

# **Vocabulaire Chacta**

**1820**

**Mss.497.3.V852c**

American Philosophical Society

2002

105 South Fifth Street

Philadelphia, PA, 19106

215-440-3400

[manuscripts@amphilsoc.org](mailto:manuscripts@amphilsoc.org)

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Background note .....	4
Scope & content .....	5
Administrative Information .....	6
Indexing Terms .....	6
Other Finding Aids .....	6
Other Descriptive Information .....	7

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository</b>	American Philosophical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Anonymous
<b>Title</b>	Vocabulaire Chacta
<b>Date</b>	1820
<b>Call number</b>	Mss.497.3.V852c
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Volume(s) 48 p.
<b>Location</b>	LH-MV-E-15
<b>Language</b>	French
<b>Language</b>	In French and Choctaw.
<b>Container</b>	1
<b>Abstract</b>	The anonymous compiler of the Vocabulaire Chacta, ca.1820, gathered 149 elementary words in the Choctaw language with French equivalents, the basic numerals, and six "useful" (if not always appropriate) phrases. Arranged alphabetically by French. The notebook was donated to the American Philosophical Society by Peter Stephen Du Ponceau in 1827.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Cite as: Vocabulaire Chacta, American Philosophical Society.

## **Background note**

---

An early and avid linguist and ethnographer, Peter Stephen Du Ponceau nurtured the core collection of vocabularies of American Indian languages begun by Thomas Jefferson. By the time of his death in 1844, Du Ponceau had established the American Philosophical Society as one the nation's premier centers for the study of the indigenous languages of North America.

## Scope & content

---

The Vocabulaire Chacta is a slender notebook assembled in about 1820 by an unidentified author containing vocabulary words in French with Choctaw equivalents. The vocabulary includes parts of the body, basic nouns and a few verbs, with numerals and simple phrases added at the end of the volume. The six phrases elicited are of particular interest, and are suggestive of the interests and attitudes of the collector:

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Information

American Philosophical Society 2002

## Provenance

---

### Acquisition Information

Gift of Peter Stephen Du Ponceau, January 19, 1827.

### Processing Information

Recatalogued by rsc, 2002.

## Indexing Terms

---

### Genre(s)

- Language Material

### Personal Name(s)

- Du Ponceau , Peter Stephen, 1760-1844

### Subject(s)

- Choctaw language--Dictionaries--French
- Language and Linguistics
- Native America

## Other Finding Aids

---

Indexed in Freeman and Smith *A Guide to Manuscripts Relating to the American Indian in the Library of the American Philosophical Society* (Philadelphia: APS, 1966), no.184 (on-line at <http://www.amphilsoc.org/library/guides/indians/>).

## Other Descriptive Information

---

This volume contains Choctaw words with French equivalents. Acquired by Peter Du Ponceau in 1827, it is part of the APS's large collection of language materials from the early-nineteenth century.