL 10

Letters sent and received, extracts from diplomatic despatches, notes, drafts and other papers of Genet and the Genet family.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 20

1761-1797, 1821

REEL 10

BOX 21

### **Copies of Letters, 1740-1823**

REEL 11

Transcripts of letters to and from Edmond Charles Genet, his father, Edme Jacques Genet, and his son, Charles.

Arranged chronologically. Filed separately are French transcripts of several John Paul Jones letters, 1780-1781.

BOX 21

1740-1823

REEL 11

BOX 22-37

### **Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792**

REEL 12-15

Official instructions and extracts to and from Genet, his father, Edme Genet, and others. Also a small amount of correspondence, copies of diplomatic drafts, maps and notes.

Arranged by origin of despatch and thereunder chronologically.

BOX 22

Saint Petersburg, Russia

REEL 12

BOX 22

1740-1783

REEL 12

BOX 23

1784-1788

REEL 13

BOX 24

1789

REEL 13

BOX 25

Jan.-Aug. 1790

REEL 14

BOX 26

Sept.-Dec. 1790

REEL 14

BOX 27

Jan.-June 1791

REEL 15

BOX 28

Jul-Dec. 1791

REEL 16a

BOX 29

1792

REEL 16

BOX 30

Miscellaneous and undated

REEL 17

BOX 31

Miscellaneous and undated

REEL 18

BOX 32

Miscellaneous and undated

REEL 18

## Diplomatic Despatches, 1740-1792

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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BOX 33 REEL 19	Constantinople, Turkey, 1763-1791
BOX 34 REEL 19	Sweden, 1776-1791
BOX 34 REEL 19	Vienna, Austria, 1789-1792
BOX 35 REEL 20	London, England, and Hague, Netherlands
BOX 35 REEL 20	1761
BOX 36 REEL 21	1762, 1776, 1790-1791
BOX 37 REEL 22	Berlin, Germany, and Danzig, Poland, 1775-1777
BOX 37 REEL 22	Berlin, Germany and St. Petersburg, Russia, 1789-1790
BOX 37 REEL 22	Berlin, Germany, 1791
BOX 37 REEL 22	Hamburg, Germany, 1789-1790
BOX 37 REEL 22	Santa Domingo, 1789-1792
BOX 38-46 REEL 23-34	<b>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824</b>
	Numerous articles, essays, and notes prepared by Genet with special emphasis on the natural and political sciences. In addition, a compilation of the history of the Genet family (called memoirs) from Edme to Edmond Charles Genet edited by Edmond Charles from notes and drafts left by his father. Arranged by type of writing.
BOX 38 REEL 23	Scientific papers
BOX 39 REEL 24	1769-1778
BOX 39 REEL 24	Undated
BOX 40 REEL 25	Undated
BOX 41 REEL 26	Studies relating to England and the English Constitution, 1766-1770, undated
BOX 42 REEL 26-27	Essays on American politics, 1783-1787, undated
BOX 43 REEL 28	Notes relating to America, 1782-1783, 1786, undated
BOX 44 REEL 28	Speeches, 1824, undated
BOX 44 REEL 29-30	Memoirs
BOX 44	Books I-IX, XII-XIX

## Speech, Article, and Book File, 1734-1824

### Container

### Contents

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REEL 29-30

BOX 45 Drafts, 1734-1798(with gaps)

REEL 31-32

BOX 46 Fragments

REEL 33

BOX 47-49

#### News File, 1764-1787

REEL 35-37

Extracts from English newspapers as well as précis of events in Great Britain and America abstracted from newspapers and personal observations.

Chronologically arranged.

BOX 47

London, England, news abstracts

REEL 35

BOX 47

1783-1785

REEL 35

BOX 48

1787

REEL 36

BOX 48

American news abstracts, 1783-1787

REEL 36

BOX 49

Extracts from British newspapers, 1764-1775

REEL 37

BOX 49

Miscellaneous extracts, 1765, undated

REEL 37

BOX 50

#### Newspaper File, 1776

REEL 38

Newspaper clippings from contemporary newspapers relating to America and its war for independence.

BOX 50

Clippings from various newspapers, 1776

REEL 38

BOX 51

#### Expense File, 1792-1794

REEL 38

Receipts, declared accounts, and personal and official expense vouchers of Genet and others while he was minister plenipotentiary to the United States. Also a small quantity of expense accounts incurred by secret agents of Genet working in the southeastern United States.

BOX 51

Legation accounts, secret expenses, 1792-1794

REEL 38

BOX 52-53

#### Miscellany, 1792

REEL 39-40

Mainly newspaper clippings, fragments of letters, undated notes, drafts, extracts, and reports.

BOX 52

Miscellany

REEL 39

BOX 53

Miscellany

REEL 40

BOX 53

Passport, 1792 *See Oversize*

## Oversize, 1792

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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not filmed

**BOX OV 1**  
not filmed

### **Oversize, 1792**

Passport.

Arranged and described according the series and container from which it was removed.

**BOX OV 1**  
not filmed

Miscellany

**BOX OV 1**

Passport, 1792 (Container 53)