



## **Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours materials related to Madame de Staël (copies) 0360**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on September 14, 2021.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630

Wilmington, Delaware 19807

[askhagley@hagley.org](mailto:askhagley@hagley.org)

URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Manuscripts and Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Du Pont de Nemours, Pierre Samuel, 1739-1817
<b>Title:</b>	Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours materials related to Madame de Staël (copies)
<b>ID:</b>	0360
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1806-1814
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 item(s)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	French .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours (1739-1817) was a French political economist, writer, publisher, and public administrator. These are three photocopies of items related to Madame de Staël. Anne Louise Germaine de Staël-Holstein (1766-1817), known as Madame de Staël, was a writer, philosopher, and politically engaged woman who survived the French Revolution and was exiled multiple times by Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical Note

---

Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours (1739-1817) was a French political economist, writer, publisher, and public administrator. He was an advocate for a national educational system and promoted Franco-American trade relations.

Pierre Samuel du Pont de Nemours was born in Paris on December 14, 1739. He was apprenticed as a watchmaker, but during the early 1760s he began to study and write on economic matters. In 1767, du Pont de Nemours coined the term "physiocracy," which means the rule of nature, to describe the complex doctrine of French economist François Quesnay (1694-1774), which is now recognized as the first modern school of economics.

In July 1774, the family departed for Poland, where du Pont de Nemours was to serve the Polish monarch in various capacities, including that of honorary councilor. He was shortly recalled to France, however, and commissioned as Inspecteur Général du Commerce, a position he held until its abolition in 1788. During the late 1770s, he was an economic advisor to Jacques Necker (1732-1804), a Genevan banker

who served as finance minister for King Louis XVI (1754-1793), from 1789 to 1790, but held a number of other posts in regards to finances for the royal treasury between 1777 and 1789.

In the early 1780s, du Pont de Nemours was involved in the negotiations that led to the Anglo-French Commercial Treaty of 1786. The treaty reduced tariffs on goods between France and Britain. In 1786, he was appointed Conseiller d'Etat by King Louis XVI; in this position he acted as a government official of administrative law. The following year he served as secretary of the first Assemblée des Notables, convened at Versailles to consult on matters of state.

At the onset of the French Revolution, du Pont de Nemours served as a member of the Assemblée Nationale Constituante (1789-1791). The purpose of the assembly was to discuss a new constitution and taxation system. He allied himself with the moderate Girondist faction. Girondists were initially part of the Jacobin movement. The Jacobin Club were anti-royalists who supported the abolition of the monarchy, the creation of parliament, the introduction of a constitution, the separation of powers, and the establishment of a republic. The Girondins supported the end of the monarchy, however, they were not for the revolution and most opposed the execution of the King, who was arrested in August 1792 and put to death on January 21, 1793.

After the leader of the Jacobin party, Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794), took power, Girondin deputies and members of other opposing movements were arrested, put on trial, and many were executed. This time period is known as the Reign of Terror. Du Pont de Nemours was arrested in July 1794, but he escaped the guillotine upon Robespierre's fall at the end of the month.

In 1795, he was chosen as a member of the Conseil des Anciens (Council of Elders), which was the upper house of the French legislature. Following the coup d'état of September 4, 1795, he was again arrested and held for one night.

The du Ponts began to explore the possibility of emigration to the United States. On January 3, 1800, accompanied by his sons, Victor Marie du Pont (1767-1827) and Eleuthère Irénée du Pont (1771-1834), he arrived in America. Du Pont de Nemours and his sons established the commission house of Du Pont de Nemours, Père et Fils & Cie. in New York.

Du Pont de Nemours and his wife, Françoise Robin de Poivre (1748-1841), returned to France in 1802, where he held various government posts under Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821). In 1814, he became a member of the provisional government that deposed Napoleon and exiled him to Elba. Upon Napoleon's return, du Pont de Nemours again fled to America, where he died at the home of his son, Eleuthère Irénée du Pont, in Delaware on August 7, 1817.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

These are three photocopies of items related to Madame de Staël. Anne Louise Germaine de Staël-Holstein (1766-1817), known as Madame de Staël, was a writer, philosopher, and politically engaged woman who survived the French Revolution and was exiled multiple times by Napoleon Bonaparte

(1769-1821). She was the only daughter of notable writer Suzanne Curchod Necker (1737-1794) and Jacques Necker (1732-1804), a banker, politician, and Minister of Finance for France's King Louis XVI before the Revolution.

The first item is a two-page letter from du Pont de Nemours to Madame de Staël written on October 16, 1806, mentioning his hope of departing for America during the next month.

The second item is a list of shareholders in Du Pont de Nemours, Père et Fils & Cie, and in E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, dated May 20, 1811. The single-page list includes Madame de Staël's name and is signed by du Pont de Nemours.

The third item is a bill of exchange on E.I. du Pont in favor of Madame de Staël, dated October 1, 1814.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630

Wilmington, Delaware 19807

[askhagley@hagley.org](mailto:askhagley@hagley.org)

URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

### Revision Description

Laurie Sather 2020

### Existence and Location of Originals

Originals privately owned.

### Use Restrictions

Not to be reproduced.

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Correspondence.
- Investments
- Staël, Madame de (Anne-Louise-Germaine), 1766-1817