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Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes That Shaped a Nation
Exhibit Artifacts

1.0 Hamilton vs. Madison

- James Madison's Personalized Wine Bottle Seal (1808 – 1836, James Madison's Montpelier)
- Alexander Hamilton's *Report on Manufactures* (1791, American Philosophical Society Library)
*One of Hamilton's reports to Congress, which contains his plans for the treasury department to promote manufacturing. James Madison criticized Hamilton's plans in anonymously published newspaper essays.
- Letter from Edmund Pendleton to James Madison complaining about Alexander Hamilton's *Report on Manufactures* (February 8, 1792, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
- *National Gazette* printing of James Madison's essay on the enemies of republican government (1792, American Philosophical Society Library)
- Letter from Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, in which Jefferson convinces Madison to attack Alexander Hamilton in the press (July 7, 1793, Madison Papers, Library of Congress)

2.0 Hamilton vs. Jefferson

- Thomas Jefferson's inkwell (1800s, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Monticello)
- "Note of agenda to reduce the government to true principles" from Thomas Jefferson's "Anas" (1792, Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress)
*These notes, handwritten by Jefferson, were ultimately published in his "Anas" — a compilation of notes, gossip, and memories that were later published. In this brief list, partially written in shorthand, Jefferson wrote his intentions for the government and his vision for the republic — all of which contrasted greatly with Hamilton's plans.
- Draft of "An American No. 1" containing Alexander Hamilton's attacks against Thomas Jefferson (August 4, 1792, Connecticut Historical Society)
*This handwritten draft was later published in the *Gazette of the United States*—under the pen name "An American."
- Letter from Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, criticizing Alexander Hamilton's defense of President George Washington (September 21, 1795, Madison Papers, Library of Congress)
- Letter from Thomas Jefferson to William Hylton concerning the election of 1800 and the state of politics (June 5, 1801, Sol Feinstone Collection, David Library of the American Revolution on deposit at the American Philosophical Society)

3.0 Hamilton vs. Hamilton

- Letter from Alexander Hamilton to Elizabeth Schuyler while they were engaged and he was off at war (September 3, 1780, Sol Feinstone Collection, David Library of the American Revolution on deposit at the American Philosophical Society)
- *The History of the United States for 1796*, including accusations against Alexander Hamilton and news of his affair (1797, Library Company of Philadelphia)
- Alexander Hamilton's portable writing desk (late 1700s, Burke Library at Hamilton College)
*The desk upon which Hamilton supposedly wrote his essays for *The Federalist* and his contributions to George Washington's Farewell Address. The desk and these stories were passed down through the Hamilton family.
- Alexander Hamilton's draft of the Reynolds Pamphlet (1797, Hamilton Papers, Library of Congress)
- Reynolds Pamphlet, in which Alexander Hamilton tried to clear his name of public misconduct charges by admitting to an affair (1797, American Philosophical Society Library)
- Letter from James T. Callender, who broke the news of Alexander Hamilton's affair, writing to Thomas Jefferson about the Reynolds Pamphlet (September 28, 1797, Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress)
*Letter written by the reporter who broke the news of Hamilton's affair; in this correspondence to Jefferson, the author shares his excitement over the Reynolds Pamphlet, Hamilton's public admittance of the affair.

4.0 Hamilton vs. Adams

- John Adams's pocket watch (1700s, Adams National Historical Park)
- Letter from Alexander Hamilton to James McHenry, sharing his deep concerns regarding John Adams's fitness to be president (May 15, 1800, Sol Feinstone Collection, David Library of the American Revolution on deposit at the American Philosophical Society)
- *Letter . . . Concerning the Public Conduct and Character of John Adams*, by Alexander Hamilton (1800, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
- John Adams's draft reply to Alexander Hamilton's published *Letter . . . Concerning the Public Conduct and Character of John Adams* (1801, Massachusetts Historical Society)
- Letter from John Adams to Benjamin Rush, in which he calls Alexander Hamilton "a bastard brat of a Scotch Pedler" — one of Adams's most famous jabs at Hamilton (January 25, 1806, Sol Feinstone Collection, David Library of the American Revolution on deposit at the American Philosophical Society)

* This letter from Adams is part of a larger body of evidence suggesting his preoccupation with Hamilton's illegitimate birth. Adams continued to complain about Hamilton for years after his death.

