THE Historical Society of Pennsylvania, founded in the year 1824, has assembled by gift and purchase in the 109 years of its history many vast treasures, among which there are tons of original manuscript resources. Before approaching, with fear and trembling, the great manuscript collections in a futile effort to describe briefly some of the groups of papers and also give an idea of their bulk, repeated references to volumes and boxes seem unavoidable. The average volume is sixteen inches high, thirteen inches deep, and three inches wide, and holds, for example, 100 letters of two or three pages; whereas the boxes are four inches wide with other dimensions corresponding to the volumes. They accommodate 130 such letters. For these mathematical contributions as well as for other information cheerfully and intelligently given, sincere appreciation is extended to Miss Townsend and Miss Miller of the Manuscript Department.

The Penn Papers in 224 volumes and nine boxes are of prime importance, owing to their extent, variety and richness. They embrace original title papers of the province, the documents respecting the probate of the will of William Penn, the settlement of his estate and of the estates of his descendants, which together include the basic titles to every acre of land in the state. They include William Penn’s Irish Journal, and his Journey through Holland, as well as many letters, and the Journal of his father, Admiral Penn. Then there is the correspondence of the Penn family (1732-1767), in addition to five volumes of private correspondence running from 1654 to 1855; twelve volumes of official correspondence (1683-1817); letter books and correspondence of William Penn himself, and Penn-Logan correspondence.
There is a mass of material on Indian affairs; boundary questions and litigation; on Penn versus Baltimore; on Ford versus Penn; and on the provincial tax. Papers of the Assembly and Council, ancient records of Sussex county, Delaware, Governor Blackwell's manuscripts, and autograph petitions from 1631 to 1764 are included. Hannah Penn's cash book, John Penn's commonplace book, and the marriage settlement of Thomas Penn are of interest. There is an abundance of Penn deeds, warrants and surveys, leases and mortgages, bonds and powers of attorney, law suits, cash books, account books, and land grants throughout Pennsylvania covering the period from 1681 to 1806.

Next in sequence and importance, the Logan Papers, in seventy-five volumes and five boxes, should be noted. Rich in correspondence of James Logan with the Penn family, Logan's letter books, ledgers, and other books of account, kept while he was secretary of the province, this collection also embraces records of quit rents of the Lower Counties and Provincial Council documents; an important volume on Indian affairs, with journals of Indian treaties and land sales; papers relating to the Norris, Dickinson, Hill, Harrison and other large estates; the Dickinson correspondence, and that of a number of prominent members of the Logan family, including Dr. George Logan, United States senator, who died in 1821; and Deborah Logan, with whom the society made arrangements, in 1825, for the publication of the Penn-Logan correspondence of which two volumes were issued. However, James Logan is the central figure in these papers. He was not only secretary to William Penn and of the province, but also chief justice, president of the Council, and acting governor. For nearly forty years, from 1699 to 1738, this master of Greek, Latin, Hebrew, French, and German, whose library was filled with rare editions of the classics, wielded considerable political power.

Supplementing the Penn and Logan Papers, the Norris Papers, in eighty volumes, covering a period of a century and a quarter, and the activities of various members of that distinguished family, are of great importance as they shed much light on the public life of Isaac Norris, the great leader of the Quaker or "Norris Party." He was a statesman who labored to keep the policy of the province consistent with strict Quaker principles. For a score of years, fifteen of which he was speaker, he served with
great ability and tenacity of purpose in the Assembly. Among these papers, you will find much of the greatest value pertaining to the social as well as the political life of the time. Some of the special features are family letters; household accounts from 1740 to 1790; registers of real estate in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Berks, Lancaster, New Castle, and other counties; Loan Office accounts from 1743 to 1768; orders of the commissioners (1756-1765); soldiers' certificates (1758-1760), covering a part of the French and Indian War, and there are school exercise books. These Norrises were gentlemen of large estate as well as statesmen and men of affairs. In these three remarkable and imposing collections, Penn, Logan and Norris, accessible to all students, may be found the origin and development of the Holy Experiment and of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

