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Title: Letter from James Buchanan to Peter Du Ponceau

Date: February 10, 1830

Location: I-Friends-2006-3

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Dear Sir,

Washington 10 February 1830

I have delivered your valuable letter to Mr Spence
of New York - the Chairman of the Committee on agriculture; believing
that to be the best disposition which could be made of it. That
gentleman justly appreciated the services which you have rendered to
the country, by the information ~~which~~ you have obtained & communicated
to the public, in relation to the preparation of raw silk. He intends
to address you a letter upon the subject, & will be happy to receive
any additional information which you may be pleased to communicate.

Accept my thanks for the pamphlet which you did me the honor
of sending me & believe me to be

respectfully yours

Peter S. Duponceau Esq

JAMES BUCHANAN.

Autograph Letter Signed to Peter S. Du Ponceau, Washington, DC, 10 February 1830.
1 page, 10" x 8".

The future President was a Congressman from Pennsylvania when he wrote this letter in response to information received from a prominent Philadelphian, Peter S. Du Ponceau. A Frenchman who came to America in 1777 with Baron von Steuben to serve in the Continental Army, Du Ponceau settled in the U.S. after the Revolution. He became a successful lawyer in Philadelphia and a noted scholar in several fields, including linguistics, philology, and law. In 1830, Du Ponceau co-authored, with Jean d'Homergue, *Essays on American Silk, and the best means of rendering it a source of individual and national wealth, with directions to farmers for raising silk worms* (Philadelphia, J. Grigg, 1830). He evidently sent a copy of the work, with an additional letter on the subject, to Buchanan.

"I have delivered your valuable letter to Mr. [Ambrose] Spencer of New York - the chairman of the committee on agriculture," Buchanan advises, *"believing that to be the best disposition which could be made of it. That gentleman justly appreciates the services which you have rendered to the country, by the information you have obtained & communicated to the public, in relation to the preparation of raw silk. He intends to address you a letter upon the subject, & will be happy to receive any additional information which you may be pleased to communicate. Accept my thanks for the pamphlet which you did me the honor of sending me."* He has signed in full, *"James Buchanan."*

The letter is in very good condition.