5.0 Hamilton vs. Burr

- Aaron Burr's watch fob (ca. 1830, Fenimore Art Museum)
- Letter from Alexander Hamilton to Oliver Wolcott, Jr., in which he announces his support for his longtime rival Thomas Jefferson (over Aaron Burr) in the wake of the election of 1800 (December 16, 1800, Connecticut Historical Society)
- Letter from Aaron Burr to Thomas Jefferson, in which he complains of Alexander Hamilton's meddling in New York elections (April 21, 1801, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
- Letter from Aaron Burr to Alexander Hamilton, in which he addresses a slight upon his character and initiates a duel (June 18, 1804, Fenimore Art Museum), and Hamilton's response to Burr's letter which initiated a duel (June 20, 1804, Fenimore Art Museum)
*These are the first two letters exchanged between Burr and Hamilton — the very letters known to have sparked the duel.
- Letter from William Van Ness (Aaron Burr's "second") to Alexander Hamilton, writing of the dangerous consequences of refusing to reply to Burr (June 26, 1804, Fenimore Art Museum)

5.1 The Day of the Duel

- Regulations for the Duel (July 9, 1804, New-York Historical Society)
*These regulations, which established the specifics of the duel (date, time, location, and distance apart), were sent between the two parties so they could be agreed upon before the day of the duel (July 11).
- Plate with view of New York from Weehawken (ca. 1835, National Constitution Center)
- Authentic reproductions of the pistols used in the Hamilton-Burr duel (ca. 1976, JP Morgan Chase Corporate History Collection)
*When taking apart the original pistols to make these reproductions in 1976, researchers discovered a secret hair-trigger, shedding light on the circumstances of the duel.
- Letter from Alexander Hamilton's sister-in-law, Angelica Schuyler Church, to her brother, announcing that Hamilton had been wounded in a duel (July 11, 1804, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
*In this hurriedly-written letter, Hamilton's sister-in-law shares the news of the duel, suggesting she still has hope Hamilton will recover from his wound.
- Statement written by William Van Ness, giving a full explanation of what happened during the duel (March 1, 1805, Fenimore Art Museum)

6.0 Remembering Hamilton

- Bust of Alexander Hamilton (1804-1810, Winterthur Museum)
*This bust was made only a few years after Alexander Hamilton died. A similar one was displayed in the home of his longtime rival, Thomas Jefferson.
- Account of the duel in *The Columbian Centinel & Massachusetts Federalist* (July 25, 1804, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
- Lock of Alexander Hamilton's hair (1804, Fenimore Art Museum)
*Hamilton's wife, Eliza, clipped this lock of hair the day that her husband died.
- Letter from Samuel Ogden to Henry Knox, lamenting the loss of their friend Alexander Hamilton (July 26, 1804, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
- "Eulogy on General Alexander Hamilton" delivered in Boston (1804, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

6.1 Enduring Debates

- *The Federalist* — the defense of the proposed U.S. Constitution, which Alexander Hamilton organized; he also wrote two-thirds of the essays (1788, National Constitution Center)
*A work that remains one of Hamilton's greatest legacies.
- Memoir of Thomas Jefferson, which contains his "Anas" — a scrapbook of notes, gossip, and memories — and includes many anti-Hamilton entries (1829, Library Company of Philadelphia)
*In his memoir, Jefferson noted his extreme distrust of Hamilton.
- Letter from John Adams to Benjamin Rush, in which he continues to complain about Alexander Hamilton even after his death (December 4, 1805, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
- Memorial service for Alexander Hamilton, which was delivered in Albany in 1804 (1853, originally published 1804, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania)
*Pamphlet that includes a memorial service in honor of Hamilton, which was reprinted 49 years after the duel due to popular demand.
- \$5 Bill — the first time that Alexander Hamilton appeared on paper currency (1861, American Numismatic Association's Edward C. Rochette Money Museum)
- \$10 Bill from 1929, when the note started featuring Alexander Hamilton's image; he has remained on this bill ever since (1929, American Numismatic Association's Edward C. Rochette Money Museum)
- Commemorative stamps celebrating the bicentennial of Alexander Hamilton's birth (1957, National Constitution Center)

- Playbill for *Hamilton: An American Musical* (2016, Anonymous lender)