

**Date**

January 25, 1796

**Author Name**

Timothy Pickering

**Recipient Name**

Joshua Humphreys NBS03

Silas Talbot NBD01

**Text**

Sir

War office January 25 1796

The masting the frigates now building having been submitted to varied gentlemen of considerable abilities and reputed skill on naval affairs for their opinions as to the best proportions for masting of the two classes of ships so as to answer all the purposes necessary for ships of war but a diversity of opinions having arisen on the length of particular masts and yards I am induced to propose that the captain and constructor of each frigate shall have liberty to mast and spar their own ship according to the best of their judgments.

You will therefore pay an immediate attention to this subject on which Capt Barry will assist and the result of your noted opinions you will sign that it may be transmitted to this office as soon as convenient specifying very minutely, the exact length ad diameter of each mast, yard ad bowsprit also the length and size of mast heads and yard arms that they may be recorded I this office.

NBS03 - Mr. Joshua Humphreys  
Naval Constructor

I am with great regard  
Sir yr obt Servnt  
Timothy Pickeringg

NBD01 – Capt. Silas Talbot

**Document Format**

Contemporary Copy of Letter (BBR08)

Letterbook Copy (BBD20)

**Source**

Peabody Essex Museum: Josiah Fox Papers (BBR08)

Peabody Essex Museum: Josiah Fox (1763 - 1847) Letterbook Papers (BBD20)

**Transcription by:**

Rosalie Stewart