

county of Philadelphia, and a single leaf with two pages of minutes from a meeting of the Parnas and Junta of Congregation Mikveh Israel in 1789.

Series II, Hyman and Simon Gratz Papers (1804-1831), contains papers related to the two brothers. The material is largely business related, though there are some financial documents that touch on parts of their personal lives. The papers are arranged in two subseries: Correspondence, and Documents.

The Correspondence subseries holds mostly single letters from business contacts made by the brothers; it is generally financial in nature, discussing sums of money to be exchanged without mention of products. Some of the exceptions are the letters from Henry G. Kurtz of Easton, PA, which number nearly a dozen, and show that he was buying reels of yarn and bundles of hemp from the Gratzes in 1823 and 1824. Several of the merchants were located in Kentucky, including John N. Lee in Flemingsburg, who asked for shipments of gunpowder, Spanish float indigo, and Hison tea. Samuel Leedom went by to say farewell before leaving "for the westward," but not finding the brothers available wrote a note to thank them, and to offer his assistance if he can render them any services in Lexington. Also of interest is a printed circular letter from Thomas Lockhart and David Arrott announcing their new commission merchant firm in New Orleans, dated March 1823, and the seven sets of letters (original and duplicate, one sent by mail and another sent with the goods) of letters from Lowry & Myers in La Guayra (La Guaira), Venezuela. Dating from July to December 1823, they contain a few invoices and bills of lading, plus one four-page printed Prices Current for imports to and exports from that port. The classifications include Sundries (largely agricultural products), and Canton, India, German, French and English goods (all textiles), and the sheets are annotated with figures and remarks on trade wants and current sales conditions.

The Documents subseries contains financial records describing business transactions made by either of the Gratz brothers, or their companies. There are more than thirty printed bank checks from 1826, primarily drawn on the Schuylkill Bank in Philadelphia. The Invoices are arranged by types of goods and services; Hardware is primarily nails. Personal/household includes invoices for repairs to shoes, umbrellas, bathtubs, trunks, etc., as well as for shaving and dressing Simon Gratz and his father. Also filed here is a bill from the German Society for the Gratz brothers' rent (and fines for not attending meetings), and a receipt from the Library Company of Philadelphia for Hyman Gratz's annual dues. Publications holds receipts for subscriptions to the *Philadelphia Price Current*, *The Port Folio*, and from Conrad Zentler for the German "American Observer," as well as for advertising placed by the Gratzes. Also filed here is an invoice for the firm's 1809 purchase from the publisher James Humphreys of J. Jepson Oddy's *European Commerce, Showing New and Secure Channels of Trade with the Continent of Europe* (2 vol.), and invoices for wrapping paper. Services includes payments made for hauling, weighing, inspecting, packing, branding, storing, painting, and brokering; also filed here are two invoices for a year of service by a shochet who performed shechita, the Jewish religious and humane method of slaughtering animals and poultry for food. The folder Petty Cash Book