

11-10-1986

Correspondence: Federalist Papers Plaque

Second Circuit Steering Committee on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution

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November 10, 1986

Professor Richard B. Morris
The Papers of John Jay
Columbia University
Box 2
Butler Library
New York, NY 10027

Re: Federalist Papers Plaque

Dear Prof. Morris:

We have found two of the sites and are hot on the trail of the third.

The Subcommittee has approved the idea of placing a Federalist Papers marker on the Wall Street side of the Morgan bank building, where Hamilton's home and office stood. The Davis, Polk firm (which represents Morgan) has offered to get the bank's permission to do so.

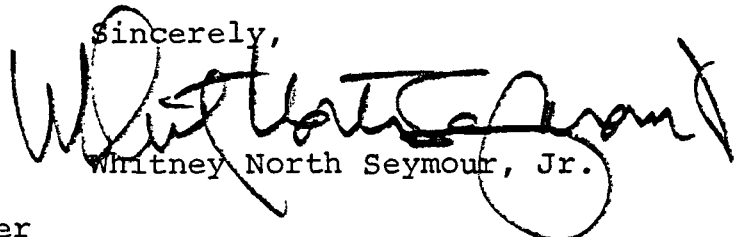
Therefore it looks like we have a practical and achievable project in the works.

The thinking is to design a plaque with likenesses of Hamilton, Jay and Madison, a simple map showing the location of their three residences, and explanatory text. I enclose a very preliminary draft for wording on the plaque, so we have something to shoot at.

Would you try your hand at polishing this text so we can submit it to the Bicentennial Committee and the Bank for approval?

Many thanks.

Sincerely,



Whitney North Seymour, Jr.

cc: Hon. Roger J. Miner
Jayne Robinson, Esq., Davis, Polk & Wardwell

Hamilton

Jay

Madison

AUTHORS OF THE
FEDERALIST PAPERS

During the winter of 1787-88, a propaganda campaign was launched by three men to gain New York State support for ratification of a proposed new United States Constitution. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison, who resided within a short walk of each other, agreed to share writing responsibilities and between them produced 85 articles for publication in New York newspapers under the pen name "Publius". Now known as The Federalist Papers, these essays have been credited not only with aiding in the Constitution's ratification, but also providing the most significant source material available on the meaning of its provisions.

Hamilton's law office and home was located on this site. Jay lived in a house at Exchange Place and Broadway. Madison lived in a boarding house operated by Mrs. Dorothy Elsworth on Maiden Lane near Liberty Street.

[MAP]

This plaque was erected in 1987 by the Second Circuit Committee on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution with the consent and cooperation of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York.