Autograph Collection of Lawrence F. Bower: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Autograph Collection of Lawrence F. Bower
Dates (inclusive): 1802-1904
Collection Number: mssHM 14000-14061
Collector: Bower, Lawrence F.
Extent: 63 pieces in 1 box

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Abstract: This collection consists of a small group of unrelated letters collected for their autograph values by Lawrence F. Bower around 1889 and specializing in naval and military officers (particularly rear admirals), of the War of 1812 and the Civil War.

Language: English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation

Provenance
Purchased as Lot 18 in the American Art Association sale of January 9, 1923.

Biographical Note
Lawrence F. Bower began his autograph collection around 1889 specializing in naval and military officers of the War of 1812 and the Civil War. He wrote personally to many of the officers still living in the 1890s requesting their autographs.

Scope and Content
This collection consists of a small group of unrelated letters collected for their autograph values by Lawrence F. Bower around 1889 and specializing in naval and military officers (particularly rear admirals), of the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Bower wrote personally to many of the retired Civil War officers who were living in the last decade of the nineteenth century, requesting their autographs, and, in addition, collected a few letters of historical value. Judging from the contents of the answers to these requests, Mr. Bower was only a boy at the time.

The letters addressed to Bower, which comprise 34 pieces, or over one-half of the collection, are dated from 1889 to 1904; while the items of historical value (28 pieces) cover quite evenly the period of 1802-1898, with the exception of a gap between 1829 and 1855.

The autographs include:
- Bainbridge, William
- Barney, Joshua
- Boyd, John Parker
- Chaille-Long, Charles
- Du Pont, Samuel Francis
- Franklin, Samuel Rhoads
- Harmar, Josiah
- Howard, Oliver Otis
- Hull, Isaac
Johnson, Bradley Tyler
Johnston, Joseph Eggleston
Lane, James Henry
Longstreet, James
MacDonough, Thomas
Meade, George Gordon
Meigs, Josiah
Melville, George Wallace
Perry, Matthew Calbraith
Perry, Oliver Hazard
Pope, John
Porter, David
Porter, David Dixon
Preble, George Henry
Rodgers, Christopher Raymond Perry
Scott, Winfield
Sheridan, Philip Henry
Sigel, Franz

Note: Individuals represented only by letters addressed to Bower which are of interest only for the autograph, have been omitted.

Notable items include:

Bainbridge, William (1774-1833) To Benjamin Williams Crownishield, Secretary of the Navy, in support of the application of Alexander Gordon for a midshipman's warrant 1817, Aug 1
Barney, Joshua (1759-1818) List of papers concerning his claims against the French government, etc., with instructions for his agent 1802, July 9
Chaille-Long, Charles (1842-1917) To F P >Noble, Secretary of the World's Congress Auxiliary at Chicago, referring to his article on The Origin and Progress of African Exploration and Discovery... 1893, July 3
Franklin, Samuel Rhoads (1825-1909) To Capt Smith of the U.S.S Bermuda, instructing him to transfer his passengers and stores for New Orleans to another ship and proceed to the coast of Texas 1865, Jan 31
MacDonough, Thomas (1783-1825) To Raymond Perry, referring to the distribution of the Lake Champlain prize money 1815, Sep 1
Meigs, Josiah (1757-1822), and Stephen Decatur (1779-1820) To James Monroe, then Secretary of State, recommending Col Samuel Green, editor of the Connecticut Gazette, as the publisher of the laws of the United States in Connecticut 1816, Feb 22
Perry, Oliver Hazard (1785-1819) To William Sanford Rogers, giving news of war activities in Newport harbor 1812, Dec 15

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Autographs -- Collectors and collecting -- United States.
United States -- History -- War of 1812 -- Sources.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Sources.

Forms/Genres
Collections United States.
Letters (correspondence) United States.

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