

in 1794 and 1795. Several of the invoices are from the owners of sailing vessels, while others are from local carriers; one paper notes a fee paid to the Collector of the Port of Philadelphia and another, a fine the firm received for casks “not being branded according to Law.”

Invoices for Merchandise primarily document the hundreds of barrels and hogsheads of agricultural products purchased by Watson & Paul, including pork, flour, mackerel, ham, rum, and molasses. There are also many invoices for sundries such as hinges, nails, hair powder, candles, and soap. The invoices are arranged and foldered alphabetically by vendor. With one exception, the chemist and druggist John Hart who used a printed form, all invoices for merchandise are handwritten slips of paper.

Personal invoices are for items such as boots, shoes, clothing, and a desk bought at auction; this folder holds also a receipt for sets of Windsor chairs and a settee made for the Paul family in 1794 by noted furniture maker William Cox (died 1811). The Postage folder holds three small slips recording the daily totals for postage paid by the firm from February to May in 1795.

Services includes invoices from carpenters, coopers, packers, picklers, strappers, weighers, and measurers, as well as craftspeople providing paving, laundry, and various repair services to the merchants. Subscriptions and Advertising completes the Invoices subseries. It holds two printed receipts from Zachariah Poulson for his *American Daily Advertiser*, and invoices for the firm’s advertising of hams, gin, and other cargo, as well as houses and lots for sale.

The single Contract in that subseries binds James Paul and Joseph Thomas in a financial arrangement with three other men; it is an incomplete document, missing the lower right corner where the names were signed.

The Bank Notes subseries holds slips of paper exchanged directly for funds drawn on the Bank of North America and the Bank of Pennsylvania. They cover the years 1794-1802, and with just a few exceptions, are printed forms filled in with manuscript inscriptions. The Bills of Exchange subseries holds manuscript notes of credit issued between two parties (which were often then circulated to other parties) and later exchanged for currency. They cover the years 1792 through 1805, but lack bills for the year 1797.