

The Alexander Hamilton Collection of John E. Herzog (1716)

October 25, 2021 EST, Philadelphia

Viewing:

Exhibition is open by appointment at our [1600 West Girard Avenue](#) location October 8-24. To make an appointment, please contact Colin Foley at cfoley@freemansauction.com.

Lot 35

Estimate: \$2000 - \$3000 (plus Buyer's Premium)

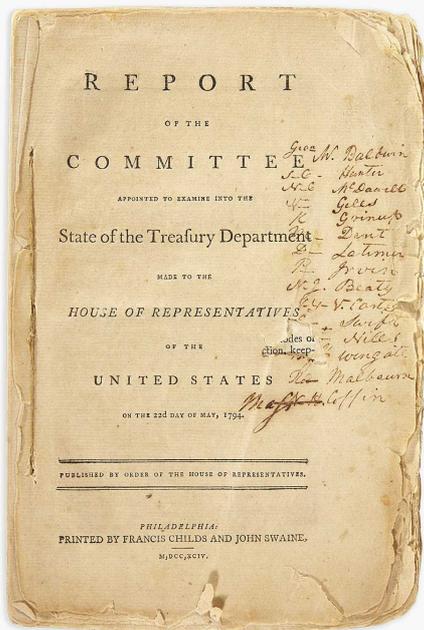
[Hamilton, Alexander] [Treasury Department] Report of the Committee Appointed to Examine into the State of the Treasury Department Made to the House of Representatives of the United States on the 22d Day of May, 1794

Rare final report issued by the House Select Committee assembled to investigate Alexander Hamilton and the Treasury Department

"That it appears from the affidavits of the Cashier and several Officers of the Bank of the United States, and of several of the Directors, the Cashier and of the Officers of the Bank of New York, that the Secretary of the Treasury never has, either directly or indirectly, for himself or any other person, procured any discount or credit from either of the said Banks..."

Philadelphia: Printed by Francis Childs and John Swaine, 1794. First edition. 8vo. 86, (2) pp. MS. note on title-page recording 15 House Representatives and their states, who made up this select committee, being: Georgia: Abraham Baldwin (Anti-Administration), South Carolina: John Hunter (Anti-Administration), North Carolina: Joseph McDowell (Anti-Administration), Virginia: William B. Giles (Anti-Administration), Kentucky: Christopher Greenup (Anti-Administration), Maryland: George Dent (Pro-Administration), Delaware: Henry Latimer (Pro-Administration), Pennsylvania: William Irvine (Anti-Administration), New Jersey: John Beatty (Pro-Administration), New York: Philip Van Courtlandt (Anti-Administration), Connecticut: Zephaniah Swift (Pro-Administration), Vermont: Nathaniel Niles (Anti-Administration), New Hampshire: Paine Wingate (Pro-Administration), Rhode Island: Francis Malbone (Pro-Administration), Massachusetts: Peleg Coffin, Jr. (Pro-Administration). Original limp blue wrappers, front wrapper perished, original thread sound; all edges untrimmed; partially unopened; gathering H correcting imposed; wear to edges of text leaves; title-page worn, loss at center affecting some words of inscription; scattered spotting to text. Evans 27909; Ford, Bibliotheca Hamiltoniana 57; ESTC W29041

The 1792 Congressional elections saw the Democratic-Republicans capture majorities in the House that was to convene in December 1793 for the 3rd Congress. With their new majority, Republican lawmakers had the opportunity to continue the investigation against Alexander Hamilton that they had begun the previous winter, for what they viewed as his corrupt conduct in office. That previous winter, in an attempt to remove him from office, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison orchestrated a series of resolutions,



submitted by Virginia congressman William B. Giles, seeking to uncover evidence of misuse of foreign loans by Hamilton (see lots 28, 29, 30). While these resolutions were eventually voted down by the Federalist majority and he was exonerated, Hamilton still believed his name had not been sufficiently cleared. By December 1793, Hamilton, recently recovered from a bout of yellow fever, and feeling increasingly harried by the crushing demands of his job as Secretary of the Treasury, was seeking an appropriate time to tender his resignation. With the prospect of further Congressional investigations on the horizon, he sought once and for all to clear his and his department's names and approached House Speaker Frederick Muhlenberg asking him to resume the investigations started by Giles. As Ron Chernow observes, "On February 24 (1794), the house assembled a select committee with sweeping powers to investigate the Treasury Department. Reflecting the new composition of Congress, the bulk of the committee was Republican. The members drew up an exhausting schedule to drain any energy Hamilton had left. Until their work was complete, they planned to meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening and Saturday morning. For three months, the committee stuck to this punitive schedule, and Hamilton testified at about half the sessions. Besides providing extensive official information, he had to disclose all of his *private* accounts with the Bank of the United States and the Bank of New York, as Republicans tried to prove that Hamilton had exploited his office to extort credits from the two banks." The committee found it hard to pin any grand misconduct on Hamilton so they reiterated their specific charge made the previous investigation that he mishandled foreign loans. Ultimately, citing verbal authority from President Washington to use the funds as he did, the committee completely exonerated Hamilton of any misdeeds. Vindicated, yet rattled, Hamilton went on to serve one more year before resigning in early 1795.

This rare final report from the committee to investigate Hamilton features a manuscript note, in an unknown hand, on the title-page listing the 15 members of Congress who served on the committee. The last two names, "Malbourne" and "Coffin" (Francis Malbone and Peleg Coffin, Jr.), appear to be in a different hand, possibly Alexander Hamilton's, and the final correction of "Mass" replacing "N.H." (New Hampshire), appears to be in yet another hand. The names of the members of the committee were printed in the *Journal of the House of Representatives*, printed at the end of 1794. We can locate only two other examples of this report ever being offered at auction, the last one over 100 years ago. *Rare*.