

## **Autograph Collection of Lawrence F. Bower: Finding Aid**

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The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens

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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

**Repository:** The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department

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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

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### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. Autograph Collection of Lawrence F. Bower, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

### 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

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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 Crownshield, 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**

United States. Army -- Officers -- 19th century -- Autographs.

United States. Navy -- Officers -- 19th century -- Autographs.

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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Box 1

**mssHM 14000-14061**

