INTRODUCTION

Selected letters from the Archives Sociétaire, housed at the Archives Nationales, Paris, France. The Archives Sociétaire are the records of the followers of Charles Fourier. Included is correspondence of Victor Considérant, founder of the Fourierist colony at Réunion, Texas, and Albert Brisbane, Fourierism's foremost advocate in the United States.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Archives Sociétaire were purchased from the Archives Nationales in Paris on 26 March 1954 (Accession No. 3194).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Fourierism, founded by Charles Fourier, advocated the reorganization of society into small communities or phalanxes. Fourier's principles were advocated by the "Société pour la propagation et la réalisation de la théorie de Fourier" and the Ecole Sociétaire in Paris, France.

After Fourier's death in 1837, Victor Considérant became the most influential of Fourier's disciples. Because of his political activities, Considérant was forced to leave France in 1849 and settle in Belgium.

In the early 1850s Considérant came to the United States to establish a Fourierist colony. The colony was established in Réunion, Texas, in 1855 but was dissolved by 1857.

The foremost advocate of Fourierism in the United States was Albert Brisbane who renamed it Associationism and corresponded frequently with Considérant about his efforts to advance Fourierism/Associationism in the United States.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Archives Sociétaire consists of 208 letters, all but a few in French, dating from 1832 to 1882. The letters are not the entire Archives but rather selected letters requested by a researcher for a now unknown research topic. The letters are listed as they appear on the microfilm; each letter is numbered in the inventory but this number does not appear on the microfilm. The letters are in no discernible order. Also included on the shelf cards are "targets" that appear periodically on the microfilm to aid the researcher in locating a particular letter.

The letters are primarily the correspondence of Victor Considérant, Albert Brisbane, and others interested in Fourierism and the Fourierist colony in Réunion, Texas. Both men were also interested in currency reform, and later correspondence documents their concerns and ideas on this subject.
Letter 2. Victor Considérant, Brussels, to Julie Considérant, July 10, 1858, 4 pages. Reports on his attempt to find support for the colony in Europe.
Letter 3. Victor Considérant, Cincinnati, to Julie Considérant, May 3, [1853], 13 pages. Describes his trip through America.
Letter 5. Victor Considérant, New York, to Julie Considérant, June 5-6, 1858, 2 pages. Going to Europe to get help for the colony.
Letter 10. Directors of the colonization society to French minister of finance, December 22, 1854, 2 pages. Concerns stamp imposed on printed material distributed by the society in France.
Letter 12. Victor Considérant, Brussels, to -----, October 20, 1854, 3 pages. Asks that information on the society be sent to Dana and Kipley.
Letter 28. Victor Considérant, Belgium, to A. Bureau, November 20, 1852, 3 pages. Discloses plan to go to America.
Letter 29. Victor Considérant, Brussels, to Emile Bourdon, January 26, 1852, 3 pages. Has heard of scheme to emigrate to America.
Letter 32. Victor Considérant, Monterey, Mexico, to Julie Considérant, March 5, n.y., 2 pages. Refers to French troops in Mexico.
Letter 33. Victor Considérant, Austin, to Julie Considérant, November 9-10, [1856], 3 pages.
Letter 34. Victor Considérant, San Antonio, to Julie Considérant, March 6, n.y., 2 pages. Refers to purchase of land in Uralde, Texas, presumably to move the colony.
Letter 35. Victor Considérant, New York, to Julie Considérant, April 5, 1853, 2 pages. Writes before beginning trip to the interior with Albert Brisbane.
Letter 36. Victor Considérant, New York, to Julie Considérant, June 1858, 3 pages. Discusses trip to Europe.
Letter 40. Victor Considérant, San Antonio, to -----, October 1, 1856, 2 pages. Concerns expedition to find a new site for the colony.


Target: Archives Nationales 10 A S 36 Dossiers 1, 4-6, 8-10, 12, 13


Letter 47. L. Bert, Amboise, France, to the editor of the Bulletin du Mouvement Social, April 1, 1874, 2 pages.


