McAllister Family Collection of Godfrey Weber Papers MSS00041 McA 028

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Library Company of Philadelphia

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Summary Information

Repository:	Library Company of Philadelphia
Creator:	Weber, Godfrey, d. 1862
Title:	McAllister Family Collection of Godfrey Weber Papers
ID:	MSS00041 McA 028
Date [inclusive]:	1802-1844
Physical Description:	0.2 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English, French
Abstract:	This collection holds correspondence and documents related to the personal and professional life of a Philadelphia merchant. Weber was the executor of the estate of Peter Anthony Blénon, and the collection includes records from that estate.

Preferred Citation

This collection should be cited as: [indicate specific item or series here], McAllister Family Collection of Godfrey Weber Papers (MSS00041 McA 028), Library Company of Philadelphia.

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Biographical / Historical

Godfrey Weber (d. 1862) was a merchant in Philadelphia. Born Christian Godfrey Weber in Strasbourg, France, he first appeared in the Philadelphia directories in 1820 as Godfrey Weber, a merchant at 160½ South Second Street. In 1833 his description and location changed to an importer of French goods at 68 South Third Street. The compendium Memoirs and Auto-biography of some of the Wealthy Citizens of Philadelphia (1846) describes Godfrey Weber & Co. as "Importers of French and other goods. Adopted citizens." with a net worth of $50,000. At the end of his life, Weber was listed as a dry goods merchant and was living at 635 Pine Street.

The donor of the papers, John A. McAllister (1822-1896), was an antiquarian collector living in Philadelphia. Godfrey Weber and his wife Christianna (d. 1867) were the grandparents of

McAllister's wife Annette Steinbrenner (1832-1926); the McAllisters are buried with the Weber and Steinbrenner families in Woodlands Cemetery, Philadelphia.

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Scope and Contents

The Godfrey Weber Papers are arranged in two series: Correspondence, and Documents.

Series I, Correspondence (1842-1843) holds letters that relate to Weber's business interests. There are three letters from Pennsylvania representative Joseph Reed Ingersoll (1786-1868), one of which replied to Weber's letter regarding silk duties. One letter is unsigned and unattributed; written in December 1842, it is addressed to President John Tyler and recommends the appointment of Henry Mahler of New York to the position of United States Consul at Zurich. It is filed with the Weber material based on a letter from Ingersoll to Weber saying that he had forwarded Weber's recommendation to the secretary of state along with an endorsement of Weber's character. Mahler was appointed to the post as the country's first consul to Switzerland, and served there from 1843-1844.

Series II, Documents (1802-1844) mostly pertains to the estate of a doctor and druggist, Peter Anthony Blénon (1759-circa 1836), for whom Godfrey Weber was an executor. A native of Sens in the Burgundy region of France, Pierre Antoine Blénon became an American citizen in 1798, and was a resident of Hamilton Village in West Philadelphia. He left a large part of his estate to "Institutions of Charity and Benifence" in the city of Philadelphia. Included in the papers is a set of refunding bonds signed by each of the thirty-two organizations, which bear a collection of beautiful institutional seals. Other documents in the series are a receipt book that records payments made from the Blénon estate between July 1836 and February 1844, two of Weber's French passports, and two of his French military conscription forms.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of John A. McAllister; 13984.F

Processing Information

The Godfrey Weber Papers were formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The papers were reunited, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2006, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The collection was processed by Sandra Markham. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this finding aid do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Conditions Governing Use

This collection is open for research use.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Passports
- Military records
- Legal documents
- Charities--Pennsylvania--Philadelphia
- Blénon, Peter Anthony, 1759-approximately 1836
- Ingersoll, Joseph R. (Joseph Reed), 1786-1868
- Preston Retreat

Collection Inventory

Series I. Correspondence, 1842-1843

Title/Description	Instances	
Ingersoll, Joseph Reed, Washington, 1842-1843	Box 1	Folder 1

Syz, Jean G., Philadelphia, 1842 Oct 17	Box 1	Folder 2
Unsigned letter to John Tyler, 1842 Dec	Box 1	Folder 3

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Series II. Documents, 1802-1844

Title/Description	Instances	
Conscription certificates and passports, 1802-1810	Box 1	Folder 4
Bill from Charles Chauncey, for services, 1839 Oct 14	Box 1	Folder 5
Blenon Estate - Receipt Book, 1836-1844	Box 1	Folder 6
Blenon Estate - Preston Retreat resolution and receipt, 1843	Box 1	Folder 7
Blenon Estate - Refunding bonds, 1843	Box 1	Folder 8

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