

A GUIDE TO PORTRAITS IN THE CHANCERY

**U.S. EMBASSY
PARIS, FRANCE**



CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

“I want to express my pleasure at being here this morning. I tried to be assigned to the Embassy in Paris myself, and unable to do so, I decided to run for President.

... The United States interest in France is not based on mere sentiment. I know it is customary on these visits to recall Lafayette and all the rest...Our interest here is more substantial, and I believe it goes to the common interests of both the United States and France. We are closely associated and are allies, because it helps to protect the interest of our country and because it protects the interests of freedom around the world. I do not believe that there is any Embassy in the world more important to the United States than the Embassy in Paris, because the influence of this city and country goes far beyond its borders”

President John F. Kennedy’s in remarks at the U.S. Embassy Paris:

June 1, 1961



George Washington

1732-1799

*Robert Princeton after Gilbert Stuart;
oil on canvas*

124 ins by 68 ins INV 801905



George Washington

1732-1799

*Artist Unknown, oil on canvas
INV 127310*

George Washington, “father of his country,” was born on February 22, 1732 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Prior to the American Revolution, he participated in the French and Indian War, and, in 1758, was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses. In 1774, he was selected one of seven Virginian delegates to the First Continental Congress, where he advocated support for the beleaguered inhabitants of Boston. The next year, he was commissioned Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, serving in that capacity throughout the American Revolution. Intending to retire from public life following the war, Washington reluctantly returned when chosen to lead the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Two years later, on April 30, 1789, he was inaugurated as the first President of the United States of America. Washington is credited with defining the position, insisting among other things that he be humbly styled “Mr. President.” He left office in 1797, setting a precedent for the two-term limit. Washington passed away at his beloved Mount Vernon on December 14, 1799, after suffering from a throat infection.



Marquis de Lafayette

1757-1834

Art(ist Unknown); Oil on canvas

84 ins by 55 ins INV 801874

Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, marquis de Lafayette, was born into one of Auvergne's oldest noble families, and entered the French army in his teens. He later wrote in his memoirs that "my heart was enrolled and I had no other idea than to join my colors" after hearing of the American struggle across the Atlantic. Lafayette volunteered his services to the Continental Army, and departed France for the embattled Colonies in 1777. Granted the title of Major General, Lafayette led troops in a number of decisive engagements, becoming a close friend of George Washington. After returning to France following the war, Lafayette played a prominent role in the French Revolution, advocating strongly for a constitutional monarchy. This made him unpopular with the Jacobins and their allies. As the Revolution became radicalized, there were calls to try Lafayette for treason. Attempting to escape France, he was caught by the Austrians and imprisoned for five years. Lafayette returned to his country in 1799, upon Napoleon's rise to power, and took up the life of a gentleman farmer. He returned to public life following the Bourbon Restoration, sitting in the Chamber of Deputies throughout most of Louis XVIII's reign. He made a triumphant last visit to the United States from 1824-25, where he was granted honorary citizenship, and in 1830 led the French National Guard that helped replace the unpopular King Charles X with Louis-Philippe. He retired soon afterwards, and died on May 20, 1834, in Paris.



Comte de Rochambeau

1725-1807

Artist Unknown after C.P. Larivière ;Oil on canvas

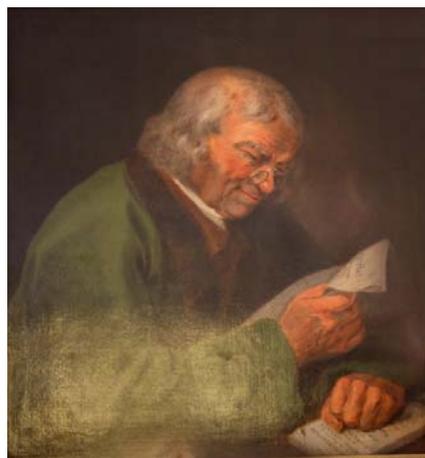
84 ins by 55 ins INV 801875

Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, Comte de Rochambeau, was born into an old aristocratic family in Vendôme, France. He was schooled at the Jesuit college in Blois, and originally destined for a life in the Church. At the age of 17, however, Rochambeau was commissioned into a cavalry regiment following the death of his older brother. Promoted to colonel in 1747 after distinguished service in the War of the Austrian Succession, he steadily made his way up the ranks, earning a reputation as a capable commander, strategist, and administrator. In 1780, he was made a Lieutenant-General, given 6,000 troops, and sent to North America to support the American cause. Rochambeau's French army outnumbered Washington's at the Siege of Yorktown, and the French leader's military experience proved invaluable in forcing the surrender of Cornwallis. He received the thanks of the nation from Congress, along with two cannons captured from the British, and returned to France a hero. Rochambeau remained politically neutral during the French Revolution, and for a time commanded the Army of the North, being named a Marshal of France. He was arrested during the Terror, and only narrowly escaped the guillotine. Rochambeau was subsequently granted a pension by Napoleon, and remained on his estates until his death.

**Joint Commissioners
Ministers Plenipotentiary
and
Ambassadors to France**



Benjamin Franklin
Joint Commissioner, 1776-79
Ministre Plenipotentiary, 1779-85
W. Wright; oil on canvas
50 ins by 40 ins INV 801908



Benjamin Franklin
Joint Commissioner, 1776-79
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1779-85
Steven Elmer; oil on canvas
29½ ins by 24½ ins INV 801909
Donation by Mr. A.W. Jenkins

Benjamin Franklin was a man of all trades, an American printer, publisher, author, inventor, scientist, and perhaps most importantly a diplomat. Franklin is considered to be America's first ambassador to France, serving from 1779 to 1785. He is also known as one of the Founding Fathers of the United States for his devotion to civic duty, among other things helping to draft the Declaration of Independence.

In France, Franklin quickly became a favorite at Versailles, where he was known for his simple dress – brown linen suit, unpowdered hair and beaver-skin hat – which violated all court dress protocols. He was a sensation in French society, his image appearing on a wide variety of household and luxury objects. Franklin played his part brilliantly, and secured French financial support for the American cause despite France's ailing economy. He was key in eventually bringing the country into the war on the side of the thirteen colonies, and served as an American representative at the negotiations for the 1783 Paris Peace Treaty, which ended hostilities and created a fully independent United States. In his autobiography, Franklin alludes to his years in France as the happiest of his life, a feeling that was mutual – the French bestowed upon him the prestigious title of *Citoyen de Paris*.



Arthur Lee
Joint Commissioner, 1776-79
Clarence Cole, after C.W. Peale; oil on canvas
23½ ins by 19½ ins INV 801907

Arthur Lee, brother of Francis Lightfoot Lee and Richard Henry Lee, was born on December 20, 1740, in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Educated at Eton, he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and law at London's Temple Bar. He practiced law in the British capital between 1770 and 1776, serving simultaneously as Massachusetts' agent in the city – second only to Benjamin Franklin, who he succeeded in 1775. That same year he was appointed Congress's correspondent in London, and in 1776 and 1777, as the body's Commissioner to France and Spain, respectively. Lee was placed on the commission with Franklin and Silas Deane to negotiate a treaty with France and other European governments, following Thomas Jefferson's refusal of the position in 1776. He thus became a key player in securing the Franco-American alliance. Lee returned to Virginia in 1780, where he served as a member of the state's house of delegates. He helped negotiate a 1784 treaty with the Six Nations, and one with the Wyandot, Delaware, Chippewa and Ottawa Indians in 1785. Lee continued to serve his country as a member of the Continental Congress (1782-1784) and of the Treasury Board (1785-1789). He strongly opposed the Constitution, and retired to his estate at Urbana, Virginia, following its adoption. He died there on December 12, 1792.



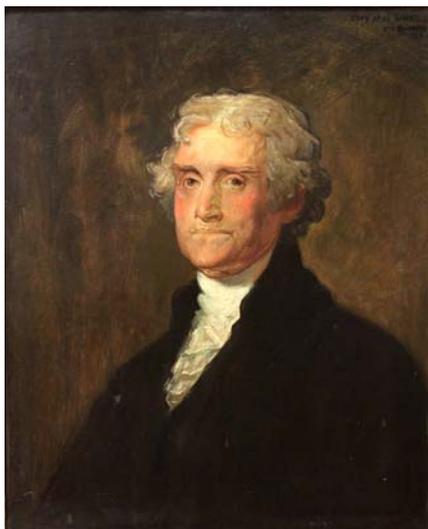
John Adams

Joint Commissioner, 1778-79

André Fisch after Gilbert Stuart; oil on canvas

31½ ins by 28 ins

John Adams was born on October 19, 1735 in Braintree, Massachusetts. Educated at Harvard, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1758, beginning his practice in Suffolk County. A vocal critic of the Stamp Act and member of the Sons of Liberty, Adams was elected to represent Boston in the general court in 1768. Later chosen as one of Massachusetts's delegates to the Continental Congress from 1774 -1777, it was he who nominated Thomas Jefferson to draft the Declaration of Independence, which Adams would sign, and who proposed that George Washington lead the Continental Army. Adams briefly served on the Board of War, before accepting an assignment as commissioner to the French court. Finding upon his arrival that Benjamin Franklin had already concluded a treaty with France, Adams returned to Massachusetts in time to draft its constitution, which became the model for those of other states and a major influence on the future U.S. Constitution. Congress subsequently sent Adams back to Europe as Minister Plenipotentiary to Holland in 1782, where he managed to secure Dutch recognition of American independence, a Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the two nations, and the loan to the United States of five million Guilders—a major achievement that helped to make victory possible. His greatest diplomatic triumph occurred soon afterwards, when he, with Benjamin Franklin and John Jay, negotiated the Treaty of Paris, which successfully concluded the American Revolution. He was appointed Minister to the Court of St. James's from 1785 to 1788, in which year he was elected as the first Vice President of the United States, under George Washington. Following two terms in the office, Adams was elected President for four years. He died in Quincy, Massachusetts on July 4, 1826—his country's fiftieth birthday.



