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**

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


**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged chronologically within type of material.
## Container List

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<td>1878, Dec. 28-1883, Nov. 20</td>
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<td>1883, Nov. 29-1885, Feb. 16</td>
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<td>BOX 12</td>
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<td>BOX 13</td>
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<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>Holt, Joseph; W. D. Hold; and T. W. Harris, 1883-1894</td>
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<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>Porter, Fitz-John, to Horatio C. King (son), 1890-1900</td>
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<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>Saturday Evening Literary Club, 1884-1887</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>Sickles, Daniel, to Horatio C. King, 1902-1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 13</td>
<td>Smith, Samuel F., concerning “America,” 1875-1895</td>
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