John Hay Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2002

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78025379

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms003049

Prepared by Frank Tusa
Revised and expanded by Donna Ellis

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2003
Revised 2010 April
**Collection Summary**

**Title:** John Hay Papers  
**Span Dates:** 1783-1999  
**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1897-1905)  
**ID No.:** MSS25379  
**Creator:** Hay, John, 1838-1905  
**Extent:** 11,290 items  
**Extent:** 36 containers plus 40 oversize  
**Extent:** 29 linear feet  
**Extent:** 23 microfilm reels  
**Language:** Collection material in English  
**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.  
**LC Catalog record:** [https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78025379](https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78025379)  

**Summary:** Statesman, diplomat, historian, journalist, and poet. Correspondence and letterbooks, speeches, diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks, and memoranda, mainly for the years 1897-1905 when Hay served as United States ambassador to Great Britain and United States secretary of state. Earlier papers deal with his legal, literary, and journalistic activities and with his service as assistant secretary to Abraham Lincoln. Includes correspondence of his wife, Clara Louise Stone Hay (1849-1914), for the years 1882-1914.

**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**

Adams, Brooks, 1848-1927--Correspondence.  
Adee, Alvey A. (Alvey Augustus), 1842-1924--Correspondence.  
Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1832-1917--Correspondence.  
Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence.  
Eliot, Charles William, 1834-1926--Correspondence.  
Hay family.  
Hay, John, 1838-1905.  
James, Henry, 1843-1916--Correspondence.  
King, Clarence, 1842-1901--Correspondence.  
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.  
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.  
McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.  
McKinley, William, 1843-1901.  
Pauncefote, Julian, 1828-1902--Correspondence.  
Rockhill, William Woodville, 1854-1914--Correspondence.  
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.  
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.  
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.  
Spring Rice, Cecil, Sir, 1859-1918--Correspondence.  
Twain, Mark, 1835-1910--Correspondence.

**Subjects**

American newspapers--New York (State).  
American poetry.  
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Great Britain.  
Land grants--Kentucky.  
Practice of law--Illinois--Springfield.  
Slavery--United States.
Spanish-American War, 1898.

**Places**
- Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
- United States--Foreign relations--1897-1901.
- United States--Foreign relations--1901-1909.
- United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

**Titles**
- *New York tribune.*

**Occupations**
- Authors.
- Cabinet officers.
- Diplomats.
- Journalists.
- Poets.
- Statesmen.

**Provenance**
The papers of John Hay, statesman, diplomat, historian, journalist, and poet, were given to the Library of Congress in 1952 by Hay's son and daughter, Clarence L. Hay and Alice Hay Wadsworth. Additional material was received from his grandchildren, Mrs. Stuart Symington, Reverdy Wadsworth, and James J. Wadsworth, in 1960 and from James W. Symington in 1999 and 2008. A few items were also obtained through gift, purchase, and transfer between 1910 and 1942.

**Processing History**
The papers of John Hay were arranged and described in 1971. Additional material received in 1999 and items transferred from the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection were incorporated into the collection in 2002. When the collection was rehoused in 2002, the organization of the material remained unchanged. Although the finding aid and container list were revised to indicate the current housing, the container numbers noted in the microfilm edition reflect the original housing. A letter dated 1913 was added in 2008.

**Transfers**
A broadside was transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

**Copyright Status**
Copyright in the unpublished writings of John Hay in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

**Access and Restrictions**
The papers of John Hay 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 part of these papers is available on twenty-three 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, John Hay Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1838, Oct. 8</td>
<td>Born, Salem, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>Graduated, Brown University, Providence, R.I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Entered law office of Milton Hay, Springfield, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1864</td>
<td>Assistant private secretary to Abraham Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864-1865</td>
<td>Assistant adjutant general in the United States army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865-1867</td>
<td>Secretary of American legation, Paris, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867-1868</td>
<td>Charge d'affaires, Vienna, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869-1870</td>
<td>Secretary of American legation, Madrid, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870-1875</td>
<td>Editorial writer, <em>New York Tribune</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Married Clara Louise Stone (died 1914)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879-1881</td>
<td>Assistant secretary of state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Editor, <em>New York Tribune</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897-1898</td>
<td>Ambassador to Great Britain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898-1905</td>
<td>Secretary of state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905, July 1</td>
<td>Died, Lake Sunapee, N.H.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Hay (1838-1905) span the years 1783 to 1999, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1897-1905. The collection focuses on his diplomatic efforts as secretary of state but also contains material on his career before 1898 and on his personal life. It is composed mainly of correspondence, scrapbooks, and newspaper clippings supplemented by diaries, letterbooks, and miscellaneous material. There is also an autograph collection relating chiefly to slavery in the United States.

