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Meleney, John C. (b. 1921)
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Abstract:

Research notes and sources for Meleney's published biography of Aedanus Burke (1743-1802), as well as material collected for an unpublished book on the legislative apportionment representation debate in South Carolina, 1778-1808, during the Revolutionary War and early national period.

Accession Number: 12526

Scope and Content

John C. Meleney graduated from Dartmouth College in 1941 and from Yale Law School in 1948. From 1948 through 1981, he practiced law with a major firm in New York City, first as an associate attorney, then as a partner of the firm. He retired to South Carolina in 1981 and enrolled in the University of South Carolina in 1982, where he received a Ph.D. in history in May 1988. Dr. Meleney continued his study of early South Carolina political and legal history as a post-doctorate research fellow at the University's Institute of Southern Studies.

The collection is divided into two series: Debate materials and Research files. The debate materials are arranged into two sub collections: Political essays and commentary in South Carolina pamphlets and newspapers, 1783-1786 and Collected materials relating to debate on apportionment of representation in South Carolina, 1794-1796. Files include typescripts and photocopied originals of letters and pamphlets (mostly published under pseudonyms), editorial comments, and grand jury charges. Some of these essays have been identified as works by Aedanus Burke, Christopher Gadsden, Alexander Gillon, William Hornby, John Fauchereaud Grimke, Henry Pendleton, Robert Goodloe Harper, John Drayton, Timothy Ford, Henry William Desaussure, Thomas Tudor Tucker, and Joseph Alston. The series also includes research on constitutional and legislative background issues; as well as notes, drafts, papers, and newspaper stories relating to representation and related issues like debtor relief, paper money, judicial reform, eminent domain, and the open range policy.

Meleney's research interests extend to contemporaries of Aedanus Burke like William Read, Nathanael Greene, Anthony Wayne, James Madison, John Nicholson, Pierce Butler, Edward Rutledge, Charles Pinckney, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, John Rutledge, Jr., Rawlins Lowndes, and John Pringle. Topical material includes contemporary political issues like the society of the Cincinnati, the Jay treaty, the Jonathan Robbins extradition case, and debates in the first federal Congress

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Debate Materials

- Folders 1-13: "Political Essays and Commentary in South Carolina Pamphlets and Newspapers, 1783-1786" with introductory notes and index
- Folders 14-18: "Apportionment of representation in South Carolina, 1794-1796"
- Folder 19: "Hampden," untitled letter to editor, *The South Carolina Weekly Gazette*, 22 March 1783. Photocopy and typescripts.
- Folder 20: "A Patriot Soldier," untitled letter to editor, *The South Carolina Weekly Gazette*, 29 March 1783. Photocopy and typescripts.
- Folder 21: "Tullius," untitled letter to editor, *The South Carolina Gazette and General Advertiser*, 18 April 1783. Photocopies only.
- Folder 22: "[Aedanus Burke], Charge to the Grand Jury (with presentments appended), *The South Carolina Gazette and General Advertiser*, 10 June 1783. Photocopies only.
- Folder 23: "Hampden," untitled letter to editor, *The South Carolina Gazette and General Advertiser*, 17 June 1783 Photocopies only.
- Folder 24: "Plain Truth," untitled letter to editor, *The South Carolina Weekly Gazette*, 28 June 1783 Typescript only.
- Folder 25: Benjamin Guerard, Governor's proclamation (with news story), *The South Carolina Gazette and General Advertiser*, 12 July 1783 Photocopies only.
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- Folder 32: "Brutus," "To the Printers of the renovated PATRIOTIC Gazette, of the state of South Carolina," *The Gazette of the State of South Carolina*, 6 August 1783 Typescript only.
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- Folder 44: John Faucheraud Grimke, Charge to the Cheraws and Camden Grand Juries (with presentments appended), *The South Carolina Gazette and General Advertiser*, 20-23 December 1783 Photocopies of original newspaper story and Gregg's transcription in History of the Old Cheraws.

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