Letter 50. Aimee Benque, Lyon, to Phalansterien committee, February 27, 1833, 1 page. Wants to enter a phalanx.

Letter 51. Aimee Benque, Lyon, to editors of la Phalange, September 17, 1841, 2 pages. Information on Considérant's travels.

Letter 52. Aimee Benque, Lyon, to Victor Considérant, March 18, 1842, 3 pages. Information on scheme to establish a colony on Sardinia.


Letter 58. Aimee Benque, Paris, to Julie Considérant and Clarisse Vigoureux, September 20, 1858, 4 pages. Comments on the reception Considérant received when he returned to Paris.


Letter 64. Document, Aimee Benque, November 8, 1861, 1 page. Bestows her title of representative to an 1861 meeting on another person.
Letter 69. -- Bottot, Bône[Annaba, Algeria], to Victor Considérant, May 14, 1846, 3 pages. Asks for Fourierists' support of the agricultural colony.
Letter 70. -- Binet, Amiens, France, to editor of the Phalanstere, December 4, 1832, 1 page. Supports colony at conde-sur-Vesgres.
Letter 71. -- [Billott], Nantes, France, to Jules le Chevalier, June 9, 1832, 3 pages. Expresses enthusiasm for Fourier's theories.
Letter 72. -- Boissiere to -----, May 17, 1854, 1 page. Comments on the proposed Texas emigration. Hopes these colonists will be directed by someone more practical than Albert Brisbane.
Letter 73. -- Boissiere, Williamsburg, Kansas, to E. Nus, August 18, 1875, 2 pages. Attempting a phalanx on a small scale.
Letter 74. -- Brunier, Paris, to -----, May 12, 1854, 1 page. Expresses his intention to contribute to the Texas colony.
Letter 75. -- Breton, Paris, to -- Alliez, June 1, 1841, 9 pages. Explains the attitude of the society toward groups of propagation; society is the final arbiter on matters involving colonization.
Letter 78. A. Bureau, Paris, to [Dr. Savardan], December 22, 1852, 3 pages. Defines the position of the society toward Laverdant's and Savardan's proposed colonization at Conde of a phalanx for foundling children.
Letter 79. A. Bureau, Paris, to Victor Considérant, July 20-21, 1854, 2 pages. Information on more colonists, allusion to a contribution from Brisbane.
Letter 80. A. Bureau to -----, c. 1854, 2 pages. (fragment). Information on colonists.
Letter 81. A. Bureau to Victor Considérant, 1854, 2 pages. Mentions Krolikowski's support of the Texas colony.
Letter 82. A. Bureau to Victor Considérant, August 19, 1854, 2 pages. Information on colonists for Texas colony.
Letter 83.  Frederick Burgi, Zurich, to the society, Paris, March 26, 1855, 2 pages.  Describes
departure of Swiss colonists for Texas colony.

Letter 84.  Charles Burkley, Zurich, to the society, Paris, August 5, 1848, 3 pages.  Reports
on success of propaganda.

Letter 85.  Charles Burkley, Zurich, to the society, Paris, October 1, 1848, 1 page.  Requests
writings of members of l'Ecole Sociétaire.

Letter 86.  Charles Burkley, Zurich, to the society, Paris, December 2, 1848, 3 pages.  Lists
books in phalanx library.


Concerns propaganda material.

Letter 89.  Charles Burkley, Zurich, to Bourdox and Co., June 30, 1850, 2 pages.  Describes
spread of Fourierist ideas into Switzerland.

Target:  Archives Nationales 10 A S 37  Dossiers 3, 5

Letter 90.  William F. Channing, Boston, to Victor Considérant, April 3, 1853, 11 pages.
Includes copy of letter Channing sent to Lajos Kossuth.  In English.

Letter 91.  A. Cretien, Dallas, to disciples in France, January 8, 1874, 4 pages.  Cites Texas
colony as an example of necessity of recruiting colonists who are thoroughly
indoctrinated and have a firm faith in the teachings of the society.

Letter 92.  A. Cretien to comité d'exécution, April 27, 1875, 1 page.