Thomas Jefferson

Minister Plenipotentiary, 1785-1789

Louis Kronberg, after Gilbert Stuart; oil on canvas

27¼ ins by 21¼ ins INV 801973

Donation by Mr. J. Coolidge

Though he carries the distinction of being the United States' second official envoy to France, Thomas Jefferson (born 1743) remains better known for drafting the Declaration of Independence, and serving as the Republic's first Secretary of State and third President. His stint in France served him well, and he continued to pay close attention to Franco-American relations following his election to the nation's highest office. Among his greatest achievements was successfully arranging the Louisiana Purchase, which constituted the largest single land gain in US history, and effectively doubled the size of the country. The Purchase also inspired the idea of Manifest Destiny and America's move west. Jefferson further helped to open up the continent's interior for exploration by financing Lewis and Clark's expedition. Often hailed as an "apostle of liberty" for his vigorous advocacy of equality and human rights, he nevertheless owned slaves throughout his life. Jefferson passed away on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 1826, at his beloved home of Monticello – several hours before his old rival and friend John Adams.

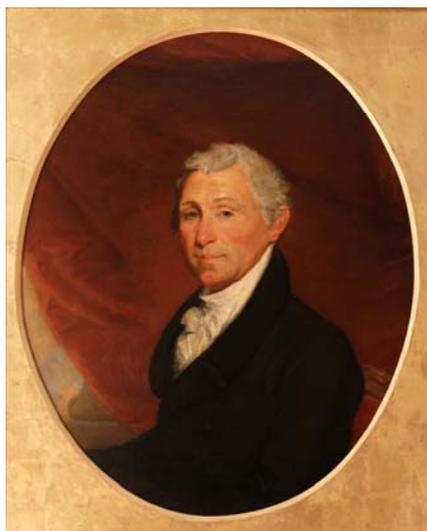


Gouverneur Morris
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1792-1794

Samuel Heller; oil on canvas

24 ins by 29 ¼ INV 801910

Born in New York City in 1752, Gouverneur Morris was educated at King's College (now Columbia University) and devoted a long life to public service. He studied law, was admitted to the colonial bar, and opened a practice in New York City. Morris served as a member of the state's provincial congress from 1775-1777, and briefly as a lieutenant colonel in the state militia. He served in the Continental Congress between 1778 and 1779, and was a signer of the Articles of Confederation. After a move to Philadelphia, Morris was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Finance, in which capacity he recommended the use of the decimal system for American coinage, along with the terms "dollar" and "cent." In 1787, he was named one of Pennsylvania's delegates to the convention that framed the U.S. Constitution, and after travelling to Europe on business was appointed the country's Minister Plenipotentiary to France in 1792. Morris was the only representative of a foreign country to remain at his post throughout the Reign of Terror, but his barely concealed hostility towards the radicalized French Revolution caused strains; it didn't help matters that he kept trying to help then imprisoned King Louis XVI hatch escape plans. Finally, in 1794, in retaliation for the United States' demand that the French government recall their envoy, "Citizen" Edmund Genet, France asked that Morris leave his post. In the years following his return to the United States, he was elected for one term to the Senate as a Federalist, and served as Chairman of the Erie Canal Commission from 1810-1813. He died in his hometown on November 6, 1816.



James Monroe

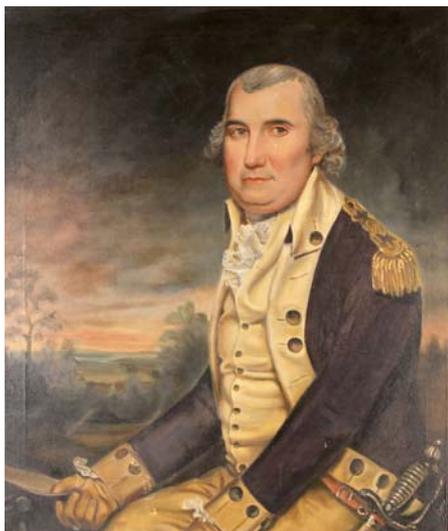
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1794-1796

B.F. Landis, after Gilbert Stuart; oil on canvas

32¼ ins by 26 ins INV 801906

Donation by W.A. Delano

Born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1758, James Monroe was educated at the College of William and Mary and fought with distinction in the Continental Army, practicing law in Fredericksburg following the war. As the Republic's fifth president he became known for the Monroe Doctrine, which warned European countries not to interfere in the affairs of the Western Hemisphere. The timely dissolution of the Federalist Party meant that Monroe's two terms in office were met with little controversy, gaining his tenure (1817-25) the nickname "Era of Good Feelings." Prior to this period, Monroe served President Washington as Minister to France until 1796, when he was recalled following the controversial Jay Treaty with Great Britain. While in France, however, Monroe warmly welcomed the French Revolution and considered it a natural continuation of the American Revolution. During the presidency of his friend and fellow Virginian Thomas Jefferson, Monroe aided the efforts of then Minister Robert Livingston in procuring the Louisiana Purchase. The capital of Liberia was named after Monroe, to honor his support for the repatriation of freed slaves back to Africa. He was the last surviving founding father and coincidentally, like both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson before him, passed away on July 4 (but in the year of 1831) in New York City.



Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1796-1797

Charlotte Scott; oil on canvas

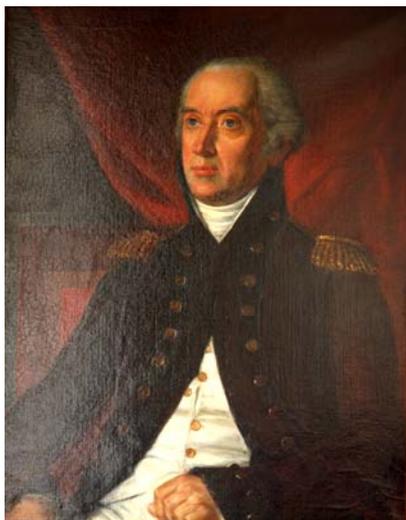
34 ins by 28¼ ins INV 801929

A South Carolina native, Charles C. Pinckney served in the state militia during the Revolutionary War. He was captured by the British during the fall of Charleston in 1780, and held as a prisoner of war for two years. Following independence, Pinckney was an influential member of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, advocating for a strong national government. Washington named him Minister Plenipotentiary to France during the short-lived Directory period of the French Revolution, but that government refused to receive him. Pinckney remained in Europe for several years, before returning to the United States as the Federalist candidate for vice president in 1800, and President in 1804 and 1808. He died in 1825.



Robert R. Livingston
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1801-1804
Mrs. Morse Green, after John Vanderlyn; oil on canvas
45 ins by 34 ins INV 801974
Donation by Goodhue Livingston

Robert R. Livingston was born on November 27, 1746, in New York City. Educated at King's College (present-day Columbia University), where he studied law, Livingston was admitted to the bar in 1773 and began a practice in the city. He served in the Continental Congress from 1775-1776, 1779-1780, and in 1784, and was initially one of the five committee members selected to draft the Declaration of Independence. Livingston was also a delegate to his state's constitutional convention in 1777, and subsequently acted as New York's Chancellor from 1777-1801. During this period, he administered President Washington's oath of office and unsuccessfully ran for the Governorship of New York. From 1781-1783 he served as First Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United States. Livingston was appointed Minister to France from 1801-1804, under President Jefferson, and was a central figure in the negotiations surrounding the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. During his tenure in Paris, he began a partnership with Robert Fulton that culminated in the first commercially successful steamboat. He died in Clermont, New York, on February 26, 1813.