The Shippen Papers (1701-1855), in fifty volumes, comprise not only the private and public correspondence of Chief Justice Edward Shippen, but also general correspondence (1701-1821); the Shippen-Burd family letters (1746-1856); military papers (1755-1795); and surveys (1827-1855). Of great value are the journal (1758), and the account book (1768-1775) of Colonel Joseph Shippen, who entered the provincial army and served in the expedition against Duquesne; the letter book (1756-1758) of Colonel James Burd, who was a colonel in the Revolution. Then there are muster rolls (1755-1795) of Pennsylvania troops, and the original minute book of the Mount Regale Fishing Company, of 1762, located at the Falls of Schuylkill. Joseph Shippen, Jr., was treasurer of this organization. The military letter book of Joseph Shippen (1756-1758) is but one of a number of others of similar character. It contains the original plans of Fort Augusta and the surveyed route of the Forbes expedition against Fort Duquesne, in addition to much other material. Finally, there is a volume on the settlement of the estate of Governor John Penn, and twelve volumes of legal and business papers, (1721-1826) six or more of which are in the handwriting of Chief Justice Shippen and Justice Jasper Yeates. Major Andre, Peggy Shippen and Benedict Arnold are not ignored.

The Pemberton Papers (1641-1880), in seventy-four volumes and three boxes, and the Clifford Papers (1722-1832), in twenty-nine volumes, represent two connected families prominent in the public affairs of Philadelphia and Bucks counties. For the years
1641 to 1808, there are fifty-six volumes of correspondence, chief among which is the correspondence of Israel, James, and John Pemberton with the famous English Quaker, Dr. John Fothergill, distinguished for benevolence and of whom Franklin once said: "I can hardly conceive that a better man ever existed."

All interested in the early history of Philadelphia, especially Germantown, should read the five volumes of Pastorius Papers (1683-1716), written in English, German and Latin. Those attracted by neat and copperplate penmanship should glance, at least, at the laws of Germantown in his handwriting.

Much correspondence, both public and private, altogether fascinating, will be found in the Peters Papers (1697-1846), in twenty-two volumes, embracing as they do considerable data respecting Judge Richard Peters, who discovered that Benedict Arnold was applying to his own use funds intended for the purchase of supplies for the army.

Twenty-nine volumes of the Rawle Papers (1679-1830), in addition to a mass of other papers of this Philadelphia family, contain documents relating to the Penn estates, the Abolition Society, of which William Rawle was president, and his correspondence while United States District Attorney for Pennsylvania, to which office he was appointed by George Washington.

The Wharton Papers (1679-1830), in eight volumes and a corresponding number of boxes, preserve, along with much other valuable material, an important collection of letter books, documents and miscellaneous manuscripts which belonged to Thomas Wharton, a prominent merchant of Philadelphia. The correspondence is of special interest as it contains much data relating to social, economic, and political affairs of the province; documents relating to the Stamp Act and non-importation episodes, and the extensive land enterprises in which Thomas Wharton, his brothers and friends were engaged. The cargo of the "Tea Ship" Polly, bound for the port of Philadelphia, as Wharton's correspondence shows, was consigned to him. In another collection, in the possession of the society, there is additional documentary material concerning this vessel which never attempted to unload its cargo, as its master, Captain Ayres, did not choose to be tarred and feathered. In any event, this Philadelphia Tea Party, which is so well documented, preceded by about two months the more celebrated and spectacular Boston Tea Party.
Twelve volumes of the original papers of Benjamin Franklin consist in part of his accounts with his printing partner, David Hall; his papers while agent for the province, and minister to France. Recently the society purchased twelve documents relating to the settlement of his estate. More of these papers, however, must be located and assembled before this matter can be properly treated.

The Humphreys Papers (1739-1879) are in eighty-nine volumes and thirty-six boxes. They cover the lives of six generations of men conspicuous in Pennsylvania as pioneers, merchants, shipbuilders, naval constructors, and army officers. In the ledgers, letter books, journals, and accounts of Joshua Humphreys, the first naval constructor and the most renowned of this family, with his plans, drawings, shipyard notes and measurements of vessels, we have the story of the building of the first navy of the nation, and the record of the designer of the Constitution, and her five sister ships. These papers also preserve the diary of Clement Humphreys, eldest son of Joshua, who, as a lad of nineteen, thrashed Duane, the editor of the Aurora, for a libel on Washington. The latter portions of these papers, consisting of numerous volumes, are devoted to the career of Andrew Atkinson Humphreys, a topographical engineer and an officer in the Civil War who attained the rank of major-general and died in the year 1879.