Letter 94.  A. Cretien, Dallas, to E. Nus, May 4, 1875, 4 pages.

Letter 95.  A. Cretien, Dallas, to the editor of Bulletin du Mouvement Social, June 24, 1875,
3 pages.

Letter 96.  A. Cretien, Dallas, to the editor of Bulletin du Mouvement Social, December 29,
1875, 4 pages.  Mentions a French journal published in New York.

Target:  Archives Nationales 10 A S 38  Dossiers 4, 5, 11, 13, 14, 16

Letter 97.  -- Dubreuil, Baltimore, to -- Simonin, June 1, 1856, 2 pages.  Second-hand
account of the fate of the Texas colony.

Letter 98.  -- Duval, [Lodz, Poland], to -----, August 13, 1844, 3 pages.  Relates a rumor that
a phalanx is going to be organized in America.

Letter 99.  -- Duval, [Lodz, Poland], to the editor of la Democratie Pacifique, August 9,
1844, 6 pages.  Advises editorial policy.

Letter 100.  -- Duval, [Lodz, Poland], to -----, July 30, 1844, 4 pages.  Remarks on the policy
of the school.

Letter 101.  -- Duval, [Lodz, Poland], to -----, July 1, 1844, 4 pages.  Asks for more articles by
Brisbane.

Letter 102.  -- Guilliot, Erstein, France, to -----, May 17, 1856, 4 pages.  Suggests an organiza-
tion that would avoid the mistakes of the Texas colony.

Letter 103.  -- Guilliot, Erstein, France, to Victor Considérant, May 2, 1852, 8 pages.  Urges
that a colonization be attempted.

Letter 104. -- Godin, Guise, France, to the Director of the Boarde de Mouvement Sociale, November 30, 1876, 1 page. Asks for a subscription to the Bulletin du Mouvement Social for a man in Nebraska.

Letter 105. -- Godin, Guise, France, to -- Tallon, March 27, 1875, 4 pages. Suggests society's Texas lands be sold.

Letter 106. -- Godin, Guise, France, to -- Tallon, April 2, 1875, 5 pages. Concerns liquidation of the Texas colony.

Letter 107. -- Godin, Guise, France, to the society, February 11, 1855, 1 page. Supplies for the colony.

Letter 108. -- Godin, Guise, France, to the administration of the society, February 8, 1855, 1 page. Supplies for the colony.

Letter 109. -- Godin, Guise, France, to the administration of the society, February 13, 1855, 2 pages. Supplies for the colony.

Letter 110. -- Godin, Guise, France, to the administration of the society, February 14, 1855, 1 page. Supplies for the colony.

Letter 111. -- Godin, Guise, France, to the administration of the society, April 3, 1855, 1 page. Supplies for the colony.

Letter 112. -- Godin, Guise, France, to colleagues of the colonization society, April 11, 1855, 2 pages.


Letter 115. -- Guillon to -- Bureau, September 6, 1854, 4 pages. Remarks on reception of Au Texas by the Fourierists in France.


Letter 117. -- Guillon, Sainte Pelagie, France, to Victor Considérant, March 11, 1851, 4 pages.

Target: Archives Nationales 10 A S 39 Dossiers 5-8

Letter 118. Oscar Koecklin, Baudry, to -----, May 15, 1854, 1 page. Reaction to Au Texas.


Letter 120. B. Krantz, St. Maurice, France, to Victor Considérant, February 23, 1869, 3 pages. Reference to Albert Brisbane.

Letter 121. -- Küss, Marcholsheim, to F. Cantagrel, February 17, 1844, 3 pages. Suggests a publication to be used as a guide for the false realizations in America.

Letter 122. -- Ledoux, Besançon, France, to members of l'Ecole Sociétaire, July 2, 1854, 3 pages. Suggests commissions be set up in various cities to screen emigrants. Reference to the failure of the Scarians in Texas. Questions on details of organization.
Letter 123.  Ludovic Lechant, Lanvic, to Victor Considérant, October 1, 1869, 4 pages. Request for information on the reported sexual promiscuity at the Oneida colony.

