Nicholas Biddle

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Allan Teichroew Revised by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2005

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Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms005007

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Nicholas Biddle

Span Dates: 1681-1933 **Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1775-1846)

ID No.: MSS12690

Creator: Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844

Extent: 15,000 items; 133 containers; 39.2 linear feet; 51 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Banker, editor, diplomat, lawyer, and legislator. Correspondence, letterbooks, account books, and writings together

with family papers concerning Charles, Clement, Edward, James, Nicholas, Thomas, and William S. Biddle.

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.

Names:

Biddle, Nicholas, 1786-1844

Biddle, Charles, 1745-1821

Biddle, Clement, 1740-1814

Biddle, Edward, 1738-1779

Biddle, James, 1783-1848

Biddle, Thomas, 1776-1857

Biddle, William S.

Binney, Horace, 1780-1875--Correspondence

Calhoun, John C. (John Caldwell), 1782-1850--Correspondence

Cooper, Thomas, 1759-1839--Correspondence

Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817--Correspondence

Dickins, Asbury, 1780-1861--Correspondence

Hamilton, James, 1786-1857--Correspondence

Ingersoll, Charles Jared, 1782-1862--Correspondence

Lawrence, Abbott, 1792-1855--Correspondence

Lewis, Charles J.--Correspondence

Lieber, Francis, 1800-1872--Correspondence

Livingston, Edward, 1764-1836--Correspondence

McDuffie, George, 1790-1851--Correspondence

McLean, John, 1785-1861--Correspondence

Tyler, John, 1790-1862--Correspondence

Watmough, John G. (John Goddard), 1793-1861--Correspondence

Webster, Daniel, 1782-1852--Correspondence

Bedell family

Pennsylvania. General Assembly

United States. Legation (France)

Bank of the United States (1816-1836)

Princeton University

Port folio (Philadelphia, Pa.: 1801)

Subjects:

Agriculture--Pennsylvania

Diplomatic and consular service, American--France

Universities and colleges--New Jersey

Pennsylvania--Commerce

Pennsylvania--Politics and government--1775-1865

Pennsylvania--Social life and customs United States--Economic policy

Occupations:

Bankers Diplomats Editors Lawyers

Legislators--Pennsylvania

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Nicholas Biddle, banker, editor, diplomat, lawyer, and legislator, were deposited in the Library of Congress by his grandsons, Charles and Edward Biddle, 1913-1914. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1952. Other gifts and purchases were received from 1909 to 1978.

Processing History:

The papers of Nicholas Biddle were bound in 1916 and the collection was microfilmed in 1965. The collection was described and additions to the collection were processed in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

Transfers:

Some pictorial material has been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

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

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on fifty-one reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

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

Biographical Note

Date Event

1786, Jan. 8 Born, Philadelphia, Pa.

1801 Graduated, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.

1804-1806 Secretary to the American legation, Paris, France

1806-1807 Secretary to the American legation, London, England

Admitted to the bar, Philadelphia, Pa.

1811 Married Jane Craig

1819-1821 Director, Bank of the United States

1822-1839 President, Second Bank of the United States (later renamed the United States Bank of Pennsylvania)

1844, Feb. 27 Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Nicholas Biddle (1786-1844) span the years 1681-1933, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1775-1846. The papers pertain primarily to Biddle's career as president of the Bank of the United States, 1822-1839, and cover topics such as the attitude of Congress and the president toward the bank, fiscal operations, and the views of the public regarding the bank. Other material relates to Biddle's student years at Princeton University, his position as secretary of the American legation in Paris, his editorship of and contributions to *Port Folio* magazine, his work as a member of the Pennsylvania legislature, and to business, social affairs, and farming.

The collection also includes family papers, chiefly 1775-1846, concerning Charles, Clement, Edward, James, Thomas, and William S. Biddle. Correspondents include Horace Binney, John C. Calhoun, Thomas Cooper, Alexander James Dallas, Asbury Dickens, James Hamilton (1786-1857), Charles Jared Ingersoll, Abbott Lawrence, Charles J. Lewis, Francis Lieber, Edward Livingston, George McDuffie, John McLean, John Tyler, John G. Watmough, and Daniel Webster.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.
- Letterbooks, 1823-1841.
- Miscellany, 1776-1925, n..d.
- Family Papers, 1681-1933, n.d.

Description of Series

Container Series

BOX 1-113 General Correspondence, 1775-1846, n.d.

REEL 1-41

Correspondence and other papers.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 114-120 <u>Letterbooks, 1823-1841.</u>

REEL 42-46

Letterbooks kept by Biddle while president of the Second Bank of the United States.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 121-123 <u>Miscellany</u>, 1776-1925, n.d.

REEL 47

Correspondence, financial records, notes, and printed matter.

Arranged by type of material.

Family Papers, **1681-1933**, n.d.

REEL 47-51

Correspondence and other material relating to various members of the Biddle Family.

Arranged chronologically.

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Colt, Roswell D., n.d.

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