

Miles-Cameron Families Correspondence
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Miles-Cameron Families Correspondence

Inclusive Dates: 1661-1956

Bulk Dates: 1862-1944

ID No.: MSS32870

Creator: Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925

Extent: 1,000 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, with some French and Spanish.

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82032870>

Summary: Army officer. Correspondence addressed to Elizabeth Cameron, J. D. Cameron, Nelson Appleton Miles, and Sherman Miles.

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

Buffalo Bill, 1846-1917--Correspondence.

Cameron family--Correspondence.

Cameron family.

Cameron, Elizabeth, 1857-1944--Correspondence.

Cameron, J. D. (James Donald), 1833-1918--Correspondence.

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.

Miles family--Correspondence.

Miles family.

Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925--Correspondence.

Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1839-1925.

Miles, Sherman, 1882-1966--Correspondence.

Miles, Yulee Noble, 1888-1953--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.

Sherman family--Correspondence.

Sherman, John, 1823-1900--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Wharton, Edith, 1862-1937--Correspondence.

Organizations

Buffalo Bill's Wild West Company.

Subjects

Armed Forces--Officers--Correspondence.

Diplomats--Correspondence.

Diplomats--United States--Correspondence.

Indians of North America--Wars--West (U.S.)

Indians of North America.

Politicians--Correspondence.

Politicians--United States--Correspondence.

Spanish-American War, 1898.

Wild west shows--West (U.S.)

Places

United States--Armed Forces--Officers--Correspondence.
Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.
West (U.S.)--History.

Titles

Cameron family papers
Miles family papers
Miles-Cameron families papers
Nelson Appleton Miles papers

Occupations

Army officers.

Acquisition Information

The correspondence of the Miles-Cameron families was deposited in the Library of Congress by Nelson Miles in 1973. The deposit was converted to a gift by Rosemary S. Miles in 1979

Processing History

The collection was processed circa 1975, and the finding aid was revised by Michelle Krowl with the assistance of Jewel McPherson in 2012.

Other Repositories

Additional correspondence addressed to Elizabeth Sherman Cameron and Nelson Appleton Miles by various artists is located at the library of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Miles-Cameron families correspondence is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U. S. C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Miles-Cameron families 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, Miles-Cameron Families Correspondence, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Elizabeth Cameron

Date	Event
1857	Born, Cleveland, Ohio

1878	Married J. D. Cameron (died 1918)
1881	Began friendship with Henry Adams
1886	Daughter Martha Cameron born (died 1918)
1898	Began spending most of her time in Europe while estranged from husband
1909	Daughter Martha married British diplomat Ronald Lindsay; Elizabeth Cameron moved to Europe
1944, Aug. 17	Died in England

J. D. Cameron

Date	Event
1833, May 14	Born, Middletown, Pa..
1852	Graduated, Princeton College (now Princeton University), Princeton, N.J.
1856	Married Mary McCormick
1863-1874	President, Northern Central Railway
1876-1877	Secretary of war
1877-1897	United States senator from Pennsylvania
1878	Married Elizabeth Sherman (died 1944)
1918, Aug. 30	Died, Lancaster County, Pa.

Nelson Appleton Miles

Date	Event
1839, Aug. 8	Born, Westminster, Mass.
1861-1865	Served in Union Army during the Civil War; finished war as brigadier general of volunteers
1865-1866	Commander, Fortress Monroe during incarceration of former Confederate President Jefferson Davis
1866	Mustered out of volunteer army; commissioned a colonel in Regular Army
1867-1869	Assistant commissioner, North Carolina, for Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands ("Freedmen's Bureau")
1868	Married Mary Hoyt Sherman (died 1904)
1869	Daughter Cecilia born in Cleveland, Ohio
1874-1890	Participated in Indian Wars
1882	Son Sherman born in Washington, D.C.
1892	Awarded Medal of Honor for gallantry at Chancellorsville
1894	Commanded federal forces in Chicago, Ill. during Pullman Railway Strike
1895	Commanding general, United States Army
1896	Published <i>Personal Recollections of Observations of General Nelson A. Miles</i> . Chicago: Werner Co.
1903	Retired from army
1911	Published <i>Serving the Republic: Memoirs of the Civil and Military Life of Nelson A. Miles</i> . New York and London: Harper & Brothers.
1925, May 15	Died, Washington, D.C.