John Armstrong

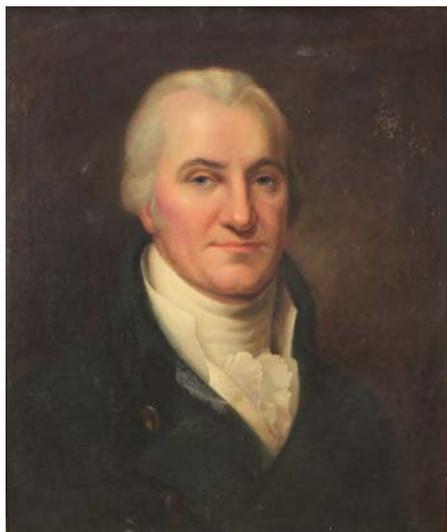
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1804-1810

B.F. Landis, after John Vanderlyn; oil on canvas

31½ ins by 24½ ins INV 801930

Donation by Ms. V. Astor and Mrs. R. Aldrich

John Armstrong, Jr. was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania on November 25, 1758. He entered Princeton, but left before finishing his studies to join the Revolutionary Army. Armstrong was Pennsylvania's Secretary of State from 1783-1787, and subsequently its Adjutant General. He served in the Continental Congress from 1787-1788, moved to New York, and was later elected to the U.S. Senate, serving numerous terms in that chamber. Armstrong resigned in 1804 and was immediately sent to France as his country's Minister from 1804-1810, under the presidency of Thomas Jefferson; during this period he also acted for a time as Minister to Spain. Commissioned Brigadier General during the War of 1812, Armstrong subsequently served as Secretary of War in President Madison's Cabinet from 1813-1814. He engaged in literary pursuits following retirement from public service, and died in Red Hook, New York, on April 1, 1843.



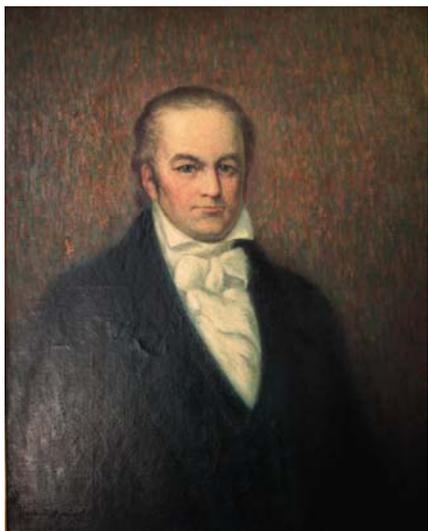
Joel Barlow

Minister Plenipotentiary, 1811-1812

Clayton Braun, after Robert Fulton; oil on canvas

24 ins by 19¾ ins INV 801933

Joel Barlow, a Connecticut native, was known for his public service and his writing. Barlow founded a local weekly newspaper while living in Hartford, and was one of a group of young writers attempting to establish a national writing style to compliment the country's revolutionary spirit. It was his poem *Vision of Columbus*, or *The Columbiad*, however, that gained him recognition as America's first epic poet. Later, while living in London, Barlow became friends with Thomas Paine, whom he aided in continuing the publication of *The Age of Reason*, even during Paine's imprisonment. Several of Barlow's political works, published in France during the Revolution, are found in the Embassy Library. Barlow was a strong supporter of the Revolution; he was named « citoyen » and elected to the French National Convention. Along with Thomas Jefferson, Barlow also translated into English Volney's *Ruins of Empires*; the Jefferson-Barlow translation later had a profound influence on Americans such as Abraham Lincoln and Walt Whitman. Between 1795 and 1797, Barlow was sent to Algiers on one of his first diplomatic missions to negotiate the release of American prisoners. After his successes in North Africa, he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to France. There he was greatly affected by Napoleon's conquests and adventurous attitude. He died of exposure while attempting to deliver a letter to the French Emperor during the latter's retreat from Russia in 1812.



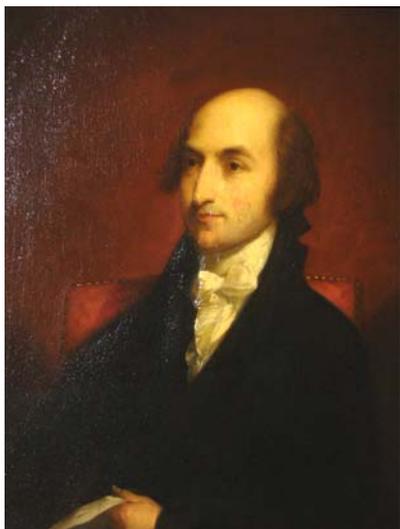
William Harris Crawford
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1813-1815

Frank M. Armington; oil on canvas

36 ins by 28½ ins INV 801931

Donation by Frank M. Armington

William H. Crawford was born in Virginia in 1772. A trained lawyer, he served in Georgia's House of Representatives from 1803-1807, before his election to the U.S. Senate in 1807. There he acted for a time as the chamber's President pro tempore. Crawford resigned in 1813, turned down an appointment as Secretary of War under President James Madison, and instead accepted an assignment as Minister to France. He served in Paris from 1813-1815, during the tumultuous last years of Napoleon Bonaparte's rule, and returned to the U.S. to serve as an agent for the sale of land donated by Congress to Lafayette. Crawford was appointed Secretary of War in 1815, but transferred to the Treasury the next year, continuing his service as Secretary of that department throughout the presidencies of Madison and James Monroe. He ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic Republican candidate for President in 1824, and subsequently refused another assignment as Secretary of the Treasury by President John Quincy Adams, due to reasons of ill health. Crawford retired to Georgia, where he was appointed judge of the state's northern circuit court. He served until his death in 1827.



Albert Gallatin

Minister Plenipotentiary, 1816-1823

Anonymous, after Gilbert Stuart; oil on canvas

30¾ ins by 25½ ins INV 801913

Albert Gallatin was born in Geneva, Switzerland, and immigrated to the United States at the age of nineteen. He quickly became involved in the political sphere, and was soon known for his Anti-Federalist ideals. Gallatin was elected to the House of Representatives and later became the longest serving Secretary of the Treasury from 1801-1814 under the presidencies of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison. His role in shaping Franco-American relations commenced during the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812, and continued after Gallatin opted to remain in France as U.S. Minister from 1816-1823. After retiring from politics, Gallatin founded the American Ethnological Society of New York—based on his studies of Native American tribes—for which he has been called “father of American ethnology.” He died on August 12, 1849, in Astoria, New York.



James Brown

Minister Plenipotentiary, 1823-1829

Hazel Ives, after Jouette; oil on canvas

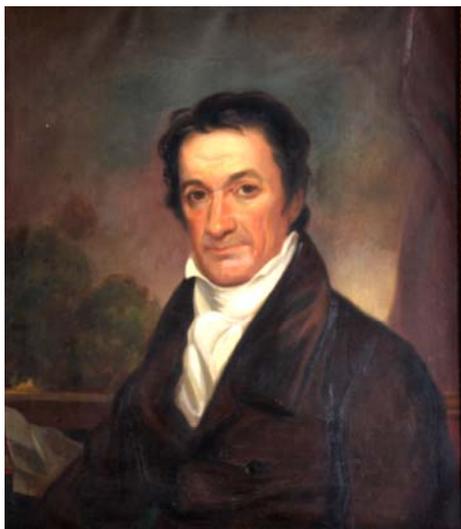
31½ ins by 26½ ins INV 801917

James Brown, a native Virginian, began his career with law studies at Washington College (present-day Washington and Lee University). After a time pursuing his profession in Kentucky, Brown moved on to the newly acquired Louisiana Territory. He quickly became active in local politics, rapidly rising from Secretary of the Territory to District Attorney. He was later elected a Senator, and chaired the Committee on Foreign Relations. Brown served as Minister to France under Presidents James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, and upon his return retired to Philadelphia, where he died in 1835.



William Cabell Rives
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1829-1832; 1849-1853
George Lawrence Nelson; oil on canvas
29½ ins by 24½ ins INV 801939
Donation by F. Bayard Rives

William C. Rives was a native of Virginia, and represented his state in both the House of Representatives and Senate. Rives was a Jacksonian Democrat during the early part of his career, and served with the Committees on Naval Affairs and Foreign Relations. He was appointed Minister to France by Andrew Jackson from 1829-1832, and approved of Lafayette's support for King Louis-Philippe. Rives returned to France to serve a second term under President Zachary Taylor from 1849-1853. He served as a delegate to the 1861 Peace Convention which tried and failed to prevent the American Civil War and, later, following Virginia's secession from the Union, as a Virginian representative to the Confederate Provisional Congress. He died in 1868 on his plantation, "Castle Hill," in Charlottesville, Virginia.



