

# Horatio King 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/mm78028613>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010222>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Horatio King Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1832-1906

**Bulk Dates:** 1857-1891

**ID No.:** MSS28613

**Creator:** King, Horatio, 1811-1897

**Extent:** 3,000 items

**Extent:** 13 containers

**Extent:** 3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78028613>

**Summary:** United States postmaster general, editor, and author. Chiefly letters received by King relating to politics, to his literary, historical, and social activities, and social life in Washington, D.C., in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

## 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

Badeau, Adam, 1831-1895--Correspondence.

Black, Chauncey F.--Correspondence.

Buchanan, James, 1791-1868--Correspondence.

Capen, Nahum, 1804-1886--Correspondence.

Colfax, Schuyler, 1823-1885--Correspondence.

Curtin, Andrew Gregg, 1815-1894--Correspondence.

Curtis, George Ticknor, 1812-1894--Correspondence.

Davis, J. C. Bancroft (John Chandler Bancroft), 1822-1907--Correspondence.

Dix, John A. (John Adams), 1798-1879--Correspondence.

Evarts, William Maxwell, 1818-1901--Correspondence.

Forney, John W. (John Wien), 1817-1881--Correspondence.

Gallaudet, Edward Miner, 1837-1917--Correspondence.

Hamlin, Hannibal, 1809-1891--Correspondence.

Harkness, William, 1837-1903--Correspondence.

Hawley, Joseph R. (Joseph Roswell), 1826-1905--Correspondence.

Holt, Joseph, 1807-1894--Correspondence.

Ingalls, John James, 1833-1900--Correspondence.

Johnston, Harriet Lane, 1830-1903--Correspondence.

Keim, De B. Randolph (De Benneville Randolph), 1841-1914--Correspondence.

Kennan, George, 1845-1924--Correspondence.

King, Horatio C. (Horatio Collins), 1837-1918--Correspondence.

King, Horatio, 1811-1897.

Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926--Correspondence.

McCulloch, Hugh, 1808-1895--Correspondence.

Morrill, Justin S. (Justin Smith), 1810-1898--Correspondence.

Morton, Levi P. (Levi Parsons), 1824-1920--Correspondence.

Noyes, Crosby Stuart, 1825-1908--Correspondence.

Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869--Correspondence.

Poore, Benjamin Perley, 1820-1887--Correspondence.

Porter, Fitz-John, 1822-1901--Correspondence.

Sickles, Daniel Edgar, 1819-1914--Correspondence.

Spofford, Ainsworth Rand, 1825-1908--Correspondence.

Spooner, John C. (John Coit), 1843-1919--Correspondence.  
Tyler, Moses Coit, 1835-1900--Correspondence.  
Wanamaker, John, 1838-1922--Correspondence.  
Winthrop, Robert C. (Robert Charles), 1809-1894--Correspondence.

### **Organizations**

Democratic Party (U.S.)  
United States. Post Office Department.

### **Subjects**

Patronage, Political--United States.  
Secession.

### **Places**

United States--Intellectual life--19th century.  
United States--Politics and government--19th century.  
Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

### **Occupations**

Authors.  
Cabinet officers.  
Editors.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of Horatio King, United States postmaster general, editor, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Isabella E. Osborn King, in 1911 and 1922. An addition was purchased in 1948.

## **Processing History**

The papers of Horatio King were arranged and described in 1968. 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 Horatio King is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of Horatio King 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, Horatio King Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1811, June 21	Born, Paris, Maine
1830	Published <i>Jeffersonian</i> in Paris, Maine, with Hannibal Hamlin
1833	Moved <i>Jeffersonian</i> to Portland, Maine
1839	Appointed clerk, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C.
1854	Appointed assistant postmaster general
1861	Appointed postmaster general
1867	Toured Europe
1875-1876	Toured Europe
1878	Published <i>Sketches of Travel: or, Twelve Months in Europe</i> . Washington, D.C.: J. B. Adams
1881	Secretary, Washington Monument Society, Washington, D.C.
1895	Published <i>Turning on the Light</i> . Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.
1897, May	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Horatio King (1811-1897) span the years 1832-1906, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1857-1891. The collection consists chiefly of letters received by King relating to the Democratic Party, politics, the Post Office Department, proposed legislation, patronage, the secession crisis of 1860-1861, King's literary, historical, and social activities, and social life in Washington, D.C., in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Also in the collection is correspondence of his son, Horatio C. King, with Fitz-John Porter and Daniel Sickles.

Prominent correspondents include Adam Badeau, Chauncey F. Black, James Buchanan, Nahum Capen, Schuyler Colfax, Andrew Gregg Curtin, George Ticknor Curtis, J. C. Bancroft Davis, John A. Dix, William Maxwell Evarts, John W. Forney, Edward Minor Gallaudet, Hannibal Hamlin, William Harkness, Joseph R. Hawley, Joseph Holt, John James Ingalls, Harriet Lane Johnston, De B. Randolph Keim, George Kennan, Robert Todd Lincoln, Hugh McCulloch, Justin S. Morrill, Levi P. Morton, Crosby Stuart Noyes, Franklin Pierce, Benjamin Perley Poore, Fitz-John Porter, Daniel Edgar Sickles, Ainsworth Rand Spofford, John C. Spooner, Moses Coit Tyler, John Wanamaker, and Robert C. Winthrop.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically within type of material.

## Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 1	General correspondence
BOX 1	1832, Dec. 1-1857, Apr. 21
BOX 2	1857, Apr. 23-1859, Apr. 24
BOX 3	1859, Apr. 26-1860, Nov. 25
BOX 4	1860, Nov. 27-1870, Jan. 14
BOX 5	1870, Jan. 15-1873, Jan. 18
BOX 6	1873, Jan. 20-1878, Dec. 27
BOX 7	1878, Dec. 28-1883, Nov. 20
BOX 8	1883, Nov. 29-1885, Feb. 16
BOX 9	1885, Feb. 17-1887, Dec. 17
BOX 10	1887, Dec. 19-1889, Apr. 23
BOX 11	1889, Apr. 25-1891, Apr. 21
BOX 12	1891, Apr. 22-Dec. 5, undated
BOX 13	Special correspondence
BOX 13	Holt, Joseph; W. D. Hold; and T. W. Harris, 1883-1894
BOX 13	Porter, Fitz-John, to Horatio C. King (son), 1890-1900
BOX 13	Saturday Evening Literary Club, 1884-1887
BOX 13	Sickles, Daniel, to Horatio C. King, 1902-1906
BOX 13	Smith, Samuel F., concerning "America," 1875-1895