

E. G. Squier Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1997

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79041087>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms000008>

Prepared by Michael Music
Revised by Joseph Sullivan and T. Michael Womack

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Collection Summary

Title: E. G. Squier Papers

Span Dates: 1809-1888

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1846-1874)

ID No.: MSS41087

Creator: Squier, E. G. (Ephraim George), 1821-1888

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 11 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 4.8 linear feet

Extent: 14 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79041087>

Summary: Archaeologist, diplomat, author, editor, and businessman. Correspondence, business records, diplomatic records, articles, lectures, and other writings, reference and bibliographic notes, drawings, maps, scrapbooks of clippings, and other papers relating to Squier's diplomatic career as U.S. chargé d'affaires in Central America (1849-1858), U.S. commissioner to Peru (1863-1865), and Honduran consul general in New York, N.Y. (1863-1873), and Squier's studies and writings in archaeology and ethnology.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Agassiz, Louis, 1807-1873--Correspondence.
Alvarado, León, 1818-1870--Correspondence.
Anthony, Henry B. (Henry Bowen), 1815-1884--Correspondence.
Bartlett, John Russell, 1805-1886--Correspondence.
Birch, Samuel, 1813-1885--Correspondence.
Davis, E. H. (Edwin Hamilton), 1811-1888--Correspondence.
Davis, Joseph Barnard, 1801-1881--Correspondence.
Gliddon, George R. (George Robins), 1809-1857--Correspondence.
Henry, Joseph, 1797-1878--Correspondence.
Marcoleta, José de, 1802-1881--Correspondence.
Maury, Matthew Fontaine, 1806-1873--Correspondence.
Mayer, Brantz, 1809-1879--Correspondence.
Molina, Luis, active 1857-1867--Correspondence.
Norton, Charles Eliot, 1827-1908--Correspondence.
Nott, Josiah C. (Josiah Clark), 1804-1873--Correspondence.
Putnam, F. W. (Frederic Ward), 1839-1915--Correspondence.
Sanford, Henry Shelton, 1823-1891--Correspondence.
Smith, Buckingham, 1810-1871--Correspondence.
Squier, E. G. (Ephraim George), 1821-1888.
Stevens, Henry, Jr., 1819-1886--Correspondence.
Trautwine, John C. (John Cresson), 1810-1883--Correspondence.
Turner, William W. (William Wadden), 1810-1859--Correspondence.
Wright, Thomas, 1810-1877--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Ethnological Society.
Anthropological Institute of New York.
Honduras Interoceanic Railway Company.

Subjects

Anthropology--Societies, etc.--New York (State)
Archaeology--Latin America.
Archaeology--Mississippi River Valley.
Archaeology--New York (State)
Architecture.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Central America.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Honduras.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Peru.
Diplomatic and consular service, Honduran--New York (State)--New York.
Diplomatic and consular service, Honduran--United States.
Diplomatic and consular service, Honduran--Washington (D.C.)
Ethnology--Societies, etc.--United States.
Hieroglyphics.
Indian architecture.
Indians--Languages.
Railroads--Honduras.

Places

Central America--Foreign relations--United States.
Honduras--Foreign relations--United States.
Peru--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Central America.
United States--Foreign relations--Honduras.
United States--Foreign relations--Peru.

Titles

Ephraim George Squier papers

Occupations

Archaeologists.
Businessmen.
Diplomats.

Provenance

The papers of E. G. Squier, archaeologist, author, businessman, editor, and diplomat, were given to the Library of Congress in 1905 by Squier's brother, Frank Squier. Additions to the papers were received by gift, purchase, and transfer from 1941 to 1994.

Processing History

The papers of E. G. Squier were arranged and described in 1969. Additional material received in 1994 was incorporated into the collection in 1997.

Additional Guides

Appended to the register available in the Manuscript Reading Room, Library of Congress, is an alphabetical index to the General Correspondence and correspondence in other files. The index, with occasional errors regarding number of letters cited and inclusive years listed, was prepared as part of "The Ephraim George Squier Manuscripts in the Library of Congress: A Checklist," *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, Vol. 53, 1959, pp. 309-326, by Jerry E. Patterson and William Ragan Stanton.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of E. G. Squier is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of E. G. Squier are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of most of these papers is available on fourteen reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, E. G. Squier Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1821, June 17	Born, Bethlehem, N.Y.
1842-1845	Journalist and editor, <i>Poets' Magazine</i> , <i>New York State Mechanic</i> , and <i>Hartford Evening Journal</i>
1845	Publisher, <i>Scioto Gazette</i> (Chillicothe, Ohio)
1847-1848	Clerk, Ohio House of Representatives
1848	Published with Edwin Hamilton Davis <i>Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley</i> (New York: Bartlett and Welford; Cincinnati: J.M. and U.P. James; Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution. 306 pp.)
1849-1850	Chargé d'affaires, Guatemala
1851	Published <i>Aboriginal Monuments of the State of New York</i> (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution. 188 pp.)
1852	Published <i>Nicaragua; Its People, Scenery, Monuments, and the Proposed Inter-oceanic Canal</i> (New York: D. Appleton & Co. 2 vols.)
1853	Secretary, Honduras Interoceanic Railway Co.
1858	Published <i>The States of Central America</i> (New York: Harper & Brothers. 782 pp.) Married Miriam Florence Folline (later divorced)
1860	Editor, publishing firm of Frank Leslie
1861	Supervised <i>Frank Leslie's Pictorial History of the American Civil War</i> (New York: F. Leslie, 1861-1862, 2 vols.)
1863-1865	United States Commissioner to Peru
1867	Delegate of the American Ethnological Society to the Anthropological Congress of Paris for 1867
1868	Consul-General of Honduras, New York, N.Y.
1870	Published <i>Honduras; Descriptive, Historical, and Statistical</i> (London: Trubner & Co. 278 pp.)
1871	President, Anthropological Society of New York
1874-1888	Suffered intermittent periods of mental illness
circa 1874	Remarried Miriam Florence Folline Squier Leslie

