

**The French and English letters of Baron Steuben:
Archives of Burke Library, Hamilton College**

The Baron Steuben letters in the Archives of Burke Library were a gift of Elihu Root. The Baron wrote most of his letters in French; some are in English.

A few letters in this collection were translated for the Archives by a Dr. David McKee. John McCauley Palmer used several letters in his important biography *General Von Steuben*, Yale University Press, 1937. Students in the course French 292, New York/New France, Spring Semester 2005, undertook the task of transcribing and translating some of these letters for their final project. I have edited this project, and added transcriptions and translations of the other letters. I wish to thank my students Alexis Buscaglia '05, Corinne Holmes '05, Greg Devaney '07 and Sara Feuerstein '07 for their work in transcribing, translating and discussing these letters.

The transcription is meant to be as faithful to the original text, in either French or English, as possible. As one will readily discover, the spelling is generally phonetic. The letters are dated and listed according to the Archives' listing; recipients are given when known. Two small receipts have not been transcribed.

The letters of the Baron Steuben are of great historical value and deserve to be better known. The transcription and translation are meant to allow readers and researchers access to the original meanings and textures, so to speak, of the original text. Any additions to the original text are enclosed in square brackets. Lower-case letters enclosed in square brackets indicate a new page of the Baron's letter. Words crossed out by the Baron, when these words were clearly legible through the crossing-out, are retained. I have retained for these letters no annotation, except to give the reference to Voltaire's poem *Sur l'agriculture*, from which the Baron quotes in letter no. 7.

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