American diplomacy from 1898 to 1905 is the central theme of the Diaries and Notebooks and various correspondence series. As secretary of state during the period, Hay played a crucial role in the formulation and execution of American foreign policy. The diaries reflect Hay's role in the later years of his tenure in office. The Letterbooks and John Hay Letters series reveal his views and activities in the diplomatic sphere under presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. Hay's letters to his wife in the Family Correspondence series, although primarily concerned with personal and social activities, also provide an occasional glimpse into his official concerns.

The Special Correspondence and General Correspondence series provide information on all aspects of American foreign affairs while Hay was secretary of state and are useful in portraying his nondiplomatic activities as well. The letters from American diplomatic agents throughout the world reveal the conditions in various countries that influenced official American policy and the manner in which policy decisions were implemented. The largest number of letters in this category are from Joseph Choate and William W. Rockhill in the Special Correspondence. Hay's correspondence with Roosevelt and
Alvey A. Adee, among others, provides an intimate glimpse into the formation of policy. The Special Correspondence and General Correspondence series also help to elucidate Hay's personal and political concerns.

The container list includes an index to the Special Correspondence series. Included among the correspondents are Brooks Adams, Samuel L. Clemens, George B. Cortelyou, Charles William Eliot, Henry James, Clarence King, Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), William McKinley, Julian Pauncefote, Elihu Root, and Cecil Spring-Rice.

A Miscellany series contains autographs, drawings, invitations, notes, photographs, printed matter, receipted bills, research material, speeches, and writings. Included is a vellum copy of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution autographed by the signators of the amendment.

The Scrapbooks series contains newspaper clippings dealing with America's participation in the Spanish-American War and Hay's personal and political activities, particularly from 1898 to 1905.

The Addition includes a land grant issued by the state of Kentucky on July 2, 1798, to Abraham Lincoln (1744-1786), grandfather of President Abraham Lincoln, and his heirs, along with a letter of January 5, 1877 to John G. Nicolay from A. C. Matthews concerning the grant and a report documenting its authenticity. Also included is a scrapbook containing photographs and newspaper clippings relating to diplomatic functions and family occasions.

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in eleven series:

- Diaries and Notebooks, 1861-1908
- Letterbooks, 1898-1905
- John Hay Letters, 1858-1905
- Family Correspondence, 1882-1914
- Special Correspondence, 1885-1913
- Autograph Collection, 1783-1878
- General Correspondence, 1856-1905
- Miscellany, 1802-1953
- Scrapbooks, 1860-1905
- Addition, 1798-1999
- Oversize, 1783-1905
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td><strong>Diaries and Notebooks, 1861-1908</strong></td>
<td>Diaries and notebooks containing occasional copies of letters, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and a negative photostat of the key to the printed edition of <em>Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary</em>, selected by Henry Adams and edited by Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1908.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1-2</td>
<td><strong>Letterbooks, 1898-1905</strong></td>
<td>Bound volumes of copies of letters sent by Hay. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3-5 REEL 3-4</td>
<td><strong>John Hay Letters, 1858-1905</strong></td>
<td>Holograph and typed letters and holograph, typed, and photostatic copies of letters sent by Hay. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6-7 REEL 5-6</td>
<td><strong>Family Correspondence, 1882-1914</strong></td>
<td>Letters from Hay to his wife, Clara Louise Stone Hay; letters received and occasional letters sent by Clara Louise Stone Hay; and one bound volume of letters to her. The John Hay letters are separated from the Clara Louise Stone Hay correspondence, and both groups are arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 8-13 REEL 6-9</td>
<td><strong>Special Correspondence, 1885-1913</strong></td>
<td>Letters to John Hay and occasionally to his wife from prominent correspondents. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 13 REEL 10</td>
<td><strong>Autograph Collection, 1783-1878</strong></td>
<td>A bound volume entitled “From Congo to Congress” containing original and facsimile correspondence, autographs, clippings, notices, and documents relating generally to slavery in the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 14-29 REEL 10-21</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1856-1905</strong></td>
<td>Letters received. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 30-36 REEL 21-23</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1802-1953</strong></td>
<td>Invitations, cards, and notices; John Hay writings, speeches, and research materials; materials compiled by Tyler Dennett about Hay; autograph album; printed matter including pamphlets and newspaper clippings; unbound photographs; and two photograph albums. Arranged by type of material. The newspaper clippings are not included on the microfilm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 36 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Scrapbooks, 1860-1905</strong></td>
<td>Bound volumes of newspaper clippings relating generally to the Spanish-American War and American diplomacy. Arranged by subject and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 36 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Addition, 1798-1999</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, land grant, and scrapbook. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box OV 1-OV 40