Edward Livingston
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1833-1835
Clayton Braun, after J.W. Jarvis; oil on canvas
30¾ ins by 25½ ins INV 801912

Edward Livingston, a native New Yorker, holds the distinction of having served as both the state's District Attorney and as Mayor of New York City in the same year. However, he resigned both positions following a controversy surrounding missing funds and moved to Louisiana. While there, Livingston drafted a code of conduct for criminal law and procedure, which gained him widespread fame in the United States and Europe. He went on to represent the new state in both the House of Representatives and Senate. From 1831-1833 he served as Secretary of State. He was later appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to France from 1833-1835 by Andrew Jackson. He died after one year following his return to the United States, in Dutchess County, New York. He was the younger brother of Robert Livingston, who also served as Minister to France.



Lewis Cass

Minister Plenipotentiary, 1836-1842

Stephen J. Rowland, after G. P.A. Healy; oil on canvas

34 ins by 26¾ ins INV 801938

Donation by Lewis Cass Ledyard

Lewis Cass was born in New Hampshire, and educated at Phillips Exeter Academy. He served as a Brigadier General in the War of 1812, and was rewarded by President Monroe for his service with an appointment as governor of the Michigan Territory. Cass remained in this position until 1831, at which point he became Andrew Jackson's Secretary of War. This was followed by an appointment as Minister to France from 1836-1842. He made an unsuccessful presidential bid in 1848 as the Democratic Party's candidate, and served in the Senate from 1849-1857. His final political appointment was Secretary of State under James Buchanan from 1857-1860. Cass died in 1866.



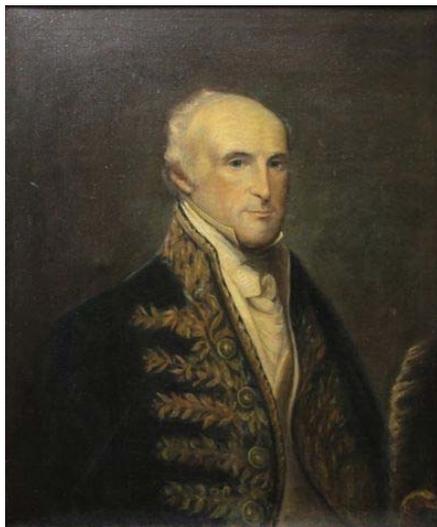
William Rufus Devane King
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1844-1846

Mary de Berniere Graves after George Cooke; oil on canvas
INV A13-845

A native of North Carolina, William R. King led a long and distinguished life in public service. Born in 1786, he was educated at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and following his 1806 admission to the bar began practicing law in his home state. King was elected to the 12th, 13th, and 14th Congresses, serving from 1811-1816, when he resigned to serve as Secretary of the American Legation in Naples and later St. Petersburg. He moved to Alabama upon his return to the U.S., and was a delegate to the convention organizing the State government. Following Alabama's admission to the Union in 1819, King was elected and reelected to the U.S. Senate as a Democratic Republican, and later as a Jacksonian. He acted as President pro tempore of the chamber from the 24th-27th Congresses, and at various times chaired the Committees on Public Lands and Commerce. King resigned in 1844 to serve as Minister to France from 1844-1846 under President James K. Polk, but was reelected to the Senate following his return to the U.S. He served from 1848-1852, when he resigned again due to ill health. During this period, he acted again as the Senate's President pro tempore from the 31st-32nd Congresses, and chaired the Committees on Foreign Relations and Pensions. Elected to the Vice Presidency as a Democrat alongside Franklin Pierce in 1853, King died of tuberculosis shortly after taking the oath of office. He is buried in Selma, Alabama, a town he founded.



Richard Rush
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1847-1849
C.E. Cole, after G.P.A.Healy; oil on canvas
30 ins by 24½ ins INV 801918



Richard Rush
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1847-1849
Oil on canvas
INV 801818

Richard Rush was born in Philadelphia in 1780, a son of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He graduated from the College of New Jersey (present-day Princeton University) at the age of 17, and was admitted to the bar at the age of 20. Rush became a successful trial lawyer, and began his life in politics as Pennsylvania's Attorney General. Rush developed a friendship with President James Madison, which led to his appointment as the young nation's Attorney General in 1814. He was later appointed Minister to Great Britain from 1817-1825. Rush was selected Secretary of the Treasury by John Quincy Adams, in which capacity he served until 1829. He continued in various government positions through the 1830s and 1840s, and was appointed Minister to France by President James K. Polk in 1847. Following the overthrow of King Louis-Philippe, Rush was among the first foreign diplomats to recognize the new French Second Republic. He died in 1859.



Charles James Faulkner
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1859-1861

Robert W. Grafton; oil on canvas

30¾ ins and 24¾ ins INV 801935

Donation by Chas. J. Faulkner Jr.

Born in Martinsburg, Virginia, now West Virginia, Charles J. Faulkner studied law at Georgetown University and was admitted to the bar in 1829. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates in the 1830s and 1840s, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1851, serving first as a Whig and later as a Democrat. Faulkner was appointed Minister to France by President James Buchanan in 1859. He returned to the U.S. in 1861, and was placed in custody as a prisoner of state on charges of having negotiated arms sales for the Confederacy while stationed in Paris. Faulkner was released in December 1861, after negotiating his own exchange for Alfred Ely, a New York Congressman who had been captured by the Confederates at the Battle of Bull Run. After returning to the South following his release, he volunteered for the Confederate Army and served as an assistant adjutant general on the staff of General “Stonewall” Jackson. Following the Civil War, Faulkner was again elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as a West Virginia Democrat, serving from 1875-1877. He retired from politics to practice law, and died in 1884.



William Lewis Dayton
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1861-1864
Rodvugin, after De Mai; oil on canvas
28¾ ins by 24 ins INV 801925
Donation by A. Dayton

William L. Dayton was Minister to France under President Abraham Lincoln. He studied law at the College of New Jersey (present-day Princeton University), and served as an associate judge for the state's Supreme Court. Dayton later held the office of Senator, and was nominated by the Republicans to be Vice President for the Party's unsuccessful presidential candidate John C. Fremont. During his appointment in France, Dayton played a key role in convincing Napoleon III's government to refuse recognition of the Confederacy, and to cut trade relations between Europe and the South. He continued to serve as his country's Minister to the Second Empire until his death in 1864.



John Bigelow
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1865-1866
Fagnani; oil on canvas
28¼ ins by 22¾ ins INV 801949
Donation by Miss G. Bigelow



John Bigelow
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1865-1866
Aidan Savage after Wells Champney
29½ ins by 24 ins INV 801940

Born and raised in New York, Bigelow first pursued a career in law before becoming involved in publishing. He became the editor and co-owner of the *New York Evening Post*, where he often penned columns favoring the platform of the Republican Party. Bigelow was named by Abraham Lincoln in 1865 as the U.S. Minister to France following the death of William Dayton. Bigelow continued his predecessor's policy of blocking the Confederacy's efforts to acquire ships in Europe, which contributed to the Union's eventual victory. He returned to the United States in 1866, where he busied himself in the pursuit of various public works, including the New York Public Library. The plaza in front of this building was recently named "John Bigelow Plaza" in his honor. Bigelow died in 1911.



John Adams Dix
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1866-1869

Perignon; oil on canvas

106 ins by 55 ins INV 801941

Donation by The Grandchildren of Major General Dix

General John A. Dix entered the U.S. Army at the age of fourteen, and fought in both the War of 1812 and the Civil War. In between these, he was a member of the Albany Regency, a powerful Democratic group, which helped him to achieve political success in both regional and national positions of power. Dix went on to serve as a Senator and Secretary of the Treasury. During the latter appointment, he told an Army officer stationed in New Orleans on the eve of the Civil War that “if anyone attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot.” Following the Civil War, Dix was named Minister to France by President Andrew Johnson, and elected Governor of New York in 1869, upon his return from Europe. He died in 1879.



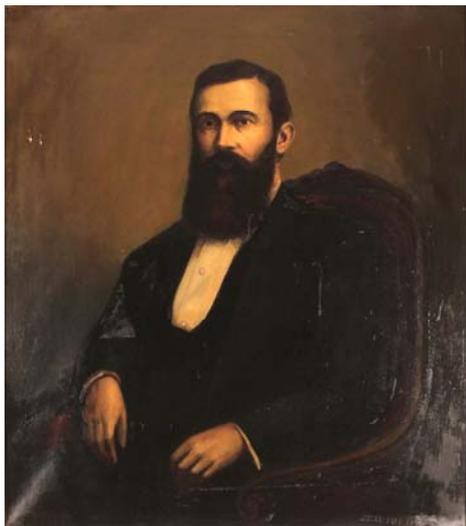
Elihu Benjamin Washburne
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1869-1877

G.P.A. Healy; oil on canvas

30 ins by 24½ ins INV 801919

Donation by Mrs. Marie Washburne Fowler

Elihu B. Washburne, the third of eleven children, was born in Maine in 1816. He was hired out as a farm hand by his twelfth birthday, and forced to look after himself at the age of fourteen, beginning a printer's apprenticeship at a local newspaper. Washburne was soon taken into his uncle's law office, where he learned Latin. He was admitted to Harvard Law School, but left after less than two years to move west, in the footsteps of a younger brother. Settling in Galena, Illinois, Washburne opened a lucrative law practice, supported the antislavery movement, and was an early and prominent advocate of the Republican Party. He served in Congress from 1853-1869, became friends with both Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant, and was later appointed Secretary of State by the latter. Washburne was forced to resign after a few days due to a sudden illness, and instead accepted the Ministerial appointment to France, where he was the only Minister from a major power to remain at his post throughout the turmoil of the Franco-Prussian War and the Commune. He helped thousands of German residents leave Paris, tried to save as many French lives as he could, and looked after those Americans who remained in the city, along with all other foreigners left behind by their ministers. The *New York Tribune* commended his conduct as "marked by such discretion, such courage and energy that it gained the respect and esteem of the French and the German people," and stated that "we do not recall an instance in our diplomacy of a more brilliant and successful performance of duty in circumstances of such gravity and delicacy." Washburne retired to Chicago in 1877, and died there on October 23, 1887.



