Gilmour, Robert.

Robert Gilmour letter to William Young
1794 May 16

Abstract: Delaware papermaker Robert Gilmour's handwritten and signed letter to Philadelphia printer William Young documents the birth of a Delaware paper mill in 1794.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 098, F175
Creator: Gilmour, Robert.
Title: Robert Gilmour letter to William Young
Inclusive Dates: 1794 May 16
Extent: 1 item (1 p.)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 098, F175, Robert Gilmour letter to William Young, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: F175: Shelved in SPEC MSS 098 manuscript boxes

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/


Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction: Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law. Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library, http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi
Biographical Notes

William Young (1755–1829), a bookseller, printer, and publisher moved from Philadelphia to Rockland, Delaware, where he opened a paper mill in the 1790s.

William Young was born in 1755 in Scotland and briefly attended a Presbyterian seminary there before becoming a bookseller. After arriving in Philadelphia in June 1784, Young opened a book store and printing shop on Chestnut Street.

According to Thomas Gravell, Young purchased a paper mould in March 1794 and by 1795 was making paper. By 1802 Young had sold his Philadelphia retail and publishing operations to William W. Woodward, and moved to Delaware. The paper mill proved profitable until a fire in 1814 destroyed the mill. Young rebuilt the business as a woolen mill, but when the business was unsuccessful Young returned to Philadelphia, where he was active in the Associate Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Robert Gilmour operated the Delaware paper mill at Brandywine with William Young as William Young & Co. until 1803 when Young became the sole proprietor.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

Delaware papermaker Robert Gilmour's handwritten and signed letter to Philadelphia printer William Young documents the birth of a Delaware paper mill in 1794.

Dated May 16, 1794, the letter from Gilmour to Young confirms that the Delaware paper mill was operational at that time, although still under construction. In the letter Gilmour mentions financial assistance from "Benny," which may be an allusion to Benjamin Bache Franklin, who, because of his publishing business, was known to have invested in regional papermaking businesses.
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Young, William, 1755-1829.

Corporate Names

Rockland Paper Mill.

William Young & Co.

Topical Terms

Paper mills—Delaware—18th century—Sources.

Papermaking—Delaware—18th century—Sources.

Form/Genre Terms

Letters (correspondence)

Occupation

Papermakers.

Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 098 Delaware Miscellaneous Literary and Historical Manuscripts.

MSS 099, F844 Letters to William Young
Detailed Description of the Collection

Robert Gilmour letter to William Young, 1794 May 16 [Box 7 F175]