Stephen Grellet Papers, 1796-1955 (bulk 1796-1833)

Ms. Coll. 967
ca. 60 items (1 box)

Table of contents
- Biographical background
- Links to images
- Summary of collection
- Related collections
- Arrangement and description of collection

Biographical background
Stephen Grellet (1773-1855), the Quaker minister and missionary, was a native of France. Grellet came to the America in 1795 and joined Friends the following year. He traveled extensively in the ministry, visiting the southern U.S. in 1800 and Haiti in 1816. Grellet made four trips to Europe during the years 1807-1834.

(Source for biographical information: Dictionary of Quaker Biography)

Links to images
The following brings together all of the image links found within this finding aid.

Page 1 of ALS of Stephen Grellet, New York, 5th mo. 21, 1821, addressed to "Dear Brother" [Daniel B. Smith]. Letter discusses use of book of scriptural lessons in Russia. Page 2 (each approx. 60k)

Summary of collection
Letters, diary fragments and other miscellaneous papers. Material is primarily related to Grellet's travels in Europe, Russia and Haiti as a Quaker missionary. Topics discussed include his spiritual life, meetings with leaders of various religious denominations in Europe and with Friends and other religious sects (Saints), visits to schools, prisons, poor houses and hospitals during his travels, visits with various members of European aristocracy, Russian nobility and Pope Pius VII (1819) and the social and religious situation in Haiti (1816).

Related collections
Additional Stephen Grellet material may be found in: Moses Brown papers, 1815-1911 (Ms. Coll. 1024); George Vaux Collection of correspondence and documents, 1659-1914 (Ms. Coll. 1167).

Arrangement and description of collection
Generally arranged chronologically in 17 folders. Most of this material is in the form of handwritten transcripts. There are two autograph letters of Grellet's in folder 10.

Contents of box follows:

(following three items are not in folders)

- paper weight made from part of Stephen Grellet's hearthstone, with label "I wonder whether A.M. Taylor would value a paper weight made of a piece of Stephen Grellet's hearth stone. It is a piece of the front parlor hearth by which S.G. usually sat, where he received his frds."
- note "Diaries, letters and papers relating to Stephen Grellet some original and mostly copied. Gift of ..., July 1918" with note added "Class of 1901."
- envelope labeled "Relics of Stephen Grellet (not catalogued) (from the estate of ..."

Folders:
1. "1796" Diary fragment
   12 p. ms. copy from 5 mo., 27, 1796 to 10 mo. 8, [1796] of extracts from his diary, primarily of a spiritual nature
2. "1804" Diary fragment
   2 p. ms. copy [this sheet has "93" as p. number on one side and "94" on other side, also penciled note "Chapter VI"]
3. "1807" Diary fragment and extracts from letters
   12 p. ms. copy titled "Extracts from letters 1807- also Diary during S. Grellet's voyage to France-" Diary fragment, 6 mo. 11 - 11 mo. 19, [1807]
4. "1813-1814" extracts and copies of letters
   (5 items: ms. copies of letters written while on European trip of 1811-1814) includes:
   - extract from letter "Zurich 12 mo. 26th 1813"
"Nuremberg 1 mo. 22, 1814" [2 copies]


ms. copy "A circumstance related by Stephen Grellet after his first voyage to Europe of a man now residing in the South of France, his name forgotten." n.d.

ms. copy of above with slightly different title introducing it, inscribed "copied for E. & A. Guest 3d mo. 17th 1815"

topics:

- meetings with ministers of Reformed church in Zurich and Paris
- meetings with ministers of Lutheran church
- meetings with Lutherans in their church
- visit to Protestant schools
- religious and spiritual reflections

5. "1816" letters while visiting Haiti

(7 items: letters, some ms. copies) includes letters of Stephen Grellet to:

- William Allen from Port au Prince 17th of 8 mo. 1816 inscribed "Copy" at top of page, inscribed on back that it's a copy made by Rebecca Grellet and mailed to William Allen
- ms. copy of above letter without note by Rebecca Grellet but probably in her hand
- 2 additional copies of above [not by RG]
- ms. copy "Extract of a letter from Stephen Grellet to George Stacey dated New York, 29th of 10th month 1816"
- 2 additional copies of above

topics:

- Grellet's favorable reception in Haiti
- need for general education and school teachers, books, etc.
- Grellet speaks to a group of soldiers
- his illness while in Haiti
- the president of Haiti

6. "Bonapianola, L."