Of the early assessment books of Philadelphia county, giving the names of the land and property owners, there are 709 volumes, extending from 1757 to 1854. The Northampton County Papers (1727-1895), in 113 volumes and six boxes, comprise land grants, surveys, petitions, muster rolls of the French and Indian War, tax returns, county commissioners’ minute books, and correspondence. Among these papers, many years since, was found a strange waif—a map prepared for General Washington previous to the Battle of Brandywine, with alterations in the handwriting of that great man. The Taylor Papers (1672-1775), in twenty-five volumes, covering Chester, Lancaster and New Castle counties, are similar in general character to those of Northampton county.

The Drinker Papers (1682-1869), in thirty-nine volumes, also include surveys and land records, reaching to the northern counties of the state, as well as letter books and accounts, journals and ledgers. Henry Drinker, a prominent member of this family, was
one of the seventeen Quakers, who in 1777, were transported to Virginia for publishing a seditious publication inimical to the American cause.

The Anthony Wayne Papers, in seventy-three volumes, constitute the most extensive and important of the military manuscripts of the Revolution. The Cadwalader Papers, in six volumes, have for their central figure, General John Cadwalader, who, incidentally, fought a duel with Thomas Conway.

The printer’s branch of the Bradford family is well represented in the Bradford and Wallace Papers, in forty-one volumes and five boxes, which also treasure memoranda and journals of William Bradford, who served in the Revolution, as well as the papers of Commissary General Thomas Bradford. Like the Elias Boudinot Papers in six volumes, they have much of value concerning the exchange of prisoners during the War for Independence.

The Henry Papers (1759-1812), in six volumes, contain the highly important correspondence of William Henry, of Lancaster, covering the period of the Revolution and embracing the correspondence with Rittenhouse and Reed on the financial vicissitudes of the war. Details in connection with the provisioning of Washington’s army, as well as British prisoners of war and the military and naval forces of France are shown in twelve boxes of the papers of Chaloner and White, Philadelphia, agents of the commissary general from 1778 to 1780.

The Biddle Papers (1777-1840), in six volumes, include the Washington correspondence with Colonel Clement Biddle, his patriotic friend, and preserve the autobiography and the letter books of Charles Biddle, who informs us in his autobiography that there were very few respectable people present to hear Colonel Nixon read the Declaration of Independence in the State House Yard.

In the three volumes of the Conrad Weiser Paper (1746-1766), may be found correspondence on Indian affairs, and the evidence of Weiser’s political aspirations. The Duponceau Papers, in eight boxes, include nine letter books (1792-1842), and autobiographical letters (1836-1844) of Peter S. Duponceau, lawyer and scholar, who came to America in 1777, as aide to Baron Steuben, and after the war settled in Philadelphia, became president of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and devoted much
time to a scientific study of the structure of the Indian languages. Aided by Zeisberger and Heckewelder, Duponceau contributed much to the knowledge then prevailing upon this subject. Three volumes of the John Heckewelder papers contain his correspondence, translations, and other material concerning the Delaware and Mohican tongues.

The relations between the settlers of Pennsylvania and of New Jersey and the Indians are exemplified in the documents, in five boxes, known as the Foster and Clement Papers (1761-1801), Indian Commissioners. They embody important treaties. The papers of William Parsons (1723-1775) in three boxes are largely confined to the founding of Easton and Indian affairs in that locality. Prior to 1722, Parsons was a respectable shoemaker of Philadelphia and a member of Franklin's Junto. Preferring the life of a politician he left that city where politics is still unknown!

Those devoted to botany will relish the Bartram Papers (1733-1801), in ten volumes, replete with correspondence and journals of John Bartram, who established the first botanical garden in America on the west bank of the Schuylkill below Philadelphia. Lovers of the poinsettia plant, who are students of Mexican history may consult, if they choose, the papers of Joel R. Poinsett (1785-1851) in twenty-three volumes. Then there is a volume of the papers of Rev. Henry E. Muhlenberg (1781-1815), a clergyman of Montgomery county who knew botany as well as theology.

The Etting Papers, in ninety-seven volumes, are composed of provincial and revolutionary correspondence, muster rolls, and documentary material relating to Pennsylvania. The Conarroe Papers, in thirteen volumes, are somewhat similar in character.

Of great size and variety, the Ferdinand J. Dreer Collection of Manuscripts, bound in 285 volumes, comprises a large number of letters written by persons of various nationalities of almost every pursuit in life. Notwithstanding the fact that autograph letters predominate, there are such items as the Log Book of Elisha Kent Kane, M.D., of Philadelphia, kept during his polar expedition, and the Orderly Book of John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg.

