

Title:	James Monroe letter of marque, ca. 1812		
Creator:	James Monroe		
Dates of Material:	ca. 1812	Record Group Number:	RG 497
Summary of Contents:	A letter of marque addressed to Captain James Rogers, commander of the boat Retaliation, and signed by James Monroe, secretary of state. Letters of marquee provided legal authority for an armed vessel to capture enemy ships and commit acts which would otherwise constitute piracy. The letter has no date, but was likely created during the War of 1812, and authorizes the Captain to attack and capture enemy vessels.		
Physical Description / Condition:	1 letter, 25.5 x 19 cm.		
Other Notes:	<p>James Monroe (1758-1831) was appointed Secretary of State by President James Madison in 1811. He remained in this position until March, 1817, with the exception of the period from October 1, 1814, to February 28, 1815, when he was <i>ad interim</i> Secretary of State. Monroe encouraged President James Madison and Congress to declare war on Great Britain, feeling it would be the most effective way to change offensive British policies. The United States declared war on June 17, 1812, after which he served as Secretary of War. Monroe later became President of the United States from 1817 until 1824.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Source: http://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/people/monroe-james Retrieved: 2014/02/20</p>		
Location:	Brock University Archives		
Source Information:	Acquired from One of a Kind Collectibles auctions in 2013.		
Described by:	Chantal Cameron	Date:	February 2014

