

**Sylvanus Bourne Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2003**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79013367>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009055>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Sylvanus Bourne Papers

**Span Dates:** 1775-1859

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1800-1815)

**ID No.:** MSS13367

**Creator:** Bourne, Sylvanus, 1761-1817

**Extent:** 4100 items

**Extent:** 39 containers

**Extent:** 6.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English and French

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79013367>

**Summary:** Massachusetts businessman and United States consul in Santo Domingo (1790-1791) and in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (1794-1817). Drafts and photocopies of Bourne's personal and diplomatic correspondence, business and commercial papers, a scrapbook, and account books. Consists primarily of correspondence relating to commerce between the United States and European countries, primarily France and Great Britain, and United States foreign relations and politics. Other material concerns Bourne's business in Massachusetts and the Bourne family.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Correspondence.

Alexander, Lawson--Correspondence.

Bourne family--Correspondence.

Bourne, Sylvanus, 1761-1817.

Codman, Richard, 1762-1806--Correspondence.

Curtis, George Rix--Correspondence.

Forbes, John Murray, 1771-1831--Correspondence.

Forman, Joseph, active 1800--Correspondence.

Gregory, George John--Correspondence.

Harris, Levett--Correspondence.

Maury, James, 1746-1840--Correspondence.

Mountflorencia, James C.--Correspondence.

Murray, William Vans, 1760-1803--Correspondence.

Pitcairn, Joseph--Correspondence.

Ridgway, J. (Jacob)--Correspondence.

Robertson, J., active 1803--Correspondence.

Rohan, H.--Correspondence.

Russell, Jonathan, 1771-1832--Correspondence.

Swan, James, 1820-1895--Correspondence.

Warden, David Bailie, 1772-1845--Correspondence.

Worsdell, William--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Netherlands.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic)

### Places

Europe--Commerce--United States.

France--Commerce--United States.

Great Britain--Commerce--United States.

Massachusetts--Commerce.  
United States--Commerce--Europe.  
United States--Commerce--France.  
United States--Commerce--Great Britain.  
United States--Commerce--History--19th century.  
United States--Foreign relations--1783-1865.  
United States--Politics and government--1783-1865.

### **Occupations**

Businessmen.  
Diplomats.

## **Provenance**

The papers of Sylvanus Bourne, businessman and United States consul in Santo Domingo and in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1903, 1952, and 1966.

## **Copyright Status**

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

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Sylvanus Bourne 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.

## **Preferred Citation**

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

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Sylvanus Bourne (1761-1817) span the years 1775-1859 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1800 to 1815. The papers consist of drafts and photocopies of Bourne's personal and diplomatic correspondence, business and commercial papers, a scrapbook, and account books.

The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between Bourne and other American consular officers in European ports relating to commerce between the United States and European countries, primarily France and Great Britain. Bourne's correspondence addresses depredations on American commerce and includes letters from his colleagues in other European cities. Among the correspondents are Lawson Alexander, Richard Codman, George Rix Curtis, John Murray Forbes, Joseph Forman, George John Gregory, Levett Harris, James Maury, Joseph Pitcairn, J. Ridgway, J. Robertson, H. Rohan, and William Worsdell. Other correspondents include John Quincy Adams, James C. Mountfloreance, William Vans Murray, Jonathan Russell, James Swan, and David Bailie Warden.

Other topics concern United States foreign relations and politics and Bourne's business in Massachusetts. The collection also includes family correspondence and a scrapbook with material relating to Thomas Jefferson, Tobias Lear, and George Washington.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

Almost all of the material in this collection has been bound in volumes arranged chronologically.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Bound volumes
BOX 1	1775, Oct. 10-1792, Jan. 15
BOX 2	1792, Jan. 19-1795, Nov. 24
BOX 3	1795, Nov. 25-1797, Jan. 27
BOX 4	1797, Jan. 30-Nov. 20
BOX 5	1797, Nov. 22-1798, Oct. 1
BOX 6	1798, Oct. 4-1799, Dec. 6
BOX 7	1799, Dec. 7-1800, Aug. 1
BOX 8	1800, Aug. 2-1801, Jan. 26
BOX 9	1801, Jan. 27-Apr. 27
BOX 10	1801, Apr. 28-Aug. 10
BOX 11	1801, Aug. 11-1802, Mar. 2
BOX 12	1802, Mar. 6-Dec. 10
BOX 13	1802, Dec. 13-1803, Nov. 3
BOX 14	1803, Nov. 3-1804, Mar. 9
BOX 15	1804, Mar. 11-Aug. 1
BOX 16	1804, Aug. 2-Nov. 12
BOX 17	1804, Nov. 13-1805, Mar. 26
BOX 18	1805, Mar. 27-July 21
BOX 19	1805, July 22-Dec. 22
BOX 20	1805, Dec. 23-1806, July 11
BOX 21	1806, July 12-1807, Jan. 7
BOX 22	1807, Jan. 17-July 22
BOX 23	1807, July 23-Oct. 19
BOX 24	1807, Oct. 20-1808, Jan. 8
BOX 25	1808, Jan. 9-May 19
BOX 26	1808, May 21-1809, Apr. 7
BOX 27	1809, Apr. 10-Aug. 2
BOX 28	1809, Aug. 3-Sept. 24
BOX 29	1809, Sept. 25-1810, Apr. 10
BOX 30	1810, Apr. 17-1811, July 2
BOX 31	1811, July 3-Dec. 8
BOX 32	1811, Dec. 11-1812, Nov. 28
BOX 33	1812, Nov. 30-1815, Jan. 5
BOX 34	1815, Jan. 9-1816, Jan. 22
BOX 35	1816, Jan. 26-1859, Apr. 1
BOX 36-38	Undated
BOX 39	Unbound material
BOX 39	Account books, 1799-1813, undated (3 folders)
BOX 39	General, 1791-1826, undated

## Container List

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 39

Notebook, undated

BOX 39

Scrapbook, undated