Second ‘Retirement Series’ volume is now available

Volume 2 of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series has been published by Princeton University Press.

The 772-page second volume covers the period from Nov. 16, 1809, to Aug. 11, 1810, and contains 518 documents, which are printed in full.

General themes include Jefferson's financial difficulties, legal entanglements, and ongoing interest in politics. Among the highlights are a list of books on agriculture that Jefferson likely compiled to guide the Library of Congress in its purchases; the letter in which he ordered a set of silver tumblers that have become known as Jefferson cups; an explanation of the Marquis de Lafayette's tangled finances; descriptions of inventions by Robert Fulton and lesser-known figures; and a treatise on taxation sent to Jefferson by the French economist Pierre Samuel Du Pont de Nemours.

Volume 2 was prepared by a team of editors led by J. Jefferson Looney, who is also director of the overall project. The Retirement Series is sponsored and funded by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and the editorial staff is based at Monticello's Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies.

The full Retirement Series will be the definitive compilation of Jefferson's written legacy between his return to private life in March 1809 and his death on July 4, 1826. Less than a third of the extant documents authored by Jefferson during these years have previously

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appeared in print in whole or in part, while more than four in five letters written to Jefferson during his retirement years have never been published.

Volumes 1 and 2 of the Retirement Series (hardcover, $99.50 each) are available at the two Monticello Museum Shops, by telephone at (800) 243-1743, and online through the Web sites of Monticello (monticello.org) and Princeton University Press (pupress.princeton.edu).