Edward Follansbee Noyes
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1877-1881

Artist Unknown; oil on canvas

40 ins by 34½ ins INV 801932

Edward F. Noyes was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and educated at Dartmouth College and the Cincinnati Law School. He raised a volunteer regiment for the Union during the Civil War, distinguished himself by his bravery on the field of battle, and was severely wounded during the Atlanta Campaign, losing his left leg to amputation. Noyes entered politics following the war, serving as City Solicitor of Cincinnati, and was later elected Governor of Ohio 1871. He retired briefly from public life following his first term in office, and in 1877 was named Minister to France by President Rutherford B. Hayes. During his tenure, Noyes represented the United States at the Paris Exposition of 1878, participated in an International Monetary Conference intended to fix worldwide exchange values of silver and gold, and toured Africa in search of opportunities for American commercial interests. He died in 1890, while serving on the superior court bench of Cincinnati.



Levi Parson Morton
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1881-1885

Artist Unknown; oil on canvas

56 ins by 41 ins INV 801926

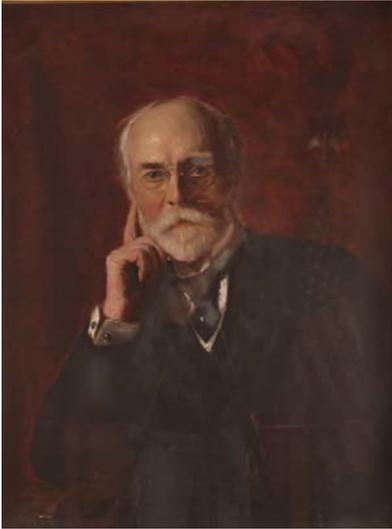
Donation by Miss H. Morton

Levi P. Morton, son of a Vermont minister, began his career as a merchant. After moving to New York in the mid-1850s, he became interested in banking, and founded his own banking house, L.P. Morton and Company. Morton served in the House of Representatives, and was later appointed Minister to France by President James Garfield. He drove the first rivet into the Statue of Liberty during his first year in France; the completed statue was presented to him in 1884. Upon returning to the United States he was elected Vice President under President Benjamin Harrison. Morton remained active in the public sphere up until his death in 1920.



Robert Milligan McLane
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1885-1889
Ryden after G.P.A. Healy; oil on canvas
54 ins by 35½ ins INV 801934

Robert M. McLane was born in Wilmington, Delaware, in 1815. During his early years he was educated at St. Mary's College, Baltimore and the College Bourbon in Paris, and in 1833 received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point from President Jackson. McLane took part in the Seminole War from 1837-1838 as an Artillery Officer before transferring to the Corps of Topographical Engineers. He resigned in 1843, studied law, and was admitted to the bar that same year, beginning a practice in Baltimore, Maryland. McLane was first elected to the state's House of Delegates in 1845 and then to the U.S. Congress 1847, serving for four years as a Democrat and chairing the Committee on Commerce. He did not run for reelection, and was appointed Commissioner to China in 1853. McLane later served as Minister to Mexico from 1859-1860. After returning to the U.S., he served as a delegate to the 1876 Democratic National Convention, a member of Maryland's State Senate, and once more as a U.S. Congressman (1879-1883), where he chaired the Committee on Pacific Railroads. McLane was elected Governor of Maryland in 1883. He resigned this position in 1885 to accept an assignment as Minister to France under President Cleveland. He served as minister until 1889 and died in Paris in 1898.



Whitelaw Reid
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1889-1892
Artist Unknown; oil on canvas
31 ins by 23¼ ins INV 801914

Whitelaw Reid was born on a farm in rural Ohio in 1837, and after graduating from Miami University in Oxford; Ohio went on to become editor of the *New York Tribune*. During his tenure there, he secured freelance contributions from Mark Twain and Bret Harte, and became a friend of Horace Greeley. Following his posting as Minister to France, Reid was a Republican vice presidential nominee under Benjamin Harrison, and later served as Minister to the Court of St. James from 1905-1912. He died in London. Reid's grandson Ogden Rogers Reid would follow in his footsteps, serving as U.S. Ambassador to Israel from 1959-1961.

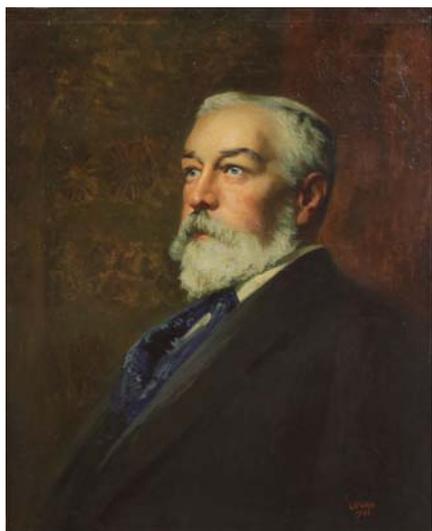


Thomas Jefferson Coolidge
Minister Plenipotentiary, 1892-1893

Artist Unknown

30¾ ins by 26 ins INV 801948

Born in Boston, T. Jefferson Coolidge was the great-grandson of Thomas Jefferson on his mother's side. His education consisted of time spent at several boarding schools in London, Geneva, and Dresden, before enrolling at Harvard at the age of sixteen. Coolidge began his career in foreign commerce after graduation, later reorienting his focus to New England's cotton mills following the commercial crash of 1857. He also partook in the management of several railroads, namely the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe lines, and helped design the City of Boston's park system. Coolidge was later appointed to the Pan-American Congress in 1889, before becoming Minister to France in 1892 under President Harrison. Upon his return to the United States, he was first appointed to the Massachusetts Taxation Commission and then to the Joint High Commission of the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Newfoundland. Coolidge died at the age of ninety.



James Biddle Eustis
Ambassador, 1893-1897
Robert Fulton Logan; oil on canvas
31 ins by 24¾ ins INV 801928
Donation by Mrs. Charles Bohlen

Born in Louisiana in 1834, James B. Eustis was educated at Harvard Law School and began practicing in New Orleans in 1856. He served as a judge advocate in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and was elected to the state legislature following the conflict. Later Eustis served for a time in the U.S. Senate, before becoming a professor of law at Tulane University. He was elected to a second term in the Senate from 1885-1889, and was then appointed U.S. Ambassador to France in 1893 by President Grover Cleveland. Eustis was the first American Ambassador to France since up to 1893 the highest diplomatic rank conferred by the United States was Minister. He had lived in France 30 years earlier, during the American Civil War, at which time he served as Secretary to the envoy to France of the Confederate States. Eustis settled in New York upon his return to the U.S., and died in 1899. His grandson, Charles Bohlen, would also serve as Ambassador to France from 1962-1968.



Horace Porter

Ambassador, 1897-1905

Stanley Todd, after Emil Funk; oil on canvas

56¾ ins by 39¼ ins INV 801936

Donation by Mrs. E. Porter Mende

General Horace Porter served as Ambassador to France under both Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, and was previously known for his role in the peace processes that concluded the Spanish-American War. Porter was a Civil War hero, and a confidant of Ulysses S. Grant. He later opted for a career in international politics, choosing the role of Ambassador after having been offered the positions of Vice President, Secretary of War, and the Governorship of New York. Successful during his posting in France, Porter once again entered the public spotlight for his efforts to return the remains of American Revolutionary war hero John Paul Jones. For his efforts, he was awarded both the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Grand Cross of the French *Légion d'honneur*. Porter was the last surviving member of President Grant's cabinet upon his death in 1921.