**Oversize, 1783-1905**

Autographs, historical documents, and scrapbooks.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. Except for the scrapbook in the Addition, all items are available on the microfilm edition where they were filmed as listed in their original series.
## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 15,213

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | **Diaries and Notebooks, 1861-1908**  
Diaries and notebooks containing occasional copies of letters, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and a negative photostat of the key to the printed edition of *Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary*, selected by Henry Adams and edited by Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1908. |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Diaries, 1904-1906, undated  
(2 folders)  
Notebooks, 1861-1868, 1878, undated  
(2 folders)  
Key to printed edition of *Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary*, selected by Henry Adams and edited by Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1908 |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | **Letterbooks, 1898-1905**  
Bound volumes of copies of letters sent by Hay.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 2 REEL 1-2 | 1898-1905  
(3 folders) |
| BOX 3-5 REEL 3-4 | **John Hay Letters, 1858-1905**  
Holograph and typed letters and holograph, typed, and photostatic copies of letters sent by Hay.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 3 REEL 3 | 1858-1899  
(12 folders)  
1900  
Jan.-Sept.  
(2 folders)  
BOX 4 REEL 3-4 | Oct.-Dec.  
1901-1902  
(8 folders)  
1903  
Jan.-Oct.  
(4 folders) |
| BOX 4 REEL 3-4 | 1904-1905, undated  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 5 REEL 4 | **Family Correspondence, 1882-1914**  
Letters from Hay to his wife, Clara Louise Stone Hay; letters received and occasional letters sent by Clara Louise Stone Hay; and one bound volume of letters to her. |
The John Hay letters are separated from the Clara Louise Stone Hay correspondence, and both groups are arranged chronologically.

**BOX 6 REEL 5**
Hay, John, to Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1894-1905, undated
(5 folders)
Hay, Clara Louise Stone, letters received and sent
Unbound
1882-1904
(4 folders)
1905
Jan.-June

**BOX 7 REEL 5**
July-Dec.
(6 folders)
1907-1914, undated
(2 folders)

**BOX 7 REEL 6**
Bound, July 1905 See Oversize

**BOX 8-13 REEL 6-9**
**Special Correspondence, 1885-1913**
Letters to John Hay and occasionally to his wife from prominent correspondents. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.

**BOX 8 REEL 6**
Adams, Brooks, 1897-1902
Adee, Alvey A., 1897-1907
(10 folders)
Barnes, B., 1903-1904
Bigelow, William Sturgis, 1899-1904, undated
Bishop, Joseph Bucklin, 1892-1905, undated

**BOX 9 REEL 6-7**
Cameron, E. S., 1897-1898, undated
Carnegie, Andrew, 1898-1907, undated
Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1898-1905
(12 folders)

**BOX 10 REEL 7-8**
Clarke, John and Charlotte, 1891-1907, undated
Clemens, Samuel L., 1899-1904
Cortelyou, George B., 1899-1905
(6 folders)

**BOX 10 REEL 8**
Davis, L. Clarke and Rebecca Harding, 1900-1904
Davis, Richard Harding, 1900-1901, undated
Eddy, Spencer, 1901-1905
Eliot, Charles William, 1899-1903
Elliott, Henry Ware, 1899-1905, undated
Griscom, Lloyd Carpenter and Clement A., 1899-1905

**BOX 11 REEL 8**
Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1895-1903, undated
James, Henry, 1897-1907, undated [letter of 18 Dec. 1903, James to Hay, verso of page five not on microfilm]
King, Clarence, 1891, undated
Lodge, Henry Cabot (1850-1924), 1898-1907, undated
Loeb, William (1866-1937), 1901-1905
(5 folders)
Special Correspondence, 1885-1913

Container | Contents
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Reel</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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| 12 | 9 | 1897-1901, undated | McKinley, William, 1897-1901, undated
Mason, Frank H., 1897-1905
Montgomery, Benjamin F., 1900-1901
Morgan, Edwin V., 1899-1905, undated |
| 13 | 9 | 1897-1902, undated | Pauncefoite, Julian, 1897-1902, undated
Porter, John Addison, 1897-1900
Rhodes, James Ford, 1885-1907, undated
Rockhill, William W., 1898-1904, undated |
| | | 1899-1913, undated | Root, Elihu, 1899-1913, undated
Shanks, William Franklin Gore, 1898-1904
Spring-Rice, Cecil, Sir, 1891-1905, undated |
| | | 1899-1904 | (4 folders)
Stanton, Theodore, 1902-1904, undated
Stover, Bellamy and Maria, 1898-1903, undated |
| | | 1898-1904 | Winter, William, 1898-1904 |
| 13 | 10 | 1783-1878 | Autograph Collection, 1783-1878
A bound volume entitled “From Congo to Congress” containing original and facsimile correspondence, autographs, clippings, notices, and documents relating generally to slavery in the United States. |
| 13 | 10 | “From Congo to Congress” | See Oversize |
| 14-29 | 10-21 | 1856-1905 | General Correspondence, 1856-1905
Letters received.
Arranged chronologically. |
| 14 | 10-11 | 1856-1898 | 1856-1898
(12 folders) |
| 15 | 11 | 1899 | 1899
Jan.-June
(11 folders) |
| 16 | 11-12 | July-Dec. | 1900
Jan.-June
(11 folders) |
| 17 | 12-13 | 1900 | July-Dec.
(12 folders) |
| 18 | 13 | 1901 | 1901
Jan.-June
(11 folders) |
| 19 | 13-14 | 1901 | (11 folders) |
### General Correspondence, 1856-1905