Sherman Miles

Date	Event
1882, Dec. 5	Born, Washington, D.C.
1905	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1909	Married Yulee Noble (died 1953)
1914-1916	Military attaché to Russia
1938	Commanding officer, Fort Sill, Okla.
1939	Military attaché, London, England
1941	Chief, Military Intelligence Division

1942	Commander, First Service Command, Boston, Mass.
1945	Retired from army as major general
1947-1952	Served in Massachusetts House of Representatives
1954	Married Edith Lawrence Coolidge (died 1975)
1966, Oct. 7	Died, Beverly, Mass.

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence of the Miles-Cameron families spans the years 1661-1956, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period from 1862 to 1944. The collection consists of letters written primarily to Elizabeth Cameron, J. D. Cameron, Nelson Appleton Miles, and Sherman Miles. Other recipients include members of the extended Miles-Cameron family, such as Simon Cameron and Sherman Miles's wife Yulee. It is not clear if the correspondents in the earliest dated documents have any relationship to the Miles or Cameron families, or if the material was collected merely for historical interest. Some letters are written in either French or Spanish.

The Miles and Camerons were united by marriage, and members of the two families knew many prominent individuals in political, diplomatic and military circles during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The nieces of General William T. Sherman and Ohio Senator John Sherman both married prominent men. In 1878 Elizabeth Sherman married Senator J. D. (James Donald) Cameron of Pennsylvania, son of Senator Simon Cameron. Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Cameron became a fixture in the social world of Gilded Age Washington, playing hostess to both American politicians and foreign diplomats. She was also an intimate friend of Secretary of State John Hay and particularly historian Henry Adams, her neighbors on Lafayette Square. Elizabeth Cameron's place on both the national and international stage is reflected in the variety of her correspondents and the foreign legations in which many of them served. Some Cameron family correspondence, however, was received by Mrs. Cameron's husband, J. D. Cameron, and her father-in-law Simon Cameron.

In 1868 Mary Hoyt Sherman married General Nelson Appleton Miles, whose military career began during the Civil War, continued through the Indian Wars of the 1870s-1880s, and eventually led to his appointment as commanding general of the army in 1895. Due to Nelson Appleby Miles's key commands during the Indian Wars, the collection includes many letters that comment on conditions in the West and military campaigns waged by the military against Native American tribes. Researchers should pay special attention to documents written in the 1870s and 1880s. The content of General Miles's correspondence also reflects his desire for military promotions and his efforts to further his ambitions.

The most extensive correspondence within the Miles-Cameron papers belong to John Sherman and his brother William T. Sherman, both of whom wrote to their nieces and their respective husbands. Some of the correspondence includes family matters, but professional subjects also appear, especially in the correspondence from General Sherman to General Miles. J. D. Cameron and John Sherman served together in the United States Senate from 1877 to 1897, and William T. Sherman served as commanding general of the army (1869-1883) while Nelson A. Miles participated in the Indian Wars and advanced in his military career. The collection also offers a substantial number of letters written by author Edith Wharton.

Material written after 1925 is addressed primarily to General Sherman Miles, the son of Nelson and Mary Hoyt Miles, or to Sherman Miles's first wife Yulee. Sherman Miles followed his father into the army, and during his own career became acquainted with well-known military officers, such as Omar Nelson Bradley, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and George S. Patton (1885-1945).