Letter 124.  [Clysée] Lefebvre to Victor Considérant, June 1-3, 1854, 3 pages. Advice on sheep-raising and vegetable culture for the Texas colony.

Letter 125.  L. Lenglet, Douai, France, to a member of the l'Ecole Sociétaire, July 3, 1854, 2 pages. Asks for information on land and land titles in Texas colony.

Letter 126.  -- Laverdant, Paris, to Victor Considérant, September 4, 1860, 16 pages. Discusses report of the commission named to examine Cantagrel's proposal to transfer the administration of the Texas colony to America. Laverdant a member of this commission.


Letter 128.  -- Laverdant to Victor Considérant, c. 1854, 8 pages. Mentions the arrest in Merrill's affidavit(# 147). Laverdant remaining in Europe, thinks Fourier's ideas will be realized there.

Target: Archives Nationales 10 A S 40 Dossiers 1-3

Letter 129.  Georges Mascard, Brussels, to the editor of the Democratie Pacifique, November 4, 1845, 1 page. Suggests non-European lands as a site for realization of their aims.

Letter 130.  -- Malgoratt, Bordeaux, to Charles Fourier, July 15, 1833. Proposes to set up phalanxes in America.

Letter 131.  Mary Meynieu to Victor Considérant, July 9, [1854], 4 pages. Favorable reaction to Au Texas but wants an arrangement whereby a person with little money may participate.


Target: Archives Nationales 10 A S 41 Dossiers 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15

Letter 136.  Petit D'Ormoy, Chartres, to Victor Considérant and members of the l'Ecole Sociétaire[?], May 1854, 2 pages. Reactions to Considérant's Au Texas and suggestions for the organization of the society.


Letter 138.  -- Souliquen to -- Guillon, November 28, 1855, 3 pages. Remarks on the failure
Letter 139. -- Souliquen to -- Guillon, January 10, 1856, 3 pages. Remarks on the failure of
the Texas colony.
Letter 140. -- Raoux, Lausanne, Switzerland, to Victor Considérant[?], November 10, 1871,
3 pages. Mentions Godin's writings and le Familistere at Guise.
Letter 141. Jules Rouby, Le Havre, to members of the society, June 11, 1856, 14 pages. A
Texas colonist describes his disillusionment in the colony.
Letter 142. Eusebio A. de Salazar, Eaux Bonnes, to Victor Considérant, June 30, n.y.,
2 pages. Asks about the Texas adventure.
Information on the Texas adventure.
of his qualifications as a colonist.
interested in the cooperative movement writes to the Bulletin du Mouvement
Social. In English.
Letter 146. Charles Sears, North American Phalanx, Monmouth County, New Jersey, to
Victor Considérant, January 3, 1853, 2 pages. Letter of welcome, explains
purpose of Considérant's visit to America. In English.
Letter 147. Hamilton W. Merrill, Batavia, Genesee County, New York, Affidavit, August 6,
1854, 2 pages. Explanation of Considérant's purchase of firearms. In English.
Letter 148. Sabas Sanchez Hidalgo, Guadalajara, Mexico, to l'Ecole Sociétaire, March 18,
Letter 149. Arthur Young, North American Phalanx, Monmouth County, New Jersey, to
Messrs. Bureau, Guillon, and Godin, January 19, 1856, 9 pages. Urges a closer
relationship between the Texas colony and Phalanx.
Letter 150. -----, New York, to Victor Considérant, April 24, 1853, 4 pages. Urges Considérant
to attempt a colonization in America. Points out the necessity of learning
the language.
Letter 151. -----, Le Havre, to -----, July 25, 1854, 2 pages. Information on costs and travel
conditions to America from a shipping firm.

Target: Archives Nationales 10 A S 40 Dossier 1

Letter 1. J. Manesca, New York, to the editor of l'Artiste, October 14, 1837, 4 pages.
Requests that he be named the correspondent of the American group. Remarks on
the weaknesses of the American economy.

