

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 84 M 86

Location

ANNEX
27-f-112

Title Benjamin Franklin Grauer. Collection of French historical manuscripts,

Approximate inclusive dates 17th-20th cent. Bulk dates: 1789-1900's

Date of receipt Mar. 2, 1984

Received from Mrs. Ben Grauer
(via Museum of Broadcasting)

Volume on arrival 4 cartons

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 6 RC; 1/2 AB

Condition One carton and 1/2 box of manuscripts have been damaged by water and mold and must be treated in the thymol chamber; otherwise in good condition.

Restrictions None

Description Benjamin Franklin Grauer (1907-77) was a prominent news analyst and radio and television broadcaster. For most of his professional career he was associated with NBC where he covered many of the major news events of the times. In the mid-1960's Grauer assembled by purchases from auction houses in France and England his collection of mainly French historical manuscripts. Apparently his tastes as a collector were not sharply focused for his purchases were made in bulk by the lot, cover a wide span of time and subject matter, and consist mostly of manuscripts of very minor figures in French literary, cultural, social, academic, and administrative/governmental life.

The collection consists of some 10,000 manuscript letters, documents and papers including printed ephemera, mainly of French origin, but including a few English, Italian and Arabic items. The manuscripts fall in the period from the 17th to the 20th centuries with most of the material concentrated in the period from the French Revolution to the early 20th century. Approximately one-half of the collection (including water-damaged materials) is unsorted. The sorted manuscripts consist of a name file and a subject file. Included in the name file are manuscripts of writers, scholars, journalists, clergymen, academicians, artists, political and military figures, and governmental officials. Many of the items have been identified by the dealer who has given the name dates and profession of the author of the manuscript in its upper left hand margin. Included are manuscripts by Jérôme Adolphe Blanqui (1798-1854), Jean François Boissonade (1774-1857), Michel Chevalier (1806-79), Jean Joseph Dessoles (1767-1828), Nicolas Louis François (1750-1828), Charles Louis Freycinet (1828-1923), François Guizot (1787-1874), Jacques François Halévy (1799-1862), François Christophe Kellerman (1735-1820), Louis Philippe (1763-1850), Jules Michelet (1798-1874), Emile Ollivier (1825-1913), Nicolas Charles Oudinot (1767-1847), Léon Say (1826-96), and Ary Scheffer (1795-1858). Included is a lengthy manuscript by

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries
Autographs-Collections
Autographs-Collectors and collecting
France-History
Italy-History-19th century
Manuscripts, Arabic
Manuscripts, English
Manuscripts, French
Manuscripts, Italian

Each name listed in catalog card entry

Accessioned by

W. S. Stein

Date

12/19/84

ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 84 M 86

Title Benjamin Franklin Grauer Collection...

Description (cont'd.)

- 2 -

Henri Moulin of the Paris bar containing biographical sketches of members of the French Academy. The manuscript is written on the verso of legal correspondence received by Moulin during the 1840's - 1860's. Three groups of manuscript letters addressed to Felix Desvernay, Dureau de la Malle, and Charles Fournier have been filed under their respective names as recipients of the letters. The subject file contains manuscripts filed under record type, place name of general subject heading. Subjects include certificates, diplomas, estate papers, France (1st and 2nd Empires, Restoration), French Revolution, medicine, mercantile papers and tax bills. The English autograph manuscripts (one folder) include manuscripts by Sir Arthur John Evans (1851-1941), Anthony Vandyke Fielding (1787-1855), Lord Palmerston (1785-1865), Sir William Sidney Smith (1764-1840), and Sir David Wilkie (1785-1841). There is one letter (1831 by Aaron Burr, the American politician. The Italian manuscripts (four folders) include manuscripts by Filippo Agricola (1776-1857), Cardinal Benedetto Barberini (1788-1863), Giuseppe Bossi (1758-1823), Luigi Bossi (1758-1835), and Luigi Lambruschini (1776-1854). The water and mold damaged manuscripts cannot be sorted until they have been treated. The printed ephemera include flyers, pamphlets, reports and minutes of the French National Assembly and other administrative bodies during the period of the Revolution, invitations, menus, programmes, menus, posters, and engravings.

The Benjamin Franklin Grauer Collection
of French Historical Manuscripts

Container No.

1. Name file, A-M
2. Name file, M-W
Subject file, Anatomy-French Rev.
3. Subject file, Lambelle -Tax bills
English autograph manuscripts
Italian autograph manuscripts
Arabic autograph manuscripts
4. Unsorted manuscripts
- 5-6 Water and mold damaged manuscripts
7. Printed ephemera (for 303)