With the exception of correspondence from John Sherman, William T. Sherman, and Edith Wharton, most of the correspondents in the collection are represented by either a single letter or at most a handful of items. The content of these documents is often devoted to mundane topics, such as brief congratulatory letters for promotions received, or the correspondent's ability to attend a social function. In these cases, the historical value of the document is the significance of the sender rather than the intellectual content of the letter.

The collection is organized into two sets. Set I represents the more substantive correspondence of the two groups of documents. The Simon Cameron file in this set includes official documents relating to his appointment as the American minister to Russia in 1862, following his service as President Abraham Lincoln's first secretary of war. Buffalo Bill wrote on stationery from Buffalo Bill's Wild West Company, and commented on the Native Americans in his troupe. The John

J. Crittenden file contains July 1861 resolutions written in Crittenden's own hand. A January 1865 invitation from John Hay inquired if Elizabeth Sherman would accompany Miss Harlan, Robert Todd Lincoln, and himself to the opera, and an 1887 letter from Hay to Nelson Miles requested a Civil War-era photograph, which now resides in the Hay album in the James Wadsworth Family Papers. Correspondence from Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) touches on the “embalmed beef” scandal during the Spanish-American War. This set also includes the letters written by John Sherman, William T. Sherman, and Edith Wharton.

Set II contains more documents devoted to everyday subjects of less historical interest, especially those briefly noting attendance at social functions.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized into two sets.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Set I Abbott, Lyman, 1897 Adamowski, T. (Timothée), undated Adams, Brooks, 1893-1923 Adams, Charles Francis (1835-1915), circa 1890 Adams, Charles Francis (1866-1954), 1931 Aldrich, Nelson W., 1904, undated Alger, R. A., 1897 Allen, Henry T., 1884-1904 Arthur, Chester Alan, 1884, undated Asquith, Margot, undated Baker, Newton Diehl, 1929 Barlow, Francis C., 1863-1895 Badeau, Adam, 1886 Beecher, Henry Ward, 1880 Benedict, E. C., 1895 Bigelow, Frederick, undated Billings, Frederick, 1880 Bradley, Omar Nelson, 1942 Breckinridge, John C., 1887 Buffalo Bill, 1889-1898 Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1880 Butterfield, Daniel, 1889 Caldwell, John C., 1863 Cameron, Elizabeth, 1897-1898 Cameron, J. D., 1880-1891 Cameron, Simon, 1862-1889 Cannon, Joseph Gurney, 1907 Carnegie, Andrew, 1883 Cecil, Violet, 1919 Chaffée, Andrew R., 1900 Chirol, Valentine, Sir, circa 1918 Choate, Joseph, 1899 Clarke, Ben, 1894-1895 Cleveland, Frances, Folsom, 1888-1896 Cleveland, Grover, circa 1890-1892 Clinton, De Witt, 1806 Colby, Bainbridge, 1900 Colefax, Sibyl, undated Conkling, Roscoe, 1880 Corbin, Henry Clark, 1891

Container List

Container Contents

Cox, Thomas C., 1863
Crawford, John W., 1887
Crittenden, John J., 1861
Crook, George, 1882
Curzon of Kedleston, George Nathaniel Curzon, Marquess, 1906-1918
Curzon, Mary, 1900
Custer, Elizabeth Bacon, 1877, undated
Dalton, Samuel, 1892
D'Aux, Duchesse, 1898
Davis, Cushman Kellogg, 1898-1899
Davis, Richard Harding, circa 1898
Depew, Chauncey M., 1896
Devens, Charles, 1877
Dewey, Mildred McLean Hazen, 1919
Dickerson, Mahlon, 1827
Dodge, Grenville Mellen, 1894
Dorst, J. H., 1886
Draper, Ruth, 1930
Drew, John, 1904, undated
Eaker, Ira Clarence, 1943
Edison, Thomas A., 1882
Einstein, Louis, 1940
Eisenhower, Dwight D., 1941
Endicott, William Crowninshield (1826-1900), 1885, 1888
Ericsson, John, 1885, 1887
Everett, Edward, 1827
Field, Kate, 1888-1894
Field, Stephen J., 1889, 1896
Fish, Hamilton (1808-1893), 1878
Flagier, D. W., undated
Foch, Ferdinand, 1916 (in French)
Foraker, Joseph Benson, 1899
BOX 2
Forbes, Cameron, 1944
Ford, Worthington Chauncey, 1919-1930
Frémont, Jessie Benton, 1884
Frye, William P., undated
Garcia Iñiguez, Calixto, 1898
Gardiner, Asa Bird, 1899
Garfield, James A., 1876
Géraud, André, 1940
Gibbon, John, 1877
Gilder, Jeannette L., 1895
Godkin, Edwin Lawrence, 1895, undated
Grant, Ulysses S., 1877-1883
Greeley, Adolphus W., 1890-1891
Grierson, Benjamin Henry, 1887