Target: Archives Nationales 10 A S 36 Dossier 11

Letter 2. J. Manesca, New York, to Charles Fourier, February 1835, 7 pages. Attempts at
propaganda; asks Fourier to personally direct a realization in America.


Letter 22. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, March 28, 1867, 3 pages. Brisbane proposes to propagate the doctrines of Fourierism after a fortune is made with his inventions. Postscript by O. MacDaniel gives favorable opinion of Brisbane's patents.

Information on inventions of Brisbane; his interest in organizing a new association.

Letter 24. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, December 27, 1867, 2 pages. (fragment). Remarks on public opinion and reason Considérant's article was ignored.

Letter 25. Albert Brisbane, Buffalo, to Victor Considérant, August 17, 1868, 4 pages. Remarks about his invention, a pneumatic tube.


Letter 32. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, February 19, 1869, 3 pages. Brisbane's relation to the Kansas experiment of Boissiere and Grant. Remarks on his own work.

Letter 33. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, September 2, 1869, 2 pages. Writes that Horace Greeley has published Considérant's article.

Letter 34. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, September 13, 1869, 2 pages. Comments from Dana, Greeley, and Biglow on Considérant's article.

Letter 35. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, October 27, 1869, 4 pages. Remarks on Considérant's article; importance of a new journal. Urges Considérant to interest the French in his invention.

Letter 36. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, November 24, 1869, 8 pages. Concerns Considérant's article and Brisbane's invention.

Letter 37. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, December 9, 1869, 4 pages. Remarks on article and his invention.

Letter 38. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, December 27, 1869, 2 pages. Concerns his invention; advice on an article to be written by Considérant.

Letter 40. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, April 4, 1870, 2 pages. Concerns the introduction of invention in France.


Letter 42. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, August 25, 1870, 4 pages. Information on invention.


Letter 44. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, January 5, 1872, 4 pages. Family matters. Plans to live in New York and resume the propaganda; plans for a new organization.

Letter 45. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, March 12, 1872, 4 pages. Has gained support in Washington for his plan of transportation, trying to obtain an act of incorporation for company. Mentions that senators have asked him for documents on the organization of labor.


Letter 47. -----, Paris, to Albert Brisbane, November 2, 1872, 1 page. Brisbane should renew his patent.

Letter 48. Albert Brisbane, Washington, to Victor Considérant, December 29, 1872, 4 pages. Describes pneumatic tube extending from Capitol to Government Printing Office; urges Considérant to have an article on his invention published in la Science Sociale. Thinks Americans would subscribe to a monthly journal.


Letter 51. Albert Brisbane, New York, to Victor Considérant, February 9, 1874, 4 pages. Concerns invention, might be used as a means of transporting mail, asks Considérant to interest French capitalists in the venture.

Letter 52. Albert Brisbane, Kansas City, to Victor Considérant, September 13, 1882, 4 pages. Advises sale of land in Texas. Invidiar's comparison of intellectual life of France and Germany with the U.S.

Letter 53. Albert Brisbane, Buffalo, to Charles Brisbane, October 23, 1866, 2 pages.
Request information about the French colony near Dallas and the location of Considérant. In English.

Letter 54. Albert Brisbane, Buffalo, to Charles Brisbane, October 24, 1866, 2 pages. Requests son to call on Thomas J. Durant in New Orleans. In English.

Letter 55. Albert Brisbane, Buffalo, to Charles Brisbane, November 5, 1866, 4 pages. Urges son to find [Gauhenant] at Pilot Point, Denton County, and question Considérant about his future intentions and attitudes towards Fourier's ideas. In English.

Letter 56. Albert Brisbane, Buffalo, to Charles Brisbane, December 9, 1866, 4 pages. Writing on education, including Fourier's system; gives analysis of son's illness and urges him to take care of himself. In English.

Letter 57. Albert Brisbane, Buffalo, to Charles Brisbane, January 12, 1867, 6 pages. Urges son to leave San Antonio and conserve his money; alludes to own financial problems; urges son to find [Gauhenant] at Pilot Point. In English.

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