

Tyler Dennett Collection Relating to John Hay
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78051383>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007069>

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Revised by Joseph K. Brooks

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Collection Summary

Title: Tyler Dennett Collection Relating to John Hay

Span Dates: 1861-1937

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1899-1937)

ID No.: MSS51383

Collector: Dennett, Tyler, 1883-1949

Extent: 200 items

Extent: 8 containers

Extent: 3.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78051383>

Summary: Historian, editor, and biographer. Correspondence, research notes, galley proofs, photographs, and printed matter relating to Dennett's books *John Hay: From Poetry to Politics* and *Lincoln and the Civil War in the Diaries and Letters of John Hay*.

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, Henry, 1838-1918--Correspondence.

Beard, Charles A. (Charles Austin), 1874-1948--Correspondence.

Dennett, Tyler, 1883-1949.

Dennett, Tyler, 1883-1949. *John Hay: from poetry to politics*. 1933.

Dennett, Tyler, 1883-1949. *Lincoln and the Civil War in the diaries and letters of John Hay*. 1939.

Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.

Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.

Hay, John, 1838-1905.

Jameson, J. Franklin (John Franklin), 1859-1937--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Louttit, W. Easton (William Easton), 1904-1973--Correspondence.

McKinley, William, 1843-1901.

Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Subjects

American poetry.

Places

United States--Foreign relations--1865-1921.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Titles

Tyler Dennett papers

Occupations

Biographers.

Editors.

Historians.

Provenance

The collection of Tyler Dennett, historian, editor, and biographer, was given to the Library of Congress by Ellen Wadsworth in 1947.

Processing History

The collection was arranged and described in 1966. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Related Material

There is a collection of Tyler Dennett papers at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. Major collections of John Hay papers are at Brown University, Providence, R.I., and the [Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress](#). There is also a substantial amount of Hay material in the [James Wadsworth Family Papers](#) in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in unpublished writings in the Tyler Dennett Collection Relating to John Hay is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Tyler Dennett Collection Relating to 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Tyler Dennett Collection Relating to John Hay, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Tyler Dennett

| Date | Event |
|---------------|---|
| 1883, June 13 | Born, Spencer, Wis. |
| 1904 | B.A., Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. |
| 1908 | B.D., Union Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y. |
| 1911 | Married Maybelle Raymond |
| 1924 | Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md. |
| 1924-1929 | Chief, Division of Publications of the Department of State |
| 1929-1931 | Historical advisor, Department of State |
| 1931-1934 | Professor of international relations, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J. |
| 1933-1934 | Published and received Pulitzer Prize in biography for <i>John Hay: From Poetry to Politics</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1933. |
| 1934-1937 | President, Williams College, Williamstown, Mass. |

- 1939 Published *Lincoln and the Civil War in the Diaries and Letters of John Hay*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1939.
- 1949, Dec. 29 Died, Geneva, N.Y.

John Hay

| Date | Event |
|--------------|---|
| 1838, Oct. 8 | Born, Salem, Ind. |
| 1858 | Graduated, Brown University, Providence, R.I. Entered the law office of his uncle, Milton Hay, Springfield, Ill. |
| 1861-1864 | Assistant private secretary to Abraham Lincoln |
| 1864-1965 | Assistant adjutant general, United States Army |
| 1865-1867 | Secretary of American legation, Paris, France |
| 1867-1868 | Charge d'affaires, Vienna, Austria |
| 1869-1870 | Secretary of American legation, Madrid, Spain |
| 1870-1875 | Editorial writer, <i>New York Tribune</i> |
| 1874 | Married Clara Louise Stone (died 1914) |
| 1879-1881 | Assistant secretary of state |
| 1897-1898 | Ambassador to Great Britain |
| 1898-1905 | Secretary of state |
| 1905, July 1 | Died, Lake Sunapee, N.H. |

Scope and Content Note

The collection of Tyler Dennett (1883-1949) relating to John Hay (1838-1905) spans 1861-1937, with the bulk of the collection concentrated in the period 1899-1937. The collection relates to Dennett's research for his biography of statesman John Hay, *John Hay: From Poetry to Politics*, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1934, and *Lincoln and the Civil War in the Diaries and Letters of John Hay*. It includes Dennett's correspondence as well as letters between Hay and others.

Dennett was a professor and historian specializing in the foreign relations of the United States with Asia. The subject of his biography, John Hay, served as secretary of state during the William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt administrations and in that capacity formulated foreign policy with Asian countries, particularly China and the Philippines, during the expansion of American diplomatic, commercial, and military initiatives in the region in the wake of the Spanish-American War. As a young man, Hay had been assistant private secretary to Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.

The collection is grouped into correspondence, galley proofs of correspondence, transcripts of correspondence, and miscellany. Much of Dennett's own correspondence is with his editor, Allan Nevins, and relates to his biography of Hay. Other correspondents include Charles Austin Beard, J. Franklin Jameson, and W. Easton Louttit.

Correspondence between Hay and others consists mainly of copies of letters that Dennett transcribed or of printed versions of letters in galleys of Dennett's books. The collection includes a few original Hay letters. Correspondents include Henry Adams (1838-1918), James A. Garfield, and Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material with miscellany filed at the end.

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|-----------|---|
| BOX 1 | Correspondence |
| BOX 1 | Dennett, Tyler, 1928-1937 (11 folders) |
| BOX 2 | Hay, John |
| BOX 2 | Abbott, E. W., 1890 |
| BOX 2 | Adams, Henry (1838-1918), 1897 |
| BOX 2 | Bigelow, John and Jane Tunis Poultney, 1867, 1871-1900 |
| BOX 2 | Garfield, James A., 1879-1898 |
| BOX 2 | Hopkins, Archibald, 1903 |
| BOX 2 | Madrid, Spain, writing as secretary of the American Legation, 1869-1870 |
| BOX 2 | McKinley, William, 1899-1905 |
| BOX 2 | Miscellaneous, 1870, 1899, 1900-1904 |
| BOX 2 | Nicolay, John G. 1861-1863 |
| BOX 2 | Reid, Whitelaw, 1861-1903 |
| BOX 2 | Galley proofs of correspondence |
| BOX 2 | 1861-1870 |
| BOX 3 | 1885-1905 |
| BOX 3 | Transcripts of correspondence |
| BOX 3 | Card index |
| BOX 3 | Alaska boundary dispute, 1899-1903 |
| BOX 3 | Chronological file |
| BOX 3 | 1869-1870 (2 folders) |
| BOX 4 | 1898-1901 (7 folders) |
| BOX 5 | 1902-1903 (4 folders) |
| BOX 5 | 1904 Jan.-June (2 folders) |
| BOX 6 | July-Dec. (2 folders) |
| BOX 6 | 1905 (2 folders) |
| BOX 7 | Miscellany |
| BOX 7 | Deleted pages of correspondence, 1861-1867 |
| BOX 7 | Footnotes relating to deleted pages of correspondence, |
| BOX 8 | Notes and background material |
| BOX 8 | Chapters, undated (9 folders) |
| BOX 8 | Miscellaneous, 1931-1932 |
| BOX 8 | Poetry by Hay, 1858, undated |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| BOX 8 | Reid, Whitelaw, undated |
| BOX 8 | Photographs and cartoons, undated |
| BOX 8 | Printed matter |
| BOX 8 | Dennett, Tyler, 1934 |
| BOX 8 | Hay, John, 1901-1905 |