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Manuscripts and Correspondence of Thomas Jefferson

Herbert R. Strauss Collection of Thomas Jefferson Letters, 1780-1823. A collection of more than 40 letters, both personal and professional, written by Jefferson, including letters to his daughter Martha (“Patsy”), the Marquis de Lafayette, John Jay, and many other important officials. The collection also includes a manuscript survey of land in Virginia by Jefferson. Call numbers: Vault Case MS 6A 79 and Vault Case MS 6A 80

Autograph letter signed, from Alexander von Humboldt, December 26, 1811. Letter written by the German naturalist and explorer to Jefferson, requesting for a second time that ten pounds of tobacco seed from Virginia and four pounds of tobacco from Maryland be procured and sent to him. An indexing note on the verso is in Jefferson’s hand. Call number: Vault box Ayer MS 394

“Memorandums for Mr. Short,” autograph manuscript, ca. September 16, 1788. In this manuscript Jefferson provides advice to William Short, his private secretary in Paris, for Short’s travels in Italy. He also requests favors from Short, including the purchase of books, wine, and a pasta-maker. Call number: Vault Mi


Published Writings by Thomas Jefferson

A Summary View of the Rights of British America... Philadelphia: John Dunlap, 1774. The Philadelphia edition of Jefferson’s instructions to the first Continental Congress’s Virginia delegates. The Newberry also holds the London edition (Call number: Case J 5831 .448). Call number: Vault Case E 211 .J4 1774 or Case J 5831 .447
In Congress, July 4, 1776. A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress Assembled…. Newport (RI): S. Southwick, 1776. One of the broadside printings of the Declaration of Independence printed in July 1776, this one from Rhode Island. The Newberry has many additional early appearances of the Declaration, including its first appearance in a periodical (The Pennsylvania Magazine) and its first appearance in a book (The Genuine Principles of the Ancient Saxon, or English Constitution). Call number: Case broadside E221 .U57 1776


Notes on the state of Virginia. [Paris: 1784]. The first edition of Jefferson’s *magnum opus* and one of the most important American works on political theory, society, and good government, printed for private distribution in an edition of only 200 copies. Three copies are held at the Newberry—most notably, a presentation copy inscribed to John Jay, and with the addition by Jefferson of his “Draught of a Fundamental Constitution for the Commonwealth of Virginia,” “Notes on the Establishment of a Money Unit, and of a Coinage for the United States,” and “Act for Establishing Religious Freedom, Passed in the Assembly of Virginia in the Beginning of the Year 1786.” Call number: Vault Ruggles 193

President Jefferson’s Inaugural speech… [Boston?]: True and Parks, [1805]. A broadside printing of the inaugural address for Jefferson’s second term, delivered on March 4, 1805. This copy is printed on silk. Call number: broadside Ayer 160 .J46 1805

The Writings of Thomas Jefferson. Washington, D.C.: Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association, 1903-05. A 20-volume set of Jefferson’s writings, including works unpublished in his lifetime such as the Autobiography and Anas. Call number: J 0 .4543

From Thomas Jefferson’s Library

Hamilton, Alexander, et al. *The Federalist…* New-York: J. and A. M’Lean, 1788. The Newberry holds eight copies of the first book edition of *The Federalist*, this copy was owned by Thomas Jefferson. It includes a list of the authors of each article as Jefferson understood them, in his handwriting, on the front flyleaf of the first volume. Call number: Vault Ruggles 116

Kerr, Lewis. *An Exposition of the Criminal Laws of the Territory of Orleans…* New Orleans: John Mowry, 1806. Thomas Jefferson’s copy, with his manuscript “T.” before the printed signature “I”, and his manuscript “I.” after the printed signature “T.” Call number: Vault Graff 2313

Lewis, Meriwether. *History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark, to the Sources of the Missouri…* Philadelphia: Bradford and Inskeep, 1814. Thomas Jefferson’s copy of the first authentic history of the Lewis and Clark expedition, also bearing the signatures of former owners William Clark and Julia Clark. Call number: Vault Graff 2478

Quintilian. *M. Fabii Quintiliani oratoris eloquentissimi Institutionum oratoriarum libri XII.* Paris: Rob. Stephani, 1542. Thomas Jefferson’s copy of this work on classical rhetoric and oratory, with his autograph initials on p. 129 and 289. A slip with Jefferson’s autograph notations is also tipped-in at the title page. Call number: Case 5A 650

To find many other items by and about Thomas Jefferson in the Newberry, search for “Jefferson, Thomas” as an author and as a subject heading in the Newberry Library online catalog ([www.newberry.org](http://www.newberry.org)).

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