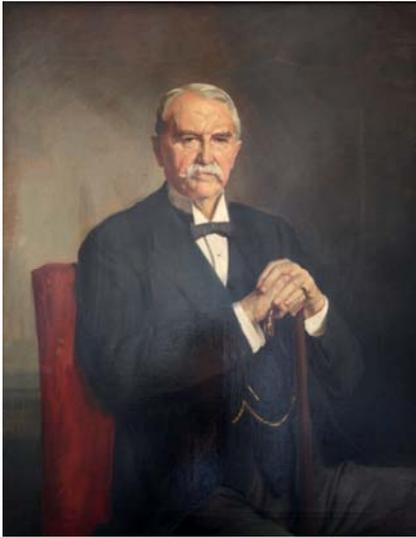
Robert Sanderson McCormick
Ambassador, 1905-1907

Aimé Morot; oil on canvas

36 ins by 28½ ins INV 801937

Donation by Ambassador Robert S. McCormick

Robert S. McCormick was born in Virginia, but became most closely associated with Chicago, where he and his heirs would run the *Chicago Tribune*. He served as Secretary of the American Legation in London from 1889-1892, which helped him gain his next position as an official representative for the Chicago Exhibition of 1893. McCormick's diplomatic career recommenced in 1901, when President McKinley appointed him Minister to Austria-Hungary, and then as the first U.S. Ambassador to the country from 1901-1902. He was subsequently tapped as U.S. Ambassador to Russia from 1902-1905, and to France from 1905-1907. In appreciation for services rendered during the latter tenure, the French government presented him with the Grand Cross of the *Légion d'honneur*. McCormick was a strong supporter of Theodore Roosevelt and a vocal opponent of the League of Nations. He died in 1919.



Henry White

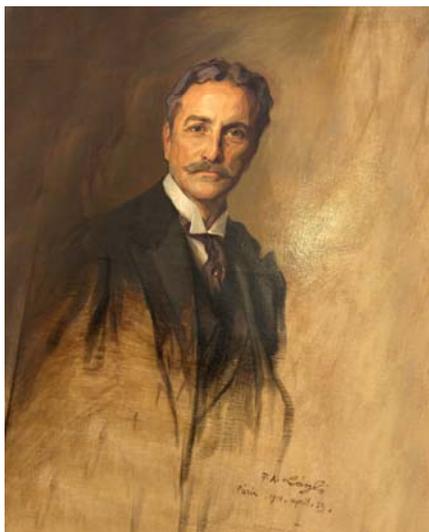
Ambassador, 1907-1909

F.W. Wright, after Oswald Birley; oil on canvas

44½ ins by 34¼ ins INV 801926

Donation by Mrs. H. White

Henry White hailed from Baltimore, Maryland. Following his father's premature death, White's mother remarried and moved the family to Europe for an extended period of time. From a relatively early age, it was apparent that White was destined for a career in the diplomatic service. He officially commenced upon this track in 1883, under the tutelage of Alfonso Taft in Vienna. White later served as Ambassador to both Italy and France during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. The President often consulted with White on all matters relating to foreign policy, and once described him as "the most useful man in the diplomatic service, during my presidency, and many years before." White later returned to Paris upon the conclusion of the First World War, to aid President Woodrow Wilson's peace efforts. He passed away in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 1927, after contracting an infection during an operation.



Robert Bacon

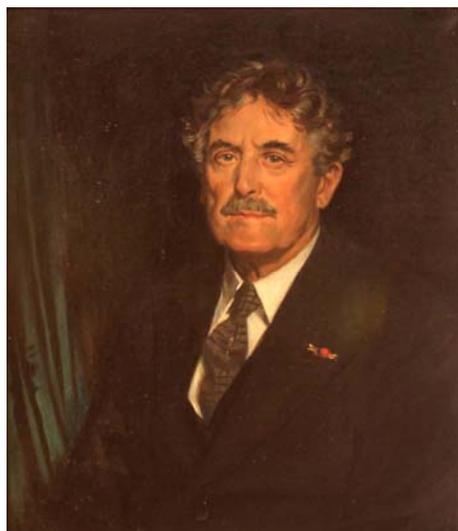
Ambassador, 1909-1912

H.W. Wright, after Philip de Laszlo; oil on canvas

35¾ ins by 25¼ ins INV 801927

Donation by Congressman R. L. Bacon

A native Bostonian, Robert Bacon was educated at Harvard. He served as U.S. ambassador to France during the presidency of William Howard Taft, and was a close college friend of Theodore Roosevelt. Bacon's enduring love for Francophone culture commenced earlier following his marriage, as his wife's family had offices in France associated with their silk manufacturing business. Bacon consequently brought a more personal touch to his duties as ambassador. He instantly won the hearts of the French in one of his first acts on the job, by providing aid following the flooding of the Seine in 1910. Bacon is better remembered, however, for his dedication and support for the French cause following his tenure as ambassador in World War I—during which he went so far as to enlist as a private in the French Army, at the age of fifty-five. The French government later honored him with the Distinguished Service Medal, the *Croix de Guerre*, and as a Commander of the *Légion d'honneur*. Bacon passed away upon his return to the United States in 1919.



Myron Timothy Herrick
Ambassador, 1912-1914; 1921-1929
Ellen Emmet Rand, after Sir William Orpen
29¼ ins by 24½ ins INV 801911
Donation by Mr. Wm.N. Cromwell



Myron Timothy Herrick
Ambassador, 1912-1914; 1921-1929
Oil on canvas
62 ins by 51½ ins INV 802237
Donation by the city of Cleveland

Myron T. Herrick was a self-made man from Ohio. He garnered success first in business, then as governor of his state, and finally as ambassador to France, serving under four Presidents over the course of two terms. His first mission to Paris was intended to last only until the end of August 1914, but the outbreak of war changed things. President Wilson decided to retain Herrick as ambassador, much to the relief of the French government. Herrick's dedication to the French people was not forgotten, and upon his second appointment, Laurence Benét credited him with having crafted a "diplomacy of the heart." During his second term, Herrick purchased the Grévy House at 2, avenue d'Iéna, which he donated to the U.S. government to serve as the Ambassador's Residence. His latter appointment also coincided with the historic transatlantic flight made by Charles Lindbergh in 1927. Herrick is recognized as the longest serving, and possibly greatest, U.S. ambassador to France during the twentieth century. He passed away in Paris in 1929. France bestowed upon him the title of *Citoyen de Paris*, making Herrick the second American to be granted this honor after Benjamin Franklin. He and Benjamin Franklin are the only U.S. ambassadors for whom a Paris street is named.



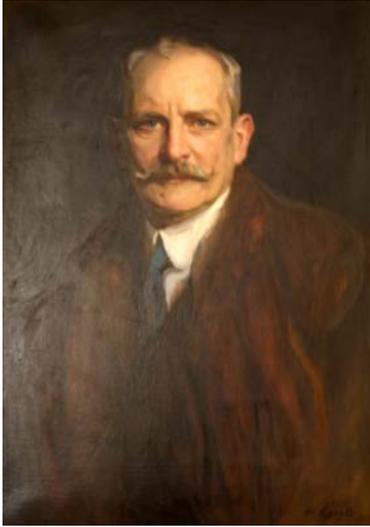
William Graves Sharp
Ambassador, 1914-1919

Mrs. Leslie Cotton; oil on canvas

31¾ ins by 25½ ins INV 80194

Donation by the Sharp Family

William G. Sharp was born in Mount Gilead, Ohio, in 1859, and educated at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He served as a Democratic congressman from 1909-1914, when he resigned to become Ambassador to France. Sharp was the first Ambassador to begin working with the French government outside of Paris when, for safety reasons, the Embassy was moved to Bordeaux in 1914. He initially supported President Wilson's desire that the United States remain neutral throughout the early years of the First World War, and for this was criticized by predecessors Bacon and Herrick, who insisted that the U.S. involve itself on the side of France. Sharp had a change of heart as the war dragged on, however, and began urging his government to enter the conflict, which it eventually did in 1917. He returned to his home state in 1919, engaged in literary pursuits, and died in Elyria, Ohio, in 1922.



Hugh Campbell Wallace
Ambassador, 1919-1921
S.P. Kendrick, after Philip de Laszlo
29 ins by 20 ins INV 801915
Donation by Mrs. H.C. Wallace

Hugh C. Wallace was a self-made man, first gaining his fortune in the West and then augmenting it in Alaska during the Klondike Gold Rush at the turn of the twentieth century. His career took a political turn, as he accepted a position as one of President Wilson's closest advisors. Wallace later served as Ambassador to France during an increasingly complex political situation, striving to help maintain peace in Europe following the United States Senate's refusal to participate in the League of Nations. Reflecting on his time in France, he commented that "I leave so much of my heart behind me that I think I shall never again be heart-whole. No greater honor can come to me in after-life than to have been American Ambassador to France. It enabled me to represent in a country I love the land I love most of all." Wallace received the Grand Cross of the *Légion d'honneur*. On September 16, 1930 Ambassador Hugh C. Wallace presented to the American Embassy his immense collection of publications and letters dealing with Franco-American relations since the 18th century. The Wallace Library in the Chancery honors this generous contribution.



