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THOMAS CLARKSON PAPERS  
Collection 17-1

Prepared & Revised by:  
Wilda D. Logan  
June 1980

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

## Scope Note

The Thomas Clarkson papers span « linear foot and cover the years 1814 to 1846. The papers were acquired by the Center through purchase.

The correspondence deals mainly with Clarkson's international efforts in connection with the abolition of slavery. Correspondents to the English philanthropist and abolitionist include Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton (1786-1845), Lewis Tappan (1788-1878) and Robert Vaux (1786-1836). Several letters are addressed to Clarkson's wife, Mrs. Catherine Clarkson.

Many letters bear notes in Clarkson's handwriting and a single autographed item is also included. Highlights of the Thomas Clarkson papers are several newspaper clippings. One of them is an editorial by the Supreme Court Chief Justice John Jay on the annexation of Texas into statehood and the consequence of annexation on slavery. There are also two detailed clippings, one half page each, on anti-slavery meetings both dated in the early 1800's.

## Biographical Sketch

Thomas Clarkson 1760, March 28	Born in Wisbeach, England, son of Rev. John Clarkson.
1783	B.A. from St. John's College in Cambridge, England.
1787	Formed a committee with Granville Sharpe and other outstanding English abolitionists for the suppression of the slave trade.
1789	Traveled to Paris to persuade the French Government to abolish the slave trade.
1790-1791	Traveled throughout England to obtain witnesses to give evidence on behalf of suppression of the slave trade before Parliament.
1794-1805	Retired from active anti-slavery activities due to ill-health.
180	Resumed work and toured English countryside in a campaign to and slavery.
1823	Served as vice-president of the Anti-Slavery Society for abolition of slavery in the west Indies.
1840	Delivered last public address at the Anti-Slavery Convention held in Finsbury Hall.
1846, September 26	Died at Playford Hall near Ipswich, England.

Source: *Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford) Vol. IV, pp. 454-456.

## Series Description

**Series A**  
Box 17-1

### **Correspondence**

Letters, chiefly between Clarkson and correspondents interested in the abolition of slavery; several of the letters are addressed to Mrs. Clarkson.

**Series B**  
Box 17-1

### **Memorabilia**

Include an autograph of Thomas Clarkson; clippings, one on the annexation of Texas into statehood, and two clippings on anti-slavery meetings in the early 1800's; envelope covers and a statement in French dated 1817.

## Container List

<b>Series A</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
Box	Folder
17-1	1 Correspondence - Ashley to Buxton
	2 Correspondence - Chapman to East
	3 Correspondence - Gibson to Gonsalvey
	4 Correspondence - Gafton to Metcalf
	5 Correspondence - Murray to Morys
	6 Correspondence - Pearson to Sturge
	7 Correspondence - Tappan to Turckheim
	8 Correspondence - Vaux to Wylie
	9 Incomplete Signatures
	Other Correspondence
	10 Murray, John B. to Mrs. Catherine Clarkson
	11 Vincent, Gen. to Mrs. Clarkson
	12 Wright, Henry to Mrs. Clarkson
<b>Series B</b>	<b>Memorabilia</b>
	13 Autograph
	14 Clippings
	15 Clarkson Covers
	16 Duprey, Baron - Statement

