

# William Maclay Journals and Note

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.  
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## Collection Summary

Title: William Maclay Journals and Note

Span Dates: 1789-1791

ID No.: MSS93948

Creator: Maclay, William, 1737-1804

Extent: 4 items; 3 containers; .4 linear feet; 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: United States senator from Pennsylvania, lawyer, and jurist. Three volumes (later published) of a journal kept by MacLay as a senator in the first United States Congress and one note to John Nicholson.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Personal Names

Coxe, Tench, 1755-1824--Correspondence.

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804.

Maclay, William, 1737-1804.

Meredith, Samuel, 1741-1817--Correspondence.

Nicholson, John, 1757-1800--Correspondence.

Peters, Richard, 1744-1828--Correspondence.

Rush, Benjamin, 1746-1813--Correspondence.

Steuben, Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin, Baron von, 1730-1794.

### Organizations

Bank of the United States (1791-1811)

Mint of the United States.

United States. Congress (1st: 1789-1791)

United States. Congress--History.

### Subjects

Courts--United States.

Debts, External.

Debts, Public.

Finance--United States.

Tariff--United States.

### Locations

United States--Foreign relations--1789-1797.

United States--Politics and government--1789-1797.

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

### Occupations

Jurists.

Lawyers.

Senators, U.S. Congress--Pennsylvania.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The journals of William Maclay, United States senator from Pennsylvania, lawyer, and jurist, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1941. One item was given to the Library by Simon Gratz in 1919.

### Additional Guides:

Maclay's journal has been edited by Kenneth R. Bowling and Helen E. Veit in *The Diary of William Maclay and Other Notes on Senate Debates* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988) as volume IX of the *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress, 1789-1791*.

### Copyright Status:

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

### Access and Restrictions:

The papers of William Maclay 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.

### Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on one reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

### Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William Maclay Journals and Note, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Maclay (1737-1804) span the years 1789-1791 and consist of a three-volume journal and a note to John Nicholson. The journal details Maclay's experiences as a senator from Pennsylvania in the first United States Congress. Maclay described legislative and procedural debates relating to questions such as protocol for ceremonies, relations between the House and the Senate, the tariff of 1789, the judiciary bill, compensation for members of Congress, Baron von Steuben's accounts, assumption of state debts, Alexander Hamilton's report on public credit, the creation of a national bank, and the establishment of a national mint. Also included are personal observations and accounts of social life of members of Congress. The first volume includes drafts of letters to Tench Coxe, Samuel Meredith, Richard Peters, and Benjamin Rush.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Journal
REEL 1	
BOX 1	1789, Apr. 24-Dec. 22
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1789, Dec. 30-1790, Dec. 31
REEL 1	
BOX 3	1791, Jan. 1-Mar. 3
REEL 1	
BOX 3	Note, 1790
Not filmed	