

# Introduction

Thomas Addis Emmet (May 29, 1828–March 1, 1919), physician, author, and collector, was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, son of John Patten Emmet and great-nephew of Robert Emmet, Irish patriot. Emmet graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1856, was appointed visiting physician at Emigrant Refugee Hospital, Ward Island, N.Y., and later became surgeon-in-chief at Women’s Hospital, N.Y. until 1872.

Emmet was a known advocate of Irish home rule and published a pamphlet entitled “Ireland Under English Rule,” a denunciation of the English government occupation of Ireland. Emmet was also known as one of the foremost collectors of prints and autographs. He eventually sold his collection for \$150,000 dollars to John S. Kennedy, who donated it to the New York Public Library in 1896.

*The Thomas Addis Emmet Collection* is a historical autograph collection of manuscripts representing the political and social evolution of the United States from the colonial era through the mid-19th century. Autographs of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and, to a lesser extent, the members of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789 represent the bulk of the collection. Other subjects covered include the Albany Congress of 1754, the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, the Presidents of Congress and the United States, the Articles of Confederation, the siege of Savannah (1779), generals of the American Revolution, the Annapolis Convention (1786), the Federal Convention (1787), the first federal administration (1789–1793), the Republican court, New York State, boundary line disputes between Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, the colony and state of Virginia, Edward Livingston, Brigadier General Francis Marion, and General Alexander Leslie. In addition, the collection includes material on American Indians, Blacks, British troops, military orders, military appointments, taxes, and daily social events.

The first roll of film includes a detailed document-by-document calendar.