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 20 REEL 14-15 | July-Dec.  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 21 REEL 15-16 | 1902  
Jan.-June  
(14 folders) |
| BOX 22 REEL 16 | July-Dec.  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 23 REEL 17 | 1903  
Jan.-May  
(13 folders) |
| BOX 24 REEL 17-18 | June-Sept.  
(12 folders) |
(10 folders) |
| BOX 26 REEL 18-19 | 1904  
Jan.-Apr.  
(11 folders) |
| BOX 27 REEL 19-20 | May-Aug.  
(13 folders) |
(14 folders) |
| BOX 29 REEL 21 | 1905, undated  
(11 folders) |

### BOX 30-36 REEL 21-23  
**Miscellany, 1802-1953**

Invitations, cards, and notices; John Hay writings, speeches, and research materials; materials compiled by Tyler Dennett about Hay; autograph album; printed matter including pamphlets and newspaper clippings; unbound photographs; and two photograph albums. Arranged by type of material. The newspaper clippings are not included on the microfilm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 30 REEL 21 | Invitations, cards, and notices, 1864, 1880-1881, 1890, 1897-1905, undated  
(9 folders) |
| BOX 31 | (9 folders) |
| BOX 32 REEL 21 | (8 folders) |
| BOX 33 REEL 22 | Writings, speeches, and research material, 1863, 1875, 1892-1912, undated  
Dennett, Tyler, research material regarding Hay, 1930-1931, undated  
Drawings, notes, printed ephemera, receipted bills, and an autographed copy of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1863-1868, 1897-1905, undated  
See also Oversize |
| BOX 34 REEL 23 | Printed matter, 1898-1905  
Pamphlets, 1802, 1896-1905, 1953  
Autograph album, 1877-1878  
“Proposal for Second Peace Conference at the Hague,” 1904 |
| BOX 35 REEL 23 | Photographs  
Album, undated  
Unbound, 1904, undated  
“President McKinley, California, and Buffalo,” 1901  
See Oversize |
### Miscellany, 1802-1953

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 36</td>
<td><strong>Scrapbooks, 1860-1905</strong>&lt;br&gt;Bound volumes of newspaper clippings relating generally to the Spanish-American War and American diplomacy.&lt;br&gt;Arranged by subject and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 36 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Addition, 1798-1999</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, land grant, and scrapbook.&lt;br&gt;Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 36 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Oversize, 1783-1905</strong>&lt;br&gt;Autographs, historical documents, and scrapbooks.&lt;br&gt;Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. Except for the scrapbook in the Addition, all items are available on the microfilm edition where they were filmed as listed in their original series.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Family Correspondence&lt;br&gt;Hay, Clara Louise Stone, letters received and sent&lt;br&gt;Bound, July 1905 (Container 7; Reel 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 2</td>
<td>Autograph collection&lt;br&gt;“From Congo to Congress,” 1783-1878 (Container 13; Reel 10)</td>
</tr>
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<td>BOX OV 3</td>
<td>Miscellany&lt;br&gt;Drawings, notes, printed ephemera, receipted bills&lt;br&gt;Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1864 (Container 33; Reel 22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 4</td>
<td>Photographs&lt;br&gt;“President McKinley, California, and Buffalo,” 1901 (Container 35; Reel 23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 5</td>
<td>“Maryland, My Maryland,” and cover letter by James R. Randall, 1887 (Container 35; Reel 23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 6</td>
<td>“The Helmet of Mambrino, A Letter to Horace F. Cutter from Clarence King,” 1882 (Container 35; Reel 23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 7</td>
<td>Scrapbooks&lt;br&gt;Miscellaneous&lt;br&gt;1860-1874 (Container 36) (2 vols.)</td>
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<td>BOX OV 8</td>
<td>1861-1882 (Container 36) (2 vols.)</td>
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<td>Container</td>
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<td>BOX OV 9</td>
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<td>1900 (Container 36)</td>
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<td>(3 vols.)</td>
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