1877 Published *Peru: Incidents of Travel and Exploration in the Land of the Incas* (London: Macmillan and Co. 599 pp.)
1888, Apr. 17 Died, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ephraim George Squier (1821-1888) span the years 1841-1888, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1846-1874. The papers include correspondence, diplomatic and business records, lectures, articles, reference and bibliographic notes, drawings, and scrapbooks of clippings assembled by Squier. The collection, in English, Spanish, French, and German, is arranged in the following series: [General Correspondence](#); [Honduran Representatives File](#); [Honduras Interoceanic Railway File](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); [Miscellany](#); and [Addition](#).

Squier's interest in archaeology, ethnology, and Central American affairs are documented in the [General Correspondence](#). Also represented are Squier's writings, publishing interests, and membership in learned societies. A few items concern his connection with the publisher Frank Leslie, and there are no letters of his wife, Miriam Florence Folline (later Mrs. Frank Leslie), an editor, author, and feminist.

The [Honduran Representatives File](#) consists of correspondence of Don Luis Molina, 1857-1867, Honduran minister to the United States. and Squier's correspondence as the Honduran consul-general in New York, 1869-1873.

The [Honduras Interoceanic Railway File](#) contains a variety of papers dealing with the ill-fated Honduras Interoceanic Railway, Ltd., for which Squier was attorney and agent. The file includes correspondence, inventories, reports, construction plans, and employee lists. Among the correspondence are letters of John C. Trautwine, the project's chief engineer. A small handwritten volume titled "Barometrical & Therm. Obs.," dated 1853 and containing crude maps, tables, and drawings, is filed in the [Miscellany series](#).

Archaeology and ethnology are the chief focus of the [Speech, Article, and Book File](#), which contains reference notes, drafts of books, and articles and lectures by Squier. Represented are manuscripts of what appear to be articles and book chapters on Nicaragua and drafts of *Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley*. In addition, there are reference and bibliographical notes dealing with Indians, Mexico, Central America, archaeology, languages, hieroglyphics, religion, history, government, and diplomatic affairs. Among the items are numerous drawings and diagrams of archaeological interest which show implements, architecture, and locations of sites, and a printed bibliography dated 1876 listing works by Squier.

The [Miscellany](#) houses papers related to two professional societies in which Squier held office, the American Ethnological Society and the Anthropological Society of New York, papers pertaining to Central America, a journal of Squier's travels in Central America in 1849-1850, two scrapbooks of printed material consisting mostly of articles by Squier and others, and miscellaneous fragments.

The [Addition](#) consists of a bound report dated 1858 from Squier to the directors of the Honduras Interoceanic Railway Company Limited, setting forth the results of his activities as director of the land survey for the feasibility of a rail linkage across Honduras between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The volume also contains reports of engineers working with Squier on the project. Also included are articles and maps relating to the survey.

Correspondents include Louis Agassiz, León Alvarado, Henry B. Anthony, John Russell Bartlett, Samuel Birch, E. H. Davis, Joseph Barnard Davis, George R. Gliddon, Joseph Henry, José de Marcoleta, Matthew Fontaine Maury, Brantz Mayer, Charles Eliot Norton, Josiah Clark Nott, Frederick Ward Putnam, Henry Shelton Sanford, Buckingham Smith, Henry Stevens, John C. Trautwine, William W. Turner, and Thomas Wright.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [General Correspondence, 1841-1888](#)
- [Honduran Representatives File, 1857-1873](#)
- [Honduras Interoceanic Railway File, 1853-1870](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1809-1877](#)

- Miscellany, circa 1849-1872
- Addition, 1857-1858

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-3 REEL 1-6	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1841-1888</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received, supplemented by occasional printed items. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 4 REEL 7	<p><u>Honduran Representatives File, 1857-1873</u></p> <p>Letters and copies of letters sent and received. Subdivided into minister's correspondence of Don Luis Molina and Squier's consul-general's correspondence. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 5-6 REEL 8-9	<p><u>Honduras Interoceanic Railway File, 1853-1870</u></p> <p>Letters and copies of letters sent and received, reports, statements, inventories, employee lists, prospectus, charters, land certificates, newspaper clippings, and stock certificates. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 7-10 REEL 10-13	<p><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1809-1877</u></p> <p>Drafts of books, articles, lectures, drawings, notes, printed articles, bibliographic material, and a printed bibliography of Squier's writings. Arranged by type of material and therein by subject or title.</p>
BOX 11 REEL 14	<p><u>Miscellany, circa 1849-1872</u></p> <p>Correspondence, government and business records, bonds, lists, ethnological and anthropological material, a notebook, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and fragments. Arranged by type of material and therein alphabetically by subject or title.</p>
BOX 12 Not filmed	<p><u>Addition, 1857-1858</u></p> <p>Bound report with tipped in maps, articles, and a letter written by Squier.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3 REEL 1-6	General Correspondence, 1841-1888 Letters sent and received, supplemented by occasional printed items. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1-2	July 1841-Jan. 1853 (22 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 3-4	Feb. 1853-Mar. 1865 (21 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 5-6	Apr. 1865-June 1888, undated (23 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 7	Honduran Representatives File, 1857-1873 Letters and copies of letters sent and received. Subdivided into minister's correspondence of Don Luis Molina and Squier's consul-general's correspondence. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4 REEL 7	Minister's correspondence, 1857-1867 (11 folders) Consul-General's correspondence, 1869-1873 (4 folders)
BOX 5-6 REEL 8-9	Honduras Interoceanic Railway File, 1853-1870 Letters and copies of letters sent and received, reports, statements, inventories, employee lists, prospectus, charters, land certificates, newspaper clippings, and stock certificates. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 5 REEL 8	Correspondence, 1853-1870 (10 folders) Reports, George R. Gliddon Acknowledgement of receipt, 10 Aug. 1857 No. 1, 16 May 1857 No. 2, 22 May 1857
BOX 6 REEL 9	No. 3, 13 June 1857 No. 4, 24 June 1857 Statements, inventories, employee lists, etc., 1851-1859 Prospectus, charters, land certificates, 1853-1858 Newspaper and serial clippings, circa 1849-1870 (3 folders) Stock certificates (2 folders)
BOX 7-10 REEL 10-13	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1809-1877 Drafts of books, articles, lectures, drawings, notes, printed articles, bibliographic material, and a printed bibliography of Squier's writings.

Speech, Article, and Book File, 1809-1877

Container

Contents

Arranged by type of material and therein by subject or title.

BOX 7 REEL 10

Reference notes

Archaeology and serpent symbol

Description of Central America

Extracts on Indians, languages, and description of Central America

Hieroglyphic drawings and writings

Languages, religions of Central American Indians

"Memoir on the didactic paintings and the figurative writings of the ancient Mexicans"

BOX 8 REEL 11

"Mexican Writings"

Mosquito question

"Origin of the worship of the phallus...," Mexican hieroglyphic writings

Seventeenth century, extracts relating to explorations of America

Sixteenth century, extracts relating to explorations of America

Vocabularies and languages of Mexico and Central America

"The volcanoes of the Cordilleras of Quinto and Mexico"

Miscellaneous

Notes

Printed matter

BOX OV 9 REEL 12

Manuscripts

Ancient monuments of New York and the Mississippi Valley and plates for these works
(2 folders)

Totemic system and sculptured tablets

Serpent symbol

Miscellaneous hieroglyphic drawings

BOX 10 REEL 13

Central American question

Mosquito question

Book on Nicaragua

"Political history of Nicaragua"

"Review of Parties in Guatemala. Translations from *El Progreso* of San Salvador"

"Santa Ana"

Lectures and articles

"Lecture on American Archaeology and Ethnology"

Lecture to the "Gentlemen of the Agricultural Society;" lecture on Mexican manuscripts and paintings; lecture or speech outline on Central America

Printed articles by Squier

Bibliographical notes, including a printed bibliography of Squier's works

BOX 11 REEL 14

Miscellany, circa 1849-1872

Correspondence, government and business records, bonds, lists, ethnological and anthropological material, a notebook, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and fragments.
Arranged by type of material and therein alphabetically by subject or title.

BOX 11 REEL 14

Central America

Development of San Salvador by railway, 1863-1870

Guatemalan Harbor Improvement Bond No. 56

Purchase of arms for the Honduran government, 1871-1872

Miscellany, circa 1849-1872

Container

Contents

Treaty between Honduras and Great Britain, 1856

Organizing statement of the Central American Mining Association, 1853

Notebook, "Barometrical and Therm. Obs.," 1853

Journal of Squier's travels, 1849-1850

Ethnology and anthropology

American Ethnological Society

Anthropological Society of New York

Anthropological printed matter

Scrapbooks of newspaper and periodical clippings and articles by Squier and his friends

Fragments, diplomatic, archaeological, and business

BOX 12 Not filmed

Addition, 1857-1858

Bound report with tipped in maps, articles, and a letter written by Squier.

BOX 12 Not filmed

"Report to the Directors of the Honduras

Inter-Oceanic Railway Company Limited," by Squier with tipped in correspondence, maps, and an attached article and reprint, 1857-1858