Container List

Container Contents

Gwynn, Stephen S., 1927-1929, undated
Hale, Edward Everett, undated
Hale, Eugene, 1889, undated
Hampton, Wade, 1883
Hancock, Winfield Scott, 1863-1886, undated
Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, undated
Harding, Warren G., 1920
Harrison, Benjamin, 1888
Harte, Bret, undated
Hay, John, 1865-1899, undated
Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1881-1892
Henry, Guy Vernor, 1891-1895
Hoar, George Frisbie, 1893,1902
Holabird, Samuel Beckley, 1883, 1886
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, (1841-1935), 1898, 1906
Howard, O. O., 1867-1892
Howe, Julia Ward, 1906
Howells, William Dean, 1884
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1922
Hull, Cordell, 1939
Hull, John Albert Tiffin, 1898
Humphreys, A. A., 1865-1866
Ingersoll, Robert Green, 1899
James, Henry (1843-1916), 1898-1912, undated
Johnson, Joseph, undated
Jones, George, 1887
Kelly, L. S., circa 1885
Kelton, J. C., 1889
Kennedy, John F., 1956
Keyes, Roger, 1934, undated
Kipling, Rudyard, 1895
Knox, Philander C., 1913
Lamont, Daniel Scott, 1887-1895
Langley, S. P., undated
Lansing, Robert, 1914
Lassiter, William, 1931-1935
Lawton, Henry Ware, 1886, 1890
Lewis, Issac N., 1903, 1918
Lieber, G. Norman, 1895
Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1882-1893, undated
Lindsay, Ronald, Sir, 1930-1944, undated
Lodge, George Cabot, 1890, undated
Lodge, Henry Cabot (1850-1924), 1897-1923
Louis XIV, King of France, 1661 (in French)
BOX 3 Lowell, James Russell, 1883, undated
Lyon, Frank, 1939-1945, undated

Container List

Container Contents

MacArthur, Douglas (1880-1964), 1939
McCauley, C. A. H., 1886
McClernand, Edward J., 1889
McDowell, Irvin, 1882
McEwan, J. S., 1891
McKinley, William, 1896-1899
Macleod, James, 1879
MacVeagh, Wayne, 1886
Marlowe, Julia, undated
Marquand, John P., undated
Marshall, George C., 1939-1945
Maupassant, Guy de, 1878 (in French)
Meade, George Gordon, 1866-1877
Medill, Joseph, 1892
Melba, Nellie, undated
Meyer, George von Lengerke, undated
Miles, Nelson Appleton, 1875-1924, undated
Moody, William H., undated
Morgan, J. Pierpont, 1883, undated
Morton, Levi P., 1880-1893, undated
Mosby, John Singleton, 1898
Niblack, Albert P., 1895
Nichols, Thomas B., 1881
Novar, Viscount (Ronald C. Munro-Ferguson), 1928
Nugent, Robert, 1889
Olney, Richard, 1897, 1899, undated
Page, Walter Hines, 1898
Palmer, John McAuley (1870-1955), 1942, 1943
Parker, Alton B., 1904
Parkman, Francis, 1893, undated
Patton, Beatrice Banning Ayer, 1943-1946, undated
Patton, George S. (1885-1945), 1941-1945
Pauncefote, Julian, Baron, 1892-1901, undated
Pershing, John J., 1919-1945
Phelps, William W., 1885-1887, undated
Phillips, William. 1940-1945, undated
Pope, Albert A., 1895, undated
Pope, John (1822-1892), 1876-1885
Porter, Fitz-John, 1883-1890
Porter, Horace, 1897-1900, undated
Potts, B. F., 1877-1878
Pullman, George Mortimer, 1892
Quesada, Gonzalo de, 1896-1898
Rehan, Ada, 1893
Reid, Whitelaw, 1895, undated
Rice, Edmond, 1890