Walter Evans Edge
Ambassador, 1929-1933

John St. Helier Lander; oil on canvas

31½ ins by 25½ ins INV 801942

Donation by Ambassador W.E. Edge

Walter E. Edge, though born in Philadelphia, soon found himself in New Jersey for political reasons. He became a successful businessman, governor, and senator, and was appointed U.S. Ambassador to France by President Herbert Hoover. The pairing of his business and political experience helped Edge to navigate the early years of the Great Depression as ambassador to France. Though his mission was largely centered on matters relating to the economy, as ambassador he stressed the importance of cultural exchange, traveling widely around France and encouraging American students to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge the country had to offer. Edge intended to retire from public life following his return to the United States, but was once again elected governor of New Jersey. He died in 1956.



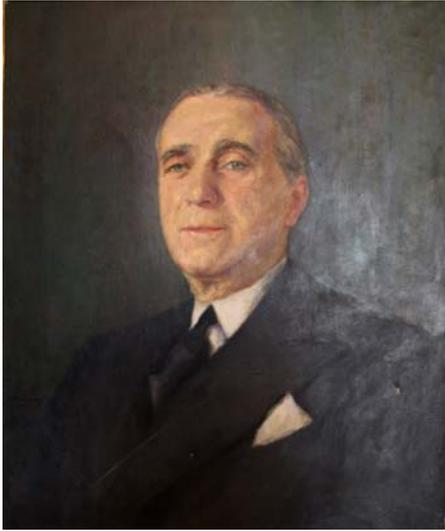
Jesse Isidor Straus
Ambassador, 1933-1936
James Erven; oil on canvas
35½ ins by 27½ ins INV 801944
Donation by Jack I. Straus

Jesse I. Straus was born in New York City, the son of Titanic Disaster victims. Following his graduation from Harvard, Straus worked briefly in banking before moving on to join the executive offices of Macy's. He became a partner in 1914, and was appointed president of the company in 1919. Straus befriended Franklin D. Roosevelt during the latter's tenure as Governor of New York, and during Roosevelt's difficult first days in the White House released a full-page ad in the New York newspapers announcing his confidence in the government and reassuring fellow Americans. He was appointed Ambassador to France in 1933, and was welcomed by the French as one of New York's "merchant princes." During his time in Paris, Straus negotiated the difficult topic of France's war debt repayment, and signed a treaty ending the double taxation once imposed on American corporations doing business in the country. Troubled by ill health for several years, Straus returned to the United States after fainting during the July 14th celebrations of 1936. He resigned from his post in August of that year, and died two weeks later in his New York home.



David Kirkpatrick Este Bruce
Ambassador, 1949-1952
Artist Unknown; oil on canvas
33 ins by 33 ins INV 801924
Donation by Ambassador D.K.E. Bruce

David K. E. Bruce was to set the example for a new generation of ambassadors; he was once described by President Eisenhower as being among the best, and as someone who understood what it meant to be a professional diplomat. Bruce's enduring love for French culture was instilled in him by his grandmother, but his first personal contact with the country came only after the Great War. Bruce acted as a director for several businesses, while working for the Office of Strategic Services, the predecessor to the CIA. He served in World War II, becoming a friend of Ernest Hemingway who led a resistance group based outside of Paris. Bruce headed the Marshall Plan following the war, and was offered the position of ambassador to France by President Truman. The role of ambassador underwent a shift during this time, in accordance with the evolving political climate. The ambassador was soon charged with focusing on three areas: France's economy, Western Europe in relation to its eastern counterpart, and the monitoring and limiting of Soviet propaganda efforts. Bruce returned to the United States in 1952 to assume the position of Under Secretary of State, and later served as his country's ambassador to Great Britain and Germany. He died in 1977.



James Clement Dunn
Ambassador, 1952-1953
N. Harvey; oil on canvas
23½ ins by 19 ins INV 801945

James C. Dunn was born in New Jersey, and pursued an early career as an architect before entering the diplomatic service in 1919. His first posting was to Madrid, followed by assignments in Haiti, Belgium, and Washington, D.C. He became a trusted confidant of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who appointed him political advisor on European Affairs, an office he held until 1944. Dunn served as ambassador to Italy from 1946-1952 before assuming his duties in Paris. During his tenure in France, the country criticized U.S. attempts to influence its policies toward Tunisia, and stressed that it would reject all outside interference. President Truman later assigned Dunn to Spain as ambassador, and President Eisenhower appointed him ambassador to Brazil in 1955, his final diplomatic posting. He died in Florida in 1979. A Department of State award is named in his honor.



Clarence Douglass Dillon
Ambassador, 1953-1957
William F. Draper; oil on canvas
35½ ins by 29½ ins INV 801923
Donation by Ambassador C.D. Dillon

C. Douglass Dillon was a successful banker, naval officer, diplomat, and Treasury Secretary who was born in Geneva, Switzerland, while his parents were vacationing there. Dillon was appointed Ambassador to France by President Eisenhower, and the policies he pursued there were consistent with Eisenhower's fear of Soviet domination. Dillon was also considered personally responsible for reestablishing amicable relations between the United States government and Charles de Gaulle. Upon his return to the United States, Dillon's interests turned to a variety of organizations, and he became the chair of the Board of Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation and vice-chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations, among others. He died in 2003.



Amory Houghton
Ambassador, 1957-1961
Albert Murray; oil on canvas
35½ ins by 29½ ins INV 801922

Amory Houghton was born in Corning, New York, into a successful glass manufacturing family. The family also had a history in diplomatic service, with Amory's father having served as U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain and Germany. Houghton's own career remained business-based until 1957, when he was appointed Ambassador to France by President Eisenhower. During his assignment in the country, he attempted to dispel French fears that the United States intended to take control of Africa. Other issues Houghton faced as ambassador included France's desire to become a nuclear power, de Gaulle's refusal to join NATO, and the Algerian War. One of his crowning achievements was the creation of a trade agreement among France, the United States, and African nations, with the help of French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville. Upon his return to the U.S., Houghton became heavily involved with Boy Scouts of America and a variety of other educational organizations. He passed away in 1981.



James Maurice Gavin
Ambassador, 1961-1962
William Dinzee Prescott; oil on canvas
26¾ ins by 23½ ins INV 801943

“Jumpin’ General” James M. Gavin was born in 1907 in New York City. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, he was one of the first officers to advocate for airborne attacks, personally leading parachute strikes in North Africa and Italy during the Second World War. Gavin later became unpopular with the Eisenhower administration, due to his criticism of nuclear weapons. His research and writings on life in the space age caught the attention of the Democratic Party, however; John F. Kennedy appointed him ambassador to France in part due to his World War II service record. Kennedy made Gavin’s mission a clear one: like others before him, he was entrusted with helping to create a unified NATO alliance. Ambassador Gavin was awarded the Grand Cross of the *Légion d’honneur*. Gavin passed away in 1990 due to complications associated with Parkinson’s disease.



Charles Eustis Bohlen

Ambassador, 1962-1968

Artist Unknown; oil on canvas

28¼ ins by 24 ins INV 801921

Donation by Friends of Ambassador Bohlen

Charles E. Bohlen's forty-year career in foreign affairs was marked by his missions as ambassador to Russia, the Philippines, and France during the incredibly stressful period constituting the Cold War. Bohlen was the grandson of ambassador to France James Eustis, and thus had a love of France imparted to him at an early age by his mother. Bohlen's first professional experience in an embassy setting occurred in 1933, when he was named Third Secretary in the Embassy to the USSR. Later, as ambassador to France, Bohlen struggled to find a happy medium between de Gaulle's nuclear aspirations for France and the policies of the United States on the subject. While in office, he was also responsible for the removal of American forces, as a means of respecting de Gaulle's wish for more control over France's military future. Bohlen was offered several other ambassadorial appointments following the completion of his mission in Paris, including a second term in Russia, but declined. He died in 1973.



Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr.
Ambassador, 1968-1970

CJ Foly; Oil on canvas

43 ½ ins by 35 ½ ins

On loan from the Shriver family

Born in Westminster, Maryland, in 1915, R. Sargent Shriver, Jr. graduated from Yale and served as an officer in World War II. He worked as an assistant editor for *Newsweek* magazine, before managing Joseph P. Kennedy's Merchandise Mart in Chicago. Shriver married President John F. Kennedy's sister, Eunice in 1953. During Kennedy's term, Shriver served as the director of the newly formed Peace Corps, and later as the leading force in President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty in the Office of Economic Opportunity. He was appointed the U.S. ambassador to France by President Richard Nixon. Shriver returned to run as vice president on Senator George McGovern's ticket, and later ran his own unsuccessful campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1976. He became the Director of the Special Olympics in 1984, and was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor. He passed away in 2011.



