

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



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2024

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78046854>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011236>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2024 February

Collection Summary

Title: John Russell Young Papers

Inclusive Dates: circa 1840-1959

Bulk Dates: 1858-1898

ID No.: MSS46854

Creator: Young, John Russell, 1841-1899

Extent: 28,000 items

Extent: 46 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 12.4 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/mm78046854>

Summary: Journalist, editor, diplomat, and Librarian of Congress. Correspondence, diaries, writings, biography with annotations, Dow family papers, scrapbook, photographs, and other papers relating primarily to Young's career as a journalist and association with Ulysses S. Grant.

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

Alexander, Edward Porter, 1835-1910--Correspondence.
Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886--Correspondence.
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887--Correspondence.
Bryce, James Bryce, Viscount, 1838-1922--Correspondence.
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.
Clemens, Samuel Langhorne, 1835-1910--Correspondence.
Conkling, Roscoe, 1829-1888--Correspondence.
Cooke, Jay, 1821-1905--Correspondence.
Daly, Augustin, 1838-1899--Correspondence.
Dana, Charles A. (Charles Anderson), 1819-1897--Correspondence.
Dickens, Charles, 1812-1870--Correspondence.
Dow family.
Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence.
Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882--Correspondence.
Forney, John W. (John Wien), 1817-1881--Correspondence.
Garfield, James A. (James Abram), 1831-1881--Correspondence.
George, Henry, 1839-1897--Correspondence.
Gordon, James B. (James Byron), 1822-1864--Correspondence.
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885--Correspondence.
Grant, Ulysses S. (Ulysses Simpson), 1822-1885.
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872--Correspondence.
Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901--Correspondence.
Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894--Correspondence.
Howard, O. O. (Oliver Otis), 1830-1909--Correspondence.
Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920--Correspondence.
Latrobe, Osmun--Correspondence.
Li, Hongzhang, 1823-1901.
Longfellow, Charles Appleton--Correspondence.
Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891--Correspondence.

McCook, Anson G. (Anson George), 1835-1917--Correspondence.
McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence.
Mills, Stephen Crosby, Mrs.--Correspondence.
Morgan, Edwin D. (Edwin Denison), 1811-1883--Correspondence.
Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884--Correspondence.
Reid, Whitelaw, 1837-1912--Correspondence.
Schurz, Carl, 1829-1906--Correspondence.
Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1831-1888--Correspondence.
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.
Sickles, Daniel Edgar, 1819-1914--Correspondence.
Smith, Hoke, 1855-1931--Correspondence.
Stanley, Henry M. (Henry Morton), 1841-1904--Correspondence.
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.
Taylor, Bayard, 1825-1878--Correspondence.
Watterson, Henry, 1840-1921--Correspondence.
White, Andrew Dickson, 1832-1918--Correspondence.
Young, Dorothy Mills--Correspondence.
Young, G. R. (Gordon Russell), 1891- --Correspondence.
Young, John Russell, 1840-1899.
Young, Mary Dow Davids. Mary Dow Davids Young correspondence and diaries.

Organizations

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.
United States Military Academy--Students.

Subjects

Journalism--United States.
Voyages around the world--History--19th century.

Places

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations

Diplomats.
Editors.
Journalists.
Librarians of Congress.

Acquisition Information

The papers of John Russell Young, journalist, editor, diplomat, and Librarian of Congress, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Mary Dow Davids Young, their son, G. R. Young, and his wife, Dorothy Mills Young, 1924-1927. Additional material was given by the District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, D.C., 1937. Some items from the initial accessions were transferred after their receipt to the papers of Ulysses S. Grant.

Processing History

A portion of the Young Papers was processed in and bound in 1925. Other portions were arranged and described in 1965-1967, with additional material incorporated into the collection in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2010 by Roger Preston and Lloyd Dunlap. The finding aid was updated in 2024 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Related Material

