**Samuel May Williams Collection, Manuscripts 23-0397 and 23-0398**

**Transcription (Spanish) and Translation (English)**

**by Chris Kneupper, 23-Mar-2020**

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* *italics added by transcribers*

**Letter from George B. McKinstry to George Fisher, 2-Aug-1830, from Brazoria**

*Letterhead:* Comand. Gral. e Insp.de los

Estados Internas de Oriente (*only in Manuscript 23-0397*)

Traducion

Aduana Maritima de Galveston Agosto 2.. de 1830.. = Sr. = Por el of.o (oficio) de V. (Usted) del ultimo mes y de conformidad son las instrucciones q. (que) tengo con fha. (fecha) 21.. del mismo he prevenido al Sr. Asa Mitchell de la suspensión de las operaciones de la Casa Aduana de Galveston p.r (por) ahora habiéndole suplicado de governara (gobernara) según las instrucciones y no decir nada a nadie, sobre este asunto lo q. (que) creo ha hecho escrupulosamente. Extraño mucho q. (que) el Grãl. (General) Terán haya suspendido operaciones de esta casa Aduana y estoy seguro que cuando el asunto le sea bien explicado á el \_\_ Sr. dara contra ornes. (ordenes). Por el sistema q. (que) ha – existado antes no hay vetaja alguna para un Ciud.o (Ciudadano) de esta Colonia ser propiterio de un buque, al contrario toda la ventaja es y protección ofrecida á la bandera Norte Americana la cual permiten entrar y salir de nuestros Puertos sin pagas un … //p. 2

... octavo de los derechos de sus toneladas y otros derechos. Parecería bajo las Leyes marítimas existentes q. (que) el Gob.o (Gobierno) iva a poner el comercio de cabotas (costero) en los manos de los estrangeras (estranjeras). Espero q. (que) asunto no le será á V. indiferente y q. (que) el gobernador peuda tomar conocimiento del tan luego como lar larga correspondencia le permita hacerla. La Goleta Transport esta todavía cargada á su bordo mulas, este es toda su cargamento creo. No he vido de otro buque q. (que) sea destinado de Nueva Orleans p.a (para) este Puerto uno q. (que) devian (debían) venia de la Mobile entienda q. (que) ha cambiada de destino y va p.a (para) Matagorda. No ha habido novedad alguna digna de la atención de V. (Usted) p.a (para) comunicarla oficialmente. Permanentes acá hasta el arribo de la Cañon en Matagorda donde ire inmediatamente. Tenga V. (Usted) la bordad recibi p.r (por) mi parte las gracias p.r (por) la suplica q. (que) le hice en mi ultima. …

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… Muy Respetuosamente soy de C. (Ciudadano) Jorge B. McKinstry = Sr. Don Jorge Fisher = Administrador Maritimo de Galveston

Es copia de su original q. (que) Certifico: Villa de Austin 23 de Agosto de 1830.. Jorge Fisher

Es copia de Matamoros O.bre 25 de 1830

Guerra

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Translation

Galveston Maritime Customs August 2, 1830 .. = Sir = By your official letter of the last month and in accordance with the instructions I have dated the 21st, I have warned Mr. Asa Mitchell of the suspension of Galveston Customs House operations for now having pleaded with him to rule as instructed and to say nothing to anyone, on this matter which I believe has been scrupulously done. It is very strange that General Terán has suspended operations of this Customs house and I am sure that when the matter is well explained to him, he will give orders. Due to the system that has existed before, there is no advantage for a Citizen of this Colony to be the owner of a ship, on the contrary, all the advantage is and protection offered to the North American flag which allows entering and leaving our Ports without paying a eighth of the rights of its tons and other rights. It would seem under the existing maritime Laws that the Government is going to put the coastal trade in the hands of the foreigners. I hope that the matter will not be indifferent to you and that the governor may become aware of it as soon as the long correspondence allows him to do so. The schooner **Transport** is still loaded on its mules, this is all its cargo I think. I have not seen of another ship that is destined from New Orleans for this Port, one that should have come from Mobile to understand that it has changed its destination and is going to Matagorda. There has been no news worthy of your attention to officially report it. Standing here until the arrival of the **Cañon** in Matagorda where I will go immediately. Have the goodness received from me thanks for the plea that I made in my last.

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… Very Respectfully Yours, from Citizen George B. McKinstry

*To:* Sir Don George Fisher = Galveston Maritime Administrator

It is a copy of its original which I Certify: Town of (San Felipe de) Austin August 23, 1830 .. Jorge Fisher

It is a copy at Matamoros October 25, 1830

***Note:*** *Two versions of this letter are found in the Samuel May Williams Papers, as Manuscripts 23-0397 and 23-0398. Both versions were used to make this transcription, although the latter is very faint (but does have a previous attempt at translation). The former appears to be a copy (made by Guerra at Matamoros on 25-Oct-1830) and the latter is a copy of the Guerra copy (made by Seguin at Béxar on 24-Nov-1830) of a translation of the (English) message sent by George B. McKinstry to George Fisher on 2-Aug-1830, and then somehow both copies made their way back into the hands of Samuel May Williams.*

***Note:*** *Manuscript 23-1529 appears to be a “cover letter” for documents involving George Fisher and his seizure of the schooner* ***Cañon*** *on 1-Jun-1830 at the mouth of the Brazos River for importing contraband tobacco, that were copied by Erasmo Seguin on 24-Nov-1830 and then sent o Samuel May Williams. There was some kind of investigation and document-gathering that was occasioned by a Terán letter of 11-Nov-1830, followed by a flurry of document copying. Apparently, Erasmo Seguin felt the need to copy some in his possession, and forward them to Samuel May Williams at San Felipe de Austin. So far, four of Seguin’s copies have been identified, copied the day before this “cover letter” document. These include Manuscripts* ***23-0398 (George McKinstry to Fisher, 2-Aug-1830) ABOVE****, 23-0407 (Fisher to Samuel May Williams, 7-Aug-1830), 23-0432 (Fisher to Asa Mitchell, 22-Sep-1830) and 23-0443 (Asa Mitchell’s reply, 24-Sep-1830). And, this explains the presence of all of these documents in the Samuel May Williams Collection.*

***Note:*** *If readers have suggestions for improvement of the transcription or translation, please feel free to contact the first-listed transcriber above.*