Pamela Churchill Harriman
Ambassador, 1993-1997

Anthony Palliser; oil on canvas
38 ½ ins by 33 ins INV 804201

Born in Farnborough, England, to the 11th Baron Digby and his wife Constance Alice, Pamela C. Harriman was educated by governesses at her family's ancestral home in Dorset. In 1939, she went to work in the Foreign Office in London, where she met and soon married Randolph Churchill, son of Winston Churchill. They divorced in 1945, after which she moved to Paris in 1948. In 1959, she met Broadway producer Leland Hayward, and the two were married in 1960. They divided their time between New York and Westchester County until Hayward's death in 1971. That same year she married Averell Harriman, became a U.S. citizen, and got involved in fundraising efforts for the Democratic Party. In 1993, President Clinton appointed her ambassador to France, in which position she remained until 1997. On February 5th of that year, she suffered a stroke and died while taking her usual morning swim in the pool of the Paris Ritz Hotel. President Jacques Chirac of France placed the Grand Cross of the *Légion d'honneur* on her coffin, making her the first female foreign diplomat to receive the honor. President Clinton dispatched Air Force One to return her body to the United States, and spoke at her funeral at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.



Howard H. Leach
Ambassador, 2001-2005

Oil on canvas

39¼ ins by 31½ ins INV 804202

Howard H. Leach, a native Californian, attended first Yale University and then the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an officer from 1953-1955, and is president of Leach Capital LLC, San Francisco and Foley Timber & Land Company. Ambassador Leach has a long legacy of supporting higher education, serving as a member of the Board of Regents for the University of California from 1990-2001, and as its Chairman from 1993-1995. He also has served on the boards of the American Friends of Versailles, the American University of Paris, the French-American Foundation, the French Heritage Society, the Haas Business School at the University of California Berkeley, and as an Overseer of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Leach's political career has been marked by an active role in Republican politics, including supporting and fundraising for California politicians and national elections. His role as fundraiser was ultimately recognized when he served as Finance Chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1995-1997. He was appointed as ambassador to France by President George W. Bush in 2001.



Craig Roberts Stapleton

Ambassador to France, 2005-2009 and Monaco 2006-2009

Andrew Festing; Oil on canvas

36 ins by 32 ins INV 804203

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, Craig R. Stapleton received both his Bachelor's and MBA degrees from Harvard University. He served as President of Marsh and McLennan Real Estate Advisors, and was also a partner with President George W. Bush in the ownership of the Texas Rangers baseball team. Prior to his tenure in France, Stapleton served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic from 2001-2004. He has also served as President of the Vaclav Havel Foundation in the United States, and was awarded the Jan Masaryk medal for service to the Czech Republic. During his ambassadorship to France, Stapleton organized the inauguration of Jean Cardot's sculpture *La Flamme de la liberté* at the Residence with President George W. Bush and President Nicolas Sarkozy. The monument and ceremony pay tribute to the long and enduring friendship between France and the United States of America.



Charles H. Rivkin
Ambassador to France & Monaco 2009-2013

Michael Shane Neal; oil on canvas

46 ins x 35 ins

On loan from the Rivkin family

Charles H. Rivkin, son of the late Ambassador William R. Rivkin, was born April 1962. He spent his early childhood in Luxembourg, Senegal and the Gambia where his father served as U.S. ambassador. His family has presented the "Rivkin Award" at the Department of State since 1968 to honor intellectual courage and constructive dissent in the Foreign Service. The award was created in part with the help of Charles Rivkin's godfather, Hubert H. Humphrey.

Rivkin earned a B.A. from Yale in 1984 and an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1988. He worked in the media sector for over 20 years, serving as president and CEO of The Jim Henson Company and Wildbrain, two leading entertainment companies. During his tenure in Paris, Rivkin made youth outreach a key priority, connecting the embassy to the next generation of leaders throughout France, including in disadvantaged communities. In January 2012, Rivkin created the Washburne Award for Innovation in Diversity to recognize annually one French and one American company for their best practices in fostering diversity in hiring practices.

On June 3, 2012, Charles Rivkin parachuted over the coast of Normandy to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the Allied invasion of mainland Europe during World War II, becoming the first U.S. envoy to France to jump from a plane in honor of the troops who fought on D-Day. Also, Rivkin created the Embassy's first social media accounts, established green initiatives, and worked to expand U.S. exports of goods and services into France.

On July 16, 2013, President Francois Hollande awarded Rivkin the rank of Commander in the *Légion d'honneur* at the Elysée Palace, making him the first living U.S. envoy in more than 45 years to receive the decoration from a sitting French president.

Consuls



Robert Peet Skinner

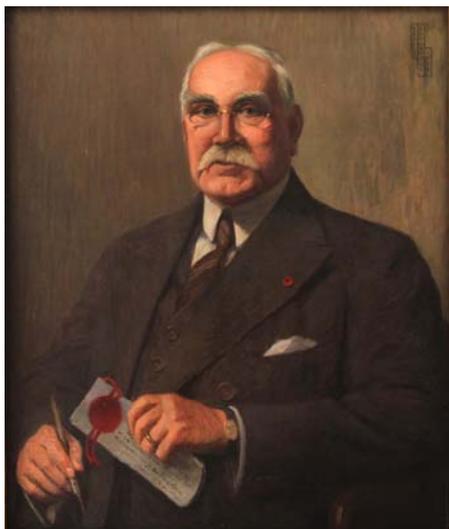
U.S. Consul to Marseille, 1897-1901; U.S. Consul General to Marseille, 1901-1908

Leslie Giffen Cauldwell; oil on canvas

39¼ ins by 32¼ ins INV 801950

Donation by Mrs. R.P. Skinner

Born in Massillon, Ohio, on February 24, 1866, Robert P. Skinner was a close friend of President William McKinley, who hailed from the same county. Skinner commenced his political career by following his friend on political campaigns, and was later appointed U.S. Consul to Marseille in 1897. In this capacity, he monitored trade relations—specifically those in cotton, hides, and coffee—with Africa, and in particular Ethiopia. Skinner was promoted to U.S. Consul General in 1901, and again focused his energies on initiating a trading relationship between the United States and Ethiopia, in what became known as the Skinner Mission. This attempt to further trade relations was heavily documented in both the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. Following his posting to France, Skinner continued his diplomatic career as U.S. Consul to Hamburg, Berlin, London, Greece, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and as U.S. Ambassador to Turkey. He died in Maine in 1960.



Alexander Montgomery Thackara
U.S. Consul to Paris, 1913-1924
Leslie Giffen Cauldwell; oil on canvas
28¾ ins by 20½ ins INV 801946

Alexander “Mont” Thackara was born in Philadelphia in 1848 and graduated from Annapolis in 1869. Mont served in the Navy for almost ten years, with tours in Java, Panama, and Japan. After marrying Ellie Sherman in 1879, he retired from the Navy and settled down in his hometown, working for his father. However, thanks to his naval education and experience, Mont became a prime appointment for U.S. Consul, with a focus on naval strategies. He served as U.S. Consul to Le Havre in 1897 for President William McKinley, U.S. Consul to Berlin from 1905-1913, and finally for President Woodrow Wilson as U.S. Consul to Paris from 1913 until 1924. He died in Paris at the American Hospital in Neuilly-sur-Seine in 1937.

Cultural Heritage Program

The Cultural Heritage Program (CHP) in the General Services Office (GSO) is tasked with maintaining the Heritage Collection of fine objects including historic finishes and furnishings of the Embassy Tri-Mission. The CHP also manages the Art in Embassies Program as well as the Docent Tour Program.

The portraits in the Chancery are part of the Heritage Collection. In July 1931, in preparation of the opening of the new Chancery building, a portrait committee, composed of the American Ambassador, Jesse I. Straus, and other prominent Americans residing in Paris, was created to collect an original portrait or a copy of every American envoy to France from Benjamin Franklin to the honorable Walter Evans Edge. The committee no longer exists, but the tradition continues, and to date Embassy Paris has 54 portraits hanging in the Chancery. The collection of portraits ranges from the American Forefathers and the first envoys to France to the succeeding Ministers Plenipotentiary and Ambassadors. The collection also includes two former Consuls.

The portraits vary in size and style and date from the eighteenth century to present day. Where possible we have tried to make them visible to a large public. Most of the portraits are hanging either in the Embassy's Main Lobby, the Atrium, the Ambassador's lobby, the Ambassador's office or the DCM's office. Others, due to their large size, grace the main stairwells. The most recent ambassadors' portraits hang in the lobby outside the Ambassador's office. Those in the Atrium are presented in chronological order.

This portrait guide, put together with the help of American interns, includes a brief description of each portrait and the illustrious individuals who represented the United States in France. It is with a deep sense of pride and desire to honor the commitment of these men and women that we have created this guide. CHP seeks to preserve not only the portraits but the memory of the contributions made by each individual in furthering our diplomatic relations with France. For more information contact: CHPParis@state.gov