ALS addressed to "Mon tres cher ami" from "Naples 28th of December 1819" in French

7. "1818" Diary fragment and copies of letters

Diary fragment, 8 mo. 15, 1818- [8 mo.] 27, [1818?] (ms. copy)

ms. copies of 7 letters written while on European trip of 1818-1820 [Norway and Sweden]

includes:

- SG to Robert Forster, from Tamangur[?] 9 mo. 2, 1818
- " [?] dated Dram, 9 mo. 20, 1818
- " [?] * * * * * * * [slightly different text from above version]
- " [?]" Petersburg, 11 mo. 13 [1818?]
- " [?]" 12 mo. 16, 1818
- " and Wm. Allen to the King of Sweden, dated 10 mo. 25, 1818
- extract of a letter of SG dated 12 mo. 18, 1818

topics:

- meetings with priests
- visits with Friends at Christiana and Stavangar who endure much from their relatives, etc. because of their beliefs
- visits with Saints [a sect]
- visits with members of the aristocracy
- visits to prisons, schools, poor-houses
- toleration of other religions [in letter to the King of Sweden]

8. "1819" extracts and copies of letters

(8 items: ms. copies of letters written while on European trip of 1818-1820)

includes:

- "Continuation of a narrative of the religious labours visit of Stephen Grellet and William Allen on the continent of Europe." [18 p., tied together]
- "extract of a letter from Stephen Grellet, dated Moscow 8 of 4 mo. 1819"
- "extract of a letter from Stephen Grellet, dated Odessa, 1st of 7th month, 1819"
- [extract of letter] dated Constantiinople 7 mo. 19, 1819 [2 p., tied together]
- "extracts of a letter from Stephen Grellet dated Rome 11th mo. 25, 1819" [14 p., tied together]
- "extracts of a letter from S. Grellet dated Rome 4th of 12th mo. 1819" [pages numbered 14-22, tied together]
- "extract of a letter from Stephen Grellet dated Leghorn, 18th of 12th mo. 1819" [pages numbered 23-25]
- "extracts of a letter from S. Grellet Venice 28th of 12th mo. 1819" [pages numbered 27-33, tied together]

topics:

- visits to prisons, hospitals, poor-houses
- visits to archbishops, Russian nobility, the Pope
- describes settlers in the Crimea
- describes different sects

9. "1820" copies of letters

(6 items: ms. copies of letters written while on European trip of 1818-1820)

includes:

- letter of SG to Mary Allen and Josiah Forster, dated Munich, 8th of 1st mo., 1820 [pages numbered 35-41, tied together]
- letter of SG to [Mary Allen and Josiah Forster?]], dated Munich 12th of 1st mo., 1820 [pages numbered 43-55, tied together]
- letter of SG to [?] dated Stuttgart, 24th of 1st mo., 1820 [pages numbered 56-60, tied together]
- letter of SG to [?] dated Zurich, 30th of 1st mo. 1820 [p. numbered 62]
topics:
- visits to hospitals
- visits to nobility

10. "1821" and "1830" autograph letters of Grellet
   (2 ALS: both gifts ..., 1947)

  Page 1 of ALS of Stephen Grellet, New York, 5th mo. 21, 1821, addressed to "Dear Brother" [Daniel B. Smith]. Letter discusses use of book of scriptural lessons in Russia. Page 2 (each approx. 60k)

  topics:
  - use of book of scriptural lessons in Russia

  ALS addressed to "Dear Brother" [Daniel B. Smith], Burlington, 11th of 10th mo. 1830

  topics:
  - a new school
  - references to the Wilberforce Negro Colony in Canada

11. "The following testimony was borne by Stephen Grellet at Burlington Meeting, 5th mo. 8th, 1829" [with notation in pencil "copied by Mary Pike"]

12. "1832" extracts and copies of letters
   (4 items: ms. copies of letters written on his European trip of 1832-1833)

   includes:
   - letter of SG to "My dear Friends" dated "[Herhout] (Saxony) 9th mo. 15th 1832" [8 p.? two sheets don't seem to logically follow each other]
   - extract from letter of SG dated Yverdun, 4th of 11th mo. 1832
   - letter of SG to [George Stacey?] dated 11 mo. 1832 [8 p.]
   - letter of SG to "My dear friend," dated Nismes, 28th of 12 mo. 1832 [5 p.]

13. "1832-1833" copies of letters
   (3 items: ms. copies of letters written on his European trip of 1832-1833)

   includes:
   - letter of SG to "My dear friend," dated Amsterdam, 7th mo. 19th, 1832 [10 p., incomplete]
   - letter of SG to "My dear friend," dated Strasburgh 10th mo. 12th, 1832 [24 p.]
   - apparent continuation of above letter to 4 mo. 6, [1833] [46 p. unnumbered but appear to follow in sequence with above letter]

14. "Account of European trip, 1832-1833"
   (ms. draft)

   account of trip of Stephen Grellet and William Allen [written by ?, 12 p.]

15. "Miscellaneous sermons"
   (3 items: gift , 1937)

   includes:
   - ms. "Copy of a sermon preached by Stephen Grellet in Burlington 11 mo. 1845"
   - ms. fragment of account of a sermon of SG
   - labeled "Recollection of sermons by J.J. Gurney, Stephen Grellet" [fragile - in pieces]

16. "National Archives material"

   5 typed pages and accompanying TLS from H. van Etten, Oct. 19, 1955, all in French re: records at the National Archives at Paris pertaining to SG

17. "Schlatter, Helena"
   (3 items: ALS and typed transcripts)

   - ALS from Helena Schlatter to SG, dated March 5, 1820 [in German?]
   - typed translation of above letter [2 copies]

   topics:
   - discusses her spiritual state of mind and her illness

Return to: Table of contents

Contact Diana Franzusoff Peterson (dfpeters@haverford.edu or 610-896-1284) for more information about this collection. Please include the manuscript collection number in your request.