

Scope and Content

The James Monroe Papers consist of two series, **Correspondence (1772–1836)** and **Writings (1785–1831)**. The **Correspondence** is largely political, focusing on constitutional issues; Monroe's tenure as minister plenipotentiary to France; Virginia politics; treaty negotiations with Great Britain, France and Spain; and also domestic issues including slave trade and the spread of slavery in the United States, internal improvements, and the Bank of the United States. Also discussed are foreign policy and war issues concurrent with Monroe's duties as secretary of state and secretary of war during the War of 1812 and as president of the United States. Correspondents include John Quincy Adams, John Jacob Astor, Andrew Jackson, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Timothy Pickering, and Fulwar Skipwith.

The **Writings** contain manuscripts of Monroe's autobiography and also of *The People, The Sovereign*; *Some Observations on the Constitution*; and *A View of the Conduct of the Executive*. Also included are notes, drafts of speeches and articles on foreign and domestic policy, draft of treaties with Great Britain and Spain, a rough draft of a proposed Bill of Rights, and copies of Monroe's cipher and the Jefferson-Monroe cipher.