Attention should be invited to the Simon Gratz Collection of autograph letters, in 880 boxes, with an estimated number of 88,000 letters. It may be sufficient to say that every letter is catalogued and that there are thousands written by, addressed to, or concerning Pennsylvanians. Another somewhat general col-
lection, although bountifully supplied with autograph letters signed by members of the bench and bar in Pennsylvania, is the Hampton L. Carson collection in eighty-four boxes.

The Morris-Hollingsworth Papers, in 400 volumes, forty-two boxes and 133 large bundles, easily exceed in bulk those of any other family group owned by the society, and contain useful and important records pertaining to the economic life of four families and a number of generations of each. They are about equally divided into papers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and, perhaps, the journals, ledgers and other business books, 400 in all, of the Philadelphia firm of Morris and Hollingsworth, flour merchants from 1755 to 1865, will fascinate those interested in the mercantile life of the city and state. As so many students of today seem to be obsessed with a burning desire to know the business methods of the past, more especially the prices of commodities, these Morris-Hollingsworth books and papers should encourage them in their monomania.

Even more exciting than these papers are the accounts, minute books and membership rolls of fire companies, sixty-three volumes all told, mostly of the volunteer companies of the old city of Philadelphia, its boroughs, townships, districts, and liberties.

In more than 100 volumes, the original minute books, letter books, account books and miscellaneous papers (1784-1847) of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and the Relief of Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage, constitute an unusually complete record of a society noted for philanthropy and numbering among its supporters many of the outstanding citizens of this state.

The Peale Papers in six volumes, embrace some of the record books of Charles Wilson Peale and his museum, accompanied by some correspondence, and an original sketch book of Rembrandt Peale. The Benjamin West Collection also possesses more than 300 letters and manuscripts in the handwriting of that artist, including communications to George III. It also preserves 532 autograph letters addressed to West, many of which are in reference to his work. That it cost £696 to bury that great painter, is shown by a receipt found among these papers.

Among the men who by force of character and intelligence have dominated the public affairs of this Commonwealth, there is one whose memory has not yet been entirely cleared from misunder-
standing; that man is James Buchanan. The society is therefore fortunate in possessing the Buchanan Papers (1813-1868), in seventy-three boxes. They embrace Buchanan's papers while United States minister to Russia, and to England; and while senator, and President of the United States, together with some material on his home life at Wheatland.

The Philadelphia banker, Jay Cooke, the financier of the Civil War, is represented by sixty boxes and twenty-six volumes of papers (1842-1880), which contain rich mines of material on the placing of loans to finance the Civil War, the building of the Northern Pacific Railroad, the panic of 1873, precipitated by the failure of Jay Cooke and Company, and the opening of the vast Northwest.

Of the original books of the early forges and furnaces, showing the beginnings and progress of that great industry so important to Pennsylvanians, 180 have been counted. Ledgers, journals and other books of old mercantile houses easily exceed 1,000. They have never been counted.

Washington, who spent most of his public life in Pennsylvania, is represented by 381 letters signed by him, 179 of which are entirely in his handwriting.

While writing his History of the People of the United States, John Bach McMaster said that Pennsylvania never has been adequately represented in American history, and that the history of Pennsylvania cannot be written until a great deal of monographic work has been accomplished. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, has the raw material. You have the training, and you are cordially invited to make use of our manuscript resources.

Perhaps, in this paper, Pennsylvania has been unduly stressed. The society has much manuscript material bearing upon United States history and more particularly upon the formative period of the life of the nation. A steady stream of historical students from all over the country, indeed from the entire civilized world, flows through the perfectly dry Manuscript Department, and this is especially true during the summer months, when a large number of historians, some of them on their way to the New Jersey coast, pause for a few days to enjoy the cool atmosphere of the society's building, and take a preliminary dip in the more placid waters of Pennsylvania history. Recently, a gentlemanly historian, who
spends his days in the Manuscript Department, gave the impression in the *Public Ledger* that Pennsylvania history is somewhat neglected by Pennsylvanians. If this is true, the explanation which is at the same time a challenge to this group may be found in Matthew (XIII, 57): "A manuscript is never without honor save in its own county and in its own state." When you visit Philadelphia, visit that building dedicated and consecrated to the study of history—The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.