

**David Murray Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78033985>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010134>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010  
Revised 2023 June

## Collection Summary

**Title:** David Murray Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1866-1930

**Bulk Dates:** 1873-1879

**ID No.:** MSS33985

**Creator:** Murray, David, 1830-1905

**Extent:** 250 items

**Extent:** 5 containers

**Extent:** 2 linear feet

**Extent:** 3 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78033985>

**Summary:** Educator. Mainly writings and notes by Murray on education and the history and culture of Japan based on Murray's observations while superintending the educational reform of that country.

## 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

Murray family--Correspondence.

Murray, David, 1830-1905.

Murray, Martha A.--Correspondence.

### Subjects

Arts--Japan.

Education--Japan.

Education--United States.

Educational change.

Ethnology--Japan.

Indians of North America.

Lotteries.

Wampum.

### Places

Japan--Description and travel.

Japan--History.

Japan--Politics and government.

Japan--Social conditions.

### Occupations

Educators.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of David Murray, educator, apparently came to the Library of Congress in two installments. Nearly a hundred manuscripts of Murray's lectures, articles, and notes were given by his widow, Martha Neilson Murray, circa 1915. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, editor of *Foreign Affairs* and a cousin of Mrs. Murray, gave additional material in 1946.

## Processing History

The papers of David Murray were processed and prepared for microfilming by Robert W. Storm, Jr. in 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of David Murray is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The David Murray Papers 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 these papers is available on three reels. Consult a reference librarian 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, David Murray Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1830, Oct. 15	Born, Bovina, N.Y.
1852	Graduated, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.
1857-1863	Principal, Albany Academy, Albany, N.Y.
1863	Ph.D., University of New York
1863-1873	Professor of mathematics, Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N.J.
1867	Married Martha A. Neilson
1873-1879	Superintendent of educational affairs, Japan
1880-1889	Secretary, Board of Regents, University of New York
1892-1905	Member and secretary, Board of Trustees, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
1894	Published <i>The Story of Japan</i> . New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1899	Published <i>History of Education in New Jersey</i> . Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office
1905, Mar. 6	Died, New Brunswick, N.J.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of David Murray (1830-1905) span the years 1866-1930, with the bulk of the material in the period 1873-1879. The collection contains notes on education, government, history, art, social conditions, and ethnology in Japan made while Murray was superintending the educational reform of the country. It also contains addresses and scholarly papers based on

the notes; letters written from Japan by David or his wife, Martha A. Nielson Murray, to relatives in the United States; and addresses and papers on education in the United States, Native American wampum, lotteries, and other subjects.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is organized by type of material.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18.047

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Personal papers
BOX 1 REEL 1	Family correspondence, 1873-1879 (7 folders)
BOX 1 REEL 1	Invitations received, 1873-1878
BOX 1 REEL 1	Genealogies, undated
BOX 1 REEL 1	Contract with and commission from the Japanese government, 1873-1875
BOX 1 REEL 1	W. I. Chamberlain, <i>In Memoriam: David Murray, Ph.D., LL.D.</i> , 1915
BOX 2 REEL 1	Papers and addresses upon Japan
BOX 2 REEL 1	Lists of papers and addresses in collection, undated
BOX 2 REEL 1	Notes
BOX 2 REEL 1	circa 1877-circa 1878
BOX 2 REEL 2	circa 1878 (2 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	Drafts of <i>The Story of Japan</i> , circa 1892
BOX 2 REEL 2	Chapter XIII
BOX 2 REEL 2	Chapter XIV
BOX 2 REEL 2	Chapter XV
BOX 3 REEL 2	Other drafts
BOX 3 REEL 2	1875-circa 1880
BOX 3 REEL 2	circa 1895-1904
BOX 3 REEL 2	Addresses and lecture, 1873-circa 1880
BOX 3 REEL 2	Lectures
BOX 3 REEL 2	circa 1880
BOX 3 REEL 2	1897-circa 1900
BOX 4 REEL 3	Reports, 1877-1878
BOX 4 REEL 3	Other writings, circa 1876-circa 1892
BOX 4 REEL 3	Miscellany, 1878-1879
BOX 4 REEL 3	Papers and addresses in America
BOX 4 REEL 3	Notes upon lotteries, 1890-1893
BOX 4 REEL 3	Addresses, circa 1866-1885
BOX 4 REEL 3	Address as honorary chancellor of Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., 1885
BOX 4 REEL 3	Lecture upon lotteries, 1890
BOX 4 REEL 3	Addresses, 1895-1901
BOX 4 REEL 3	Lectures upon wampum, 1900-1902
BOX 4 REEL 3	Other writings, 1882-1896
BOX 4 REEL 3	Labels and portion of newspaper, 1930, undated