

## ***Gleanings in Europe, By an American: James Fenimore Cooper Abroad***

James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) was an American novelist of international reputation at a time when few American books easily found world-wide readership. Cooper is best known for his "Leatherstocking Tales," including *The Last of the Mohicans: A Narrative of 1757*, stories of the life and adventures of Natty Bumppo, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century American frontiersman trapper based on explorer Daniel Boone. Cooper first traveled to Europe at the turn of the 19th century as a merchant seaman; he later joined the U. S. Navy. These experiences helped him to write novels about the Revolutionary War at sea, 18<sup>th</sup>-century merchant ships, and pirates of the period. Cooper returned to Europe in the 1820s and traveled widely, recording his thoughts and experiences in journals. While living abroad, Cooper wrote *Notions of the Americans: Picked up by a Travelling Bachelor*, a book intended to acquaint European readers with American society and customs, including democratic government. The book, which Cooper published anonymously, takes the form of letters written from a man traveling in America to European friends. Cooper would later record his European experiences in a series of books titled *Gleanings in Europe: By an American*. Throughout the 1830s, Cooper published individual volumes about Switzerland, France, England, and Italy.

James Fenimore Cooper, diary recording travel in Holland and Switzerland, France and Italy, 1828 July – 1829 October; Journal of a Tour in 1832; travel desk owner by Cooper; visa and other travel papers; calling cards from visitors; Thomson, etching of James Fenimore Cooper, 1931, James Fenimore Cooper Papers

### *Objects*

Travel desk owned and used by Cooper  
YCAL MSS 415.Art, folder 658

Diary of "Holland and Switzerland, France and Italy" 1828 July – 1829October – closed to show note on cover in JFC's hand  
YCAL MSS 415 b23 f480

"Journal of a Tour in 1832" – open to first page  
YCAL MSS 415 b 23. f. 481

Etching of Cooper (badly foxed)  
YCAL MSS 415 B29 F553

Visa, travel documents to Cooper's work as Consul  
YCAL MSS 415.b34. f600

### INSIDE DESK DRAWER

2 French lodging receipts  
YCAL MSS 415 B29 F533

French Calling Cards  
YCAL MSS 415 B29 F535