Collection Summary

Title: John Russell Young Papers
Span Dates: circa 1840-1959
Bulk Dates: (bulk 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/mn78046854
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.
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.

Provenance
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.

John Russell Young Papers
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1840, Nov. 20</td>
<td>Born, Dunnamanna, County Tyrone, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Emigrated to U. S. with parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>Apprenticed to printing office in Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Private secretary to John W. Forney, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Published first account of Battle of Bull Run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Joined staff of General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, Red River Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Established Morning Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joined firm of Jay Cooke &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866-1869</td>
<td>Managing editor, New York Tribune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Admitted to New York bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869-1870</td>
<td>Founded New York Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Special agent of the secretary of the treasury in Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Sent to Europe on confidential mission by Secretary of State Hamilton Fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>In Paris, France, where he joined the New York Herald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1877</td>
<td>In London, England, where he joined Ulysses S. Grant on world tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Published Around the World with General Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882-1885</td>
<td>United States minister to China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1897  Appointed Librarian of Congress
1899, Jan. 17  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 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-25 not filmed | **General Correspondence, 1854-1898**  
Letters sent and received.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| 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 30 not filmed | **Press Clippings, 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 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 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 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 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 40 not filmed | **Scrapbook, 1843-1850**  
Newspaper clippings. |
| BOX 41-45 not filmed | **Addition, 1890-1959**  
Correspondence and miscellany.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX OV 1 not filmed | **Oversize**  
Certificates and awards.  
Arranged and described according to the series and container from which the items were removed. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| 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
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<tr>
<td>BOX 29</td>
<td>Vol. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 31 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1877-1879</strong>&lt;br&gt;Bound volume including memorabilia and holograph text and corrected proofs describing the world tour of Ulysses S. Grant in 1877-1879.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 31</td>
<td>World tour with Ulysses S. Grant, memorabilia and written account by Young, 1877-1879</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 32 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1897-1920</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically within the two groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 32</td>
<td>Young, John Russell and Mary Dow Davids, 1897, Jan. 29-1908, Aug. 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 32</td>
<td>Young, Dorothy Mills, and others, 1918, Feb. 24-1920, Apr. 25, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 33 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Special Correspondence and Miscellany, 1864-1899</strong>&lt;br&gt;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.&lt;br&gt;Organized by topic or type of material.</td>
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<td>BOX 33</td>
<td>“Autograph Letters from Charles Dickens and Others,” 1864-1895</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 33</td>
<td>“Autograph Letters of General Grant,” 1870-1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 33</td>
<td>“Souvenir of a Reunion at Gettysburg,” Gettysburg, Pa., Apr. 28, 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 33</td>
<td>Miscellaneous letters and cards, 1890-1899</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 33</td>
<td>Invitation to decoration of Grant’s Tomb, New York, N.Y., and miscellaneous photographs, 1877-1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 34-35 not filmed</td>
<td><strong>Dow Family Papers, circa 1840-1890</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, journals and a diary, financial material, photographs, and miscellaneous items.&lt;br&gt;Arranged in two sets and therein by type of material</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Set I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Diary, James G. Dow</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Envelopes and notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Financial and school papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Journals and diary, Mrs. James G. Dow</td>
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<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Printed matter</td>
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### Dow Family Papers, circa 1840-1890

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<th>Container</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 35</td>
<td>Set II</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 35</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 35</td>
<td>Memorial of James G. Dow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 35</td>
<td>Poetry and miscellany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 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  
1865, 1868-1870, 1872-1873, 1875-1880, 1883, 1886 |
| BOX 37 REEL 2-3 | 1887-1893, 1896-1898 |
| BOX 38 REEL 2-3 | Young, Mary Dow Davids 1887-1893, 1896-1898  
1891-1892, 18978, 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 [See Oversize](#) |
| 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 | *Around the World with General Grant by Young.* |
| BOX 45 not filmed | *The Innocents by Sinclair Lewis.* |
| BOX 45 not filmed | *Men and Memories by John Russell Young*  
(2 vols.) |
| BOX 45 not filmed | *Our Mr. Wrenn by Sinclair Lewis.* |
| BOX 45 not filmed | *The Prince of India by Lew Wallace*  
(2 vols.) |
| BOX 45 not filmed | *The Second Division* |

**John Russell Young Papers**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<td>Oversize Certificates and awards. Arranged and described according to the series and container from which the items were removed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Certificates and awards (Container 41)</td>
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