Collection Summary
Title: Robert Morris Papers
Span Dates: 1734-1839
ID No.: MSS33605
Creator: Morris, Robert, 1734-1806
Extent: 3,200 items; 18 containers plus 1 oversize; 4 linear feet; 12 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Superintendent of finance for the Continental Congress during the Revolution, merchant, land speculator, and statesman. Correspondence, letterbooks, journals and proceedings of the Continental Congress, accounts, and other papers relating to the financing of the American government and its forces during the Revolution and to Morris's private business affairs.

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
Beaumarchais, Pierre Augustin Caron de, 1732-1799.
Morris, Robert, 1734-1806.

Organizations
United States. Continental Congress.
Willing, Morris & Company--Correspondence.

Subjects
Finance, Public--United States--History--To 1789.

Places
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Finance.

Occupations
Capitalists and financiers.
Land speculators.
Merchants.
Statesmen.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Robert Morris, superintendent of finance for the Continental Congress during the Revolution, merchant, land speculator, and statesman, were acquired by purchase from 1901-1997. An addition was given by Lawrence M. C. Smith in 1976.

Processing History
The papers of Robert Morris were processed in preparation for microfilming in 1976. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Robert Morris is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).
Access and Restrictions

The papers of Robert Morris 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 part of these papers is available on twelve 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 as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1734, Jan. 31</td>
<td>Born, Liverpool, England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1769</td>
<td>Married Mary White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1747</td>
<td>Immigrated to Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1754-1779</td>
<td>Partner in firm of Willing, Morris &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1765</td>
<td>Signed non-importation agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1775</td>
<td>Member, Pennsylvania Council of Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1775-1778</td>
<td>Member, Continental Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1776</td>
<td>Signer of the Declaration of Independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1778-1781</td>
<td>Member, Pennsylvania state assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1781-1784</td>
<td>National superintendent of finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785-1787</td>
<td>Member, Pennsylvania state assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Delegate to the Constitutional Convention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1789-1795</td>
<td>United States senator from Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1798-1801</td>
<td>Imprisoned for debt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Morris (1734-1806) span the years 1734-1839, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1775-1784. The collection consists of correspondence, letterbooks, journals and proceedings of the Continental Congress, business and financial accounts, and other papers. Most of the public papers relate to the financing of the American government and its forces during the Revolution. Included in the collection are the account rendered by Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais to Congress in 1782, copies of Morris's official letters, and his private business papers such as correspondence of the Philadelphia shipping firm of Willing, Morris & Company. The papers are organized into seven series: Diary, Office of Finance; Official Letterbooks, Private Letterbooks; Congressional Proceedings; Miscellaneous Unbound Papers; Addition.; and Oversize.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- Diary, Office of Finance, 1781-1784
- Official Letterbooks, 1781-1784
- Private Letterbooks, 1794-1798
- Congressional Proceedings, 1782-1784
- Miscellaneous Unbound Papers, 1776-1829
- Addition, 1734-1839
- Oversize, 1776-1782
### Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-3</td>
<td>Diary, Office of Finance, 1781-1784</td>
<td>Bound diaries. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 1-2</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 4-10</td>
<td>Official Letterbooks, 1781-1784</td>
<td>Copies of official letters sent. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 3-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REEL 9-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 16</td>
<td>Congressional Proceedings, 1782-1784</td>
<td>Bound volumes of the proceedings of the Continental Congress. Arranged</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 11</td>
<td></td>
<td>chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 17</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Unbound Papers, 1776-1829</td>
<td>Correspondence, reports, and miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically</td>
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<tr>
<td>REEL 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 18</td>
<td>Addition, 1734-1839</td>
<td>Originals and reproductions of correspondence and miscellaneous material,</td>
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<tr>
<td>not filmed</td>
<td></td>
<td>wills, printed matter, and other items. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Oversize, 1776-1782</td>
<td>Miscellaneous correspondence. Described according to the series from which</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not filmed</td>
<td></td>
<td>its was removed and arranged chronologically.</td>
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## Container List

Microfilm shelf no. 13,219 (negative shelf no. 8,765)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BOX 1-3**  
**REEL 1-2** | Diary, Office of Finance, 1781-1784  
Bound diaries.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| **BOX 1**  
**REEL 1** | Vol. 1, 1781, Feb. 7-1782, Mar. 5 |
| **BOX 2**  
**REEL 1** | Vol. 2, 1782, Mar. 8-1782, May 21 |
| **BOX 3**  
**REEL 2** | Vol. 3, 1783, May 22-1784, Sept. 20 |
| **BOX 4-10**  
**REEL 3-8** | Official Letterbooks, 1781-1784  
Copies of official letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| **BOX 4**  
**REEL 3** | Vol. A, 1781, Mar. 13-1781, Sept. 29 |
| **BOX 5**  
| **BOX 6**  
**REEL 5** | Vol. C, 1782, Jan. 2-1782, July 2 |
| **BOX 7**  
| **BOX 8**  
**REEL 7** | Vol. E, 1782, Dec. 12-1783, July 28 |
| **BOX 9**  
**REEL 8** | Vol. F, 1783, July 28-1784, Feb. 17 |
| **BOX 10**  
**REEL 8** | Vol. G, 1784, Feb. 17-1784, Nov. 1 |
| **BOX 11-15**  
**REEL 9-10** | Private Letterbooks, 1794-1798  
Copies of private business letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| **BOX 11**  
**REEL 9** | Vol. 1, part 1, 1794, Dec. 22-1795, July 24 |
| **BOX 12**  
**REEL 9** | Vol.1, part 2, 1795, July 25-1796, May 20 |
| **BOX 13**  
**REEL 10** | Vol. 2, part 1, 1796, May 21-1797, Mar. 30 |
| **BOX 14**  
**REEL 10** | Vol. 2, part 2, 1797, April 1-1797, Oct. 24 |
### Congressional Proceedings, 1782-1784

Bound volumes of the proceedings of the Continental Congress. Arranged chronologically.

- Vol. 14, 1782, Jan. 25-1783, Feb. 10
- Vol. 15, 1783, Feb. 18-1784, May 11

### Miscellaneous Unbound Papers, 1776-1829

Correspondence, reports, and miscellaneous material. Arranged chronologically.

- 1776-1829, undated [See also Oversize](#)

### Addition, 1734-1839

Originals and reproductions of correspondence and miscellaneous material, wills, printed matter, and other items. Arranged by type of material.

- Original correspondence and miscellaneous material, 1777-1839
- Reproductions of correspondence and miscellaneous material, 1734-1801, undated
- Wills, notebook
- Morris, Robert
- Morris, Mary
- Nixon, Maria
- Nixon, Hetty
- Printed material
- Deed Account of Morris’s property
- Land title
- Lists and indexes of Morris’s papers while owned by General Meredith Read

### Oversize, 1776-1782

Miscellaneous correspondence. Described according to the series from which its was removed and arranged chronologically.

- Miscellaneous Unbound Papers (Container 17)
- 1776-1782, Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais to Morris, and statements of accounts (letter dated 1782, June 3)
### Oversize, 1776-1782

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>1776, Mar. 6, miscellaneous letters sent from Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>1777, Jan. 23, Livingston, Abram, to Morris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>1780, Sept. 2, Elbridge Gerry to Morris,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>1780 1781, June 15, draft of letter intended for Morris but not sent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>1782, Aug 2, William Durer to Morris, 1782, Aug. 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>