The papers of [Ulysses S. Grant](#) in the Manuscript Division include material removed from the Young collection and placed in Series I, Subseries B of the Grant Papers. The items may be identified by the notation "AC.2994" placed in the lower right-hand corner of each page.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Russell Young 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 three reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, John Russell Young Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1840, Nov. 20	Born, Dunnamanna, County Tyrone, Ireland
1841	Emigrated to U. S. with parents
1856	Apprenticed to printing office in Philadelphia, Pa.
1861	Private secretary to John W. Forney, Washington, D.C. Published first account of Battle of Bull Run
1862	One of the founders of Union League of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.
1864	Joined staff of General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, Red River Campaign
1865	Established <i>Morning Post</i> Joined firm of Jay Cooke & Co.
1866-1869	Managing editor, <i>New York Tribune</i> Admitted to New York bar
1869-1870	Founded <i>New York Standard</i>
1870	Special agent of the secretary of the treasury in Europe.
1871	Sent to Europe on confidential mission by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish
1872	In Paris, France, where he joined the <i>New York Herald</i>
1877	In London, England, where he joined Ulysses S. Grant on world tour
1879	Published <i>Around the World with General Grant</i>
1882-1885	United States minister to China
1888	Sent to London, England, to establish an English edition of <i>New York Herald</i>
1891	Director, Union League of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pa.

1897
1899, Jan. 17

Appointed Librarian of Congress
Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Russell Young (1840-1899) span the years circa 1840-1959, with the bulk from 1858 to 1898. The collection includes the [correspondence](#) and [diaries](#) of Young and his wife, Mary Dow Davids Young; writings; [biography](#) with annotations; a [scrapbook](#); photographs, and other papers relating chiefly to Young's career as a journalist. There is [Dow family](#) correspondence from the 1840s through the 1880s, including correspondence, 1918-1920, to Lilian Lucille (Lee) Mills (Mrs. Stephen Crosby Mills) from Dorothy Mills (Young), the future wife of Young's son, G. R. Young. The [General Correspondence](#) of John Russell Young relates primarily to political and journalist matters. A topic of particular significance in the series is a visit to the United States in 1896 of Chinese leader Hongzhang Li.

As a result of his tour around the world with ex-President Ulysses S. Grant, John Russell Young was able to obtain many originals of Grant's incoming and some outgoing correspondence. This material has been removed from the Young Papers and incorporated into the Grant Papers also available in the Manuscript Division.

The [Special Correspondence and Miscellany](#) series includes three volumes of mounted manuscripts. The first volume contains twenty-three items from Grant to Young, November 15, 1870-August 25, 1883 and undated. The second volume contains correspondence, September 26, 1864-November 4, 1895, with Henry Ward Beecher, Charles Dickens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Charles Appleton Longfellow, James Russell Lowell, Wendell Phillips, Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894), and others. The third volume relates to a planned meeting in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1893 and letters of reply to Young from Edward Porter Alexander, James B. Gordon, O. O. Howard, William Dean Howells, Osmun Latrobe, Hoke Smith, Anson G. McCook, Daniel Edward Sickles, and others.

The [Addition](#) includes letters from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Dorothy Mills Young when he was at the United States Military Academy.

Other correspondents include Chester Alan Arthur; James Bryce, viscount Bryce; Salmon P. Chase; Samuel Langhorne Clemens; Roscoe Conkling; Jay Cooke; Augustin Daly; Charles A. Dana; John W. Forney; James A. Garfield; Henry George; Horace Greeley; Benjamin Harrison; John Hay; William McKinley; Edwin D. Morgan; Whitelaw Reid; Carl Schurz; Philip Henry Sheridan; William T. Sherman; Henry M. Stanley; Bayard Taylor; Henry Watterson; and Andrew Dickson White.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eleven series:

- [General Correspondence, 1854-1898](#)
- [Biography of Young](#)
- [Press Clippings, 1854](#)
- [Miscellany, 1877-1879](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1897-1920](#)
- [Special Correspondence and Miscellany, 1864-1899](#)
- [Dow Family Papers, circa 1840-1890](#)
- [Diaries of John Russell Young and Mary Dow Davids Young, 1865-1923](#)
- [Scrapbook, 1843-1850](#)
- [Addition, 1890-1959](#)
- [Oversize](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-25 not filmed	<u>General Correspondence, 1854-1898</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 26-29 not filmed	<u>Biography of Young</u> Annotated and corrected typescript of "John Russell Young, His Life and Correspondence." Arranged in bound volumes.
BOX 30 not filmed	<u>Press Clippings, 1854</u> Bound volume of clippings titled "The Press of the U.S. on the Letter Written by Horace Greeley in 1854 to [William H.] Seward When They Were Whigs."
BOX 31 not filmed	<u>Miscellany, 1877-1879</u> Bound volume including memorabilia and holograph text and corrected proofs describing the world tour of Ulysses S. Grant in 1877-1879.
BOX 32 not filmed	<u>General Correspondence, 1897-1920</u> Correspondence of Young and his wife, Mary Dow Davids Young, and of his daughter-in-law, Dorothy Mills Young, and her mother and their family. Arranged chronologically within the two groups.
BOX 33 not filmed	<u>Special Correspondence and Miscellany, 1864-1899</u> Bound volumes of correspondence addressed to Young from Ulysses S. Grant, 1870-1883; by literary figures of the period, 1864-1895; concerning a reunion at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1893; and miscellaneous letters, 1890-1899. Also invitations and photographs. Organized by topic or type of material.
BOX 34-35 not filmed	<u>Dow Family Papers, circa 1840-1890</u> Correspondence, journals and a diary, financial material, photographs, and miscellaneous items. Arranged in two sets and therein by type of material
BOX 36-39 REEL 1-3	<u>Diaries of John Russell Young and Mary Dow Davids Young, 1865-1923</u> Diaries of Young and his wife. Arranged in separate groups.
BOX 40 not filmed	<u>Scrapbook, 1843-1850</u> Newspaper clippings.
BOX 41-45 not filmed	<u>Addition, 1890-1959</u> Correspondence and miscellany. Arranged by type of material.
BOX OV 1 not filmed	<u>Oversize</u> Certificates and awards. Arranged and described according to the series and container from which the items were removed.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-25 not filmed	General Correspondence, 1854-1898 Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1854, Dec. 12-1863, Aug. 12
BOX 2	1863, Aug. 20-1865, Nov. 8
BOX 3	1865, Nov. 19-1867, Mar. 20
BOX 4	1867, Mar. 22-1868, Jan. 23
BOX 5	1868, Feb. 1-1868, Aug. 30
BOX 6	6 1868, Aug. 31-1869, Jan. 15
BOX 7	7 1869, Jan. 16-1869, July 19
BOX 8	8 1869, July 20-1873, Mar. 25
BOX 9	9 1873, Mar. 27-1875, Jan. 16
BOX 10	1875, Jan. 18-1878, Aug. 18
BOX 11	1878, Aug.-1879, July 7
BOX 12	1879, July 8-1880, Jan. 1
BOX 13	1880, Jan. 8-1880, Dec. 27
BOX 14	1880, Dec. 28-1882, Mar. 8
BOX 15	1882, Mar. 9-1883, May 19
BOX 16	1883, May 23-1884, Jan. 10
BOX 17	1884, Jan. 12-1885, June 4?
BOX 18	1885, June 5-1889, Jan. 10
BOX 19	1889, Jan. 17-1890, Oct. 13
BOX 19A	1890, Oct. 2-1890, Oct. 10
BOX 20	1890, Oct. 14-1891, Dec. 20
BOX 21	1891, Dec. 21-1893, Feb. 19
BOX 22	1893, Feb. 20-1896, Aug. 17
BOX 23	1896, Aug. 20-1898, Jan. 3
BOX 24	1898, Jan. 5-1898, Dec. 28, undated
BOX 25	Undated
BOX 26-29 not filmed	Biography of Young Annotated and corrected typescript of "John Russell Young, His Life and Correspondence." Arranged in bound volumes.
BOX 26	Vol. 1
BOX 27	Vol. 2
BOX 28	Vol. 3

Biography of Young

Container	Contents
BOX 29	Vol. 4
BOX 30 not filmed	Press Clippings, 1854 Bound volume of clippings titled "The Press of the U.S. on the Letter Written by Horace Greeley in 1854 to [William H.] Seward When They Were Whigs."
BOX 30	"The Press of the U.S. on the Letter Written by Horace Greeley in 1854 to [William H.] Seward When They Were Whigs," 1854
BOX 31 not filmed	Miscellany, 1877-1879 Bound volume including memorabilia and holograph text and corrected proofs describing the world tour of Ulysses S. Grant in 1877-1879.
BOX 31	World tour with Ulysses S. Grant, memorabilia and written account by Young, 1877-1879
BOX 32 not filmed	General Correspondence, 1897-1920 Correspondence of Young and his wife, Mary Dow Davids Young, and of his daughter-in-law, Dorothy Mills Young, and her mother and their family. Arranged chronologically within the two groups.
BOX 32	Young, John Russell and Mary Dow Davids, 1897, Jan. 29-1908, Aug. 30
BOX 32	Young, Dorothy Mills, and others, 1918, Feb. 24-1920, Apr. 25, undated
BOX 33 not filmed	Special Correspondence and Miscellany, 1864-1899 Bound volumes of correspondence addressed to Young from Ulysses S. Grant, 1870-1883; by literary figures of the period, 1864-1895; concerning a reunion at Gettysburg, Pa., in 1893; and miscellaneous letters, 1890-1899. Also invitations and photographs. Organized by topic or type of material.
BOX 33	"Autograph Letters from Charles Dickens and Others," 1864-1895
BOX 33	"Autograph Letters of General Grant," 1870-1883
BOX 33	"Souvenir of a Reunion at Gettysburg," Gettysburg, Pa., Apr. 28, 1893
BOX 33	Miscellaneous letters and cards, 1890-1899
BOX 33	Invitation to decoration of Grant's Tomb, New York, N.Y., and miscellaneous photographs, 1877-1886
BOX 34-35 not filmed	Dow Family Papers, circa 1840-1890 Correspondence, journals and a diary, financial material, photographs, and miscellaneous items. Arranged in two sets and therein by type of material
BOX 34	Set I
BOX 34	Correspondence
BOX 34	Diary, James G. Dow
BOX 34	Envelopes and notes
BOX 34	Financial and school papers
BOX 34	Journals and diary, Mrs. James G. Dow
BOX 34	Photographs
BOX 34	Printed matter

Dow Family Papers, circa 1840-1890

Container	Contents
BOX 35	Set II
BOX 35	Correspondence
BOX 35	Memorial of James G. Dow
BOX 35	Poetry and miscellany
BOX 36-39 REEL 1-3	Diaries of John Russell Young and Mary Dow Davids Young, 1865-1923 Diaries of Young and his wife. Arranged in separate groups.
BOX 36 REEL 1-2	Young, John Russell
BOX 37 REEL 2-3	1865, 1868-1870, 1872-1873, 1875-1880, 1883, 1886
BOX 38 REEL 2-3	1887-1893, 1896-1898
BOX 38 REEL 2-3	Young, Mary Dow Davids 1887-1893, 1896-1898
BOX 38 REEL 2-3	1891-1892, 1897, 1901, 1906-1912, 1914-1916
BOX 39 not filmed	1917-1923
BOX 40 not filmed	Scrapbook, 1843-1850 Newspaper clippings.
BOX 40 not filmed	Newspaper clippings, circa 1843-1850
BOX 41-45 not filmed	Addition, 1890-1959 Correspondence and miscellany. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 41 not filmed	Letters to John Russell Young, 1890-1892
BOX 41 not filmed	Letters to Dorothy Mills, from Dwight D. Eisenhower, Paul A. Hodgson, and George Fenn Lewis, 1914-1915, undated
BOX 41 not filmed	Letters from Gordon Russell Young to Mary Dow Davids (his mother), 1917-1919, undated
BOX 41 not filmed	Correspondence, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Dorothy Mills Young, 1955-1959
BOX 41 not filmed	Miscellany, 1919-1951, undated
BOX 41 not filmed	Clippings
BOX 41 not filmed	Programs
BOX 41 not filmed	Photographs
BOX 41 not filmed	Certificates and awards <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 42-43 not filmed	Young, Gordon Russell
BOX 42-43 not filmed	Correspondence, memoranda, photographs, and speeches
BOX 44 not filmed	Correspondence with his mother, Mary Dow Davids Young, 1908-1923
BOX 45 not filmed	Published books
BOX 45 not filmed	<i>Around the World with General Grant by Young.</i>
BOX 45 not filmed	<i>The Innocents by Sinclair Lewis.</i>
BOX 45 not filmed	<i>Men and Memories by John Russell Young</i> (2 vols).
BOX 45 not filmed	<i>Our Mr. Wrenn by Sinclair Lewis.</i>
BOX 45 not filmed	<i>The Prince of India by Lew Wallace</i> (2 vols.)
BOX 45 not filmed	<i>The Second Division</i>

Addition, 1890-1959

Container	Contents
BOX 45 not filmed	Unpublished writing, Pettit, H. W., "Life and Adventures of Theophilis Bird, A. D."
BOX OV 1 not filmed	Oversize Certificates and awards. Arranged and described according to the series and container from which the items were removed.
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Certificates and awards (Container 41)