Container List

Container

Contents

	Roberts, Owen J., 1937
	Rochefort, Henri, 1894 (in French)
	Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, undated
	Roosevelt, Theodore, (1858-1919), 1895-1903
	Rosen, Roman Romanovich, Baron, 1921
	Ross, Edmund G., 1885-1886
	Ruggles, George D., 1889
	Rush, Richard, 1814
	Sala, 1896 (in French)
	Saltonstall, Leverett (1892-1979), undated
	Sanger, J. P., 1889, undated
	Schley, Winfield Scott, 1899, 1900
	Schofield, John McAllister, 1889-1891
	Schurz, Carl, 1880, 1892
BOX 4	Schwatka, Frederick, 1882-1883
	Scott, Hugh Lenox, 1897
	Scott, Winfield (1786-1866), 1862
	Sedgwick, Ellery, 1944
	Shafter, William Rufus, 1886-1897
	Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1877
	Sherman, Cecilia S., 1869-1878
	Sherman, John, 1867-1897
	Sherman, William T., 1866-1891
	Simpson, William H., 1941
	Spring Rice, Cecil, Sir, 1895
	Stanton, Edwin McMasters, 1866
	Stevenson, Adlai E. (1835-1914), 1897
	Stevenson, Robert Louis, 1892
	Stillman, William J., 1862
	Stilwell, Joseph Warren, 1940, undated
	Stimson, Henry L., 1942, 1945
	Stoddard, Charles Warren, 1895-1897
	Story, William Wetmore, 1883, 1889, undated
	Sturgis, Samuel Davis, 1877
	Sumner, Edwin V., 1891
	Taft, Helen Herron, undated
	Taft, William H., 1902
	Tati, 1892-1893
	Taylor, Bayard, 1862
	Terry, Alfred Howe, 1877
	Thayer, William Roscoe, 1916-1919
	Thomason, John W. (1893-1944), 1937-1944, undated
	Tilden, Samuel J., 1886
	Todd, David, 1900
	Torres, Luis E., 1886-1887
BOX 5	Truman, Harry S., 1944

Container List

Container

Contents

Vail, Thomas H., 1876
Vandenberg, Hoyt Sanford, 1945
Villard, Oswald Garrison, undated
Vincent, Edgar, 1889
Wadsworth, James Wolcott (1846-1926), undated
Wainwright, Jonathan Mayhew (1883-1953), undated
Walker, John Brisbane, 1896
Ward, Mary A., 1889
Warren, G. K. (Gouverneur Kemble), 1877
Watterson, Henry, 1895-1914
Wedemeyer, Albert C., 1946
Weeks, Sinclair, 1945
Wharton, Edith, 1909-1933, undated
Wheeler, Joseph, 1898
Wheeler, William A., 1883
White, Henry, 1903-1916
Wilson, Woodrow, 1913
Wister, Owen, undated
Wood, Leonard, 1886-1895
Worth, William J., 1886-1890

BOX 6

Set II

Aberdeen and Temair, John Campbell Hamilton-Gordon, Marquess of, 1891
Alboni, Marietta, undated
Alexander, E., 1897
Alger, R. A., 1890
Alvensleben, Friedrich, Baron, undated
Appleton, Daniel, 1898
Arco, Ludwig von, 1888 (in French)
Argyll, George Douglas Campbell, Duke of, 1883
Aristarchi, Grégoire, undated (in French)
Armstrong, Hamilton Fish, undated
Asquith, W. W., 1893-1894
Astor, John Jacob (1822-1890), 1881
Astor, Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor, Viscountess, undated
Astor, William Waldorf Astor, Viscount (1848-1919), undated
Austin, Alfred (1835-1913), 1898-1906, undated
Austin, Fred T., 1932
Baade, Paul W., 1945
Babcock, C. S., 1942
Bacon, Robert, undated
Baehr, Carl A., 1941
Baird, George W., 1886
Baker, Charles, 1940
Baldwin, Frank, circa 1895-1896
Baldwin, Geoffrey P., 1945
Bancroft, George (1800-1891), includes photographs, 1884-1887, undated

Container List

Container Contents

Barnhardt, George Columbus, 1929
Barry, Thomas F., 1889
Barry, Thomas Henry, 1892
Bates, J. C., 1900
Baxter, J. H., 1890
Bayard, Thomas F. (1828-1898), 1888, undated
Beaumont-Nesbitt, Frederick George, 1940-1941
Bedell, Gregory Thurston, 1878
Benedict, J. Leland, 1939
Bennett, James Gordon (1841-1918), undated
Bigelow, John, (1817-1911), 1886
Bigelow, John (1854-1936), 1887
Birnie, Upton Jr., undated
Bissell, Clayton L., 1942
Boncompagni, Margaret, Princess, 1943
Boothely, Robert, undated
Boruck, Marcus Derckheim, 1889
Bowley, Albert J., 1941
Bradley, Joseph P., 1880
Braza [Madame de], 1931
Brett, George Howard. 1942
Brewer, David J., 1907
Brewster, Benjamin Harris, 1880-1885, undated
Brice, Calvin S., undated
Brooke, John R., 1890
Broughton, Rhoda, undated
Brown, Albert E., 1941
Brown, Henry B., undated
Bryden, William, 1939
Buckner, Simon Bolivar (1886-1945), 1940
Buller, Redvers Henry, Sir, 1897
Bundy, J. M., 1890
Butterfield, Daniel, 1891, 1898
Callan, R. E., 1928
Camp, T. J., 1939
Campbell, James E., 1890
Cantacuzene [Prince], 1895
Carr, E. A., 1889
Casey, T. L., 1891
Castle, William, undated
Chaffee, Adnan R., 1890, 1898
Chamberlain, Joseph, undated
Chamberlain, Mary, 1896-1940
Chandler, William Astor, undated
Chang Yew Hoon, 1889
Channing, Grace Ellery, undated

Container List

Container	Contents
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BOX 7

Chetwode, Hester [Lady], undated
Clark, Frank S., 1938-1945
Clark, Mark W., 1941
Clay, Lucius D., 1945
Cockran, William Bourke, 1892-1904, undated
Cole, W. E., 1930
Collins, J. Lawton, 1945
Coolidge, Thomas Jefferson, undated
Corbin, Henry Clark, 1890, 1895
Couch, Darius Nash, 1894, 1895
Coulter, John B., 1939
Crane, Morton E., 1899
Crawford [Lord], 1918
Crawford, Marion, 1904, undated
Crocker, Charles F., 1889
Cubbison, Donald Cameron, 1939
Davidson, undated
Davis, Cushman Kellogg, 1891-1898, undated
Davis, George R. (1840-1899), 1892
Del Monte [Duke], undated
DeBunsen, Maurice, 1930
Devens, Charles, 1893, 1896
Derby [Countess], 1883
Devers, Jacob L., 1939
Díaz, Porfirio, 1896, 1898 (in Spanish)
Dimnet, Ernest, 1916
Dodge, Theodore Ayrault, 1884
Donovan, William, undated
Dufferin and Ava, Frederick Temple Blackwood, Marquis of, 1878
Du Maurier, Eduard, 1892, circa 1896
Edwards, Oliver, 1895
Eichelberger, R. L., 1941
Eliot, Charles William, 1896
Ernst, Oswald Herbert, 1895
Esher, Antoinette [Lady], undated
Eustis, James B., 1897
Fairbanks, Douglas, (1909-2000), undated
Fava, Saverio, Baron, undated (in French)
Field, Marshall, (1834-1906), undated
Fish, Julia K., 1881
Fish, Nicholas, 1883
Fleischer, Richard, 1902
Foltz, F. S., 1904
Frye, William P., undated
Fuad, Kerime [Princess], 1932
Furse, William, Sir, 1940

Container List

Container	Contents
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Gardiner, Asa Bird, 1895-1896
Gill, William H., 1942
Gilmore, John C., 1890
Gist, Henry M., 1899
Gomez, Manuel, 1895, 1898
Goudriaan, Van Tets Van, 1942
Grandby [Lord] Duke of Rutland, 1891-1895
Grant, U. S. (1881-1968), 1940
Grant Duff, A. C., Sir, undated
Grantham, William, Sir, undated
Gray, Horace, undated
Gray, George, undated
Greely, John, undated
Greene, Francis, 1895
Greenleaf, Charles, 1891
Griffin, R. M., 1939
Griscom, Lloyd, 1901
Gruber, William, 1939
Hadfield, Frances, Lady, undated
Haines, Peter C., 1895
Haislip, Wade H., undated
Hall, Charles, Sir, 1896, undated
Halleck, H. W., 1866
Hamilton, Ian, 1947
Hamilton, Jean (1861-1941), undated
Hall, William P., 1912
Hancock, Winfield Scott, and Almira Russell Hancock, undated
Handy, Thomas, 1939
Harlan, John Marshall, 1897
Harries, George S., 1891
Hawthorne, Julian, 1868
Hazen, William Babcock, 1877
Henderson, Arthur, 1939
Henry, Guy, 1891
Herbert, Hilary A., 1893
Herbert, M. H., Sir, undated
Herron, C. D., 1944
Higginson, Henry Lee, 1898
Hinde, Walter, Sir, 1939
Hodges, Courtney H., 1940, 1944
Holden, Edward S., 1888
Hospital, Ralph, 1939
Howard, E. G., 1898
Hoyle, De Russey, 1940, undated
Hu, Shih, 1944
Hughitt, Marvin, 1894

Container List

Container

Contents

BOX 8

Hurlburt, William Henry, undated
Imperiali di Francavilla, William, Marquis, undated
Ingalls, Rufus, 1892
Ingersoll, Robert Green, 1888-1898
Ingersoll, Royal E., undated
Ismay, Hastings Lionel Ismay, Baron, 1939
Iswolski, Alexander, undated
Johns, Clayton, undated
Johnson, Herschel, undated
Jones, Henry L. L., 1942
Judd, Lawrence M., 1931
Keane, John J., 1895
Kenney, George C., 1941
Keyes, Erasmus D., 1890
Kilbourne, Charles, undated
Kimberly [Earl], undated
King, Clarence, undated
Kinkaid, Thomas C., 1941
Kinney, John T., 1939
Kirk, Alan, 1946
Kirkland, Joseph, 1892
Knollys, Francis, circa 1900
Kossuth, Louis, 1890 (photograph)
Kromer, Leon Benjamin, 1945, undated
Kuhn, Joseph Ernst, 1932
Ladd, William Sargent, 1884
Lamar, L. Q. C., 1879
Lamington [Lord], undated
Latrobe, Ferdinand Claiborne, 1898
Laurie, Swinburn, 1897
Lee, J. G. C., 1895
Lefevre, A. A., 1889 (in French)
Leishman, John M., undated
Le Ghait, Alfred, undated (in French)
Lester, James A., 1942, 1945
Lewis, J. Hamilton, 1898
Livermore, Thomas L., 1887, 1895
Logan, John A., Mrs., 1898, 1920
Long, Oscar Fitzalan, 1888
Loring, George B., 1884
Lowe, Frank, 1946
Lowell, Percival, undated
Ludington, Marshall Independence, 1886
Lyman, Theodore (1833-1897), 1878
Lyons, Richard Bickerton Pernell Lyons, Earl, 1862
McBride, Horace L., 1942

Container List

Container Contents

MacMurray, John Van Antwerp, 1933
McNair, Lesley James, 1939
McNarney, Joseph Taggart, 1942
Magruder, Bruce, undated
Malden, C. C., 1940
Marconi, Guglielmo, undated
Marshall-Cornwall, James Handyside, Sir, 1939
Maus, Marion P., 1895
Mavrogenies [Bey], circa 1895
Maxim, Sarah, 1906
Maxwell, Russell L., 1942
Meigs, Montgomery C., 1880
Merriam, Henry C., 1891, 1895
Merrill, Aaron Stanton, undated
Merrill, Thomas E., 1939
Metcalf, Loretta Sutton, undated
Middleton, Troy H., 1945
Mills, Anson, 1888, 1890
Milner, Alfred Milner, Viscount, 1921
Mindil, George Washington, 1875
Moffat, Jay Pierrepont, 1943
Monroe, Robert, 1940
Moody, Z. F., 1886
Moore, John, 1887
Morgan, Edwin D. (1811-1883), undated
Morgan, Edwin, undated
Morgan, Michael Ryan, 1889
Moses, Andrew, 1939
Murray, Maxwell, undated
Nabuco, Joaquim, 1907
Nelson, H. L., 1895
Noel-Buxton, Noel Noel-Buxton, Baron, undated
Novar, Ronald [Lord], 1915, 1918
Odell, John J. P., 1891
Paget, Alfred Henry, 1898
Palmer, Frederick, 1943
Palmer, John McAuley, 1939, 1943
Parker, Edwin P. (1891-1893), 1942
Patch, Alexander McCarrell, 1941, 1944
Pennypacker, Galusha, 1890-1891
Penrose, Boies (1860-1921), 1897
Pile, Frederick Alfred, 1940, undated
Plumley, Charles Albert, 1944
Poe, O. M., 1886
Pott, Herbert, undated
Prentiss, Augustine, 1939

Container List

Container Contents

Prichard, 1942
Quay, Matthew Stanley, 1888
Radeff, Simeon, 1928 (in French)
Radstock [Lord], undated
Ralston, James, 1944
Randol, Marshall Guion, 1939
Ransom, Matt W., 1896
Ravensdale, Irene Curzon, Baroness, undated
Reed, Thomas B., 1892, undated
Reinach, Joseph, undated (in French)
Reszke, Jean de, 1905
Rice, Allen Thorndike, 1888
Rice [Edmund?], 1895
Rideing, William H., 1889, 1895
Ridge, Matthew B., 1945
Roberts, Frederick Sleigh Roberts, Earl, 1901, 1903
Robinson, Fred N., 1946
Rockhill, William Woodville, 1896, 1898, undated
Rodgers, C. R. P., undated
Rodgers, John I., 1894
Romero, Matias, 1885-1896
Romero Rubio de Díaz, Carmen, 1896 (in Spanish)
Ronaldson, James, 1829
Ropes, John Codman, 1883-1895
Rosen, Roman Romanovich, Baron, 1908
Roustan, Charles, undated
Ruger, Thomas Howard, 1894, 1895
Salisbury, [James Edward Hubert Gascoyne-Cecil, Marquess of?], 1919
Samuel, Marcus, 1903
Sapieha, John [Prince], 1940
Sartoris, Ellen ("Nellie") Grant, 1898
Sands, James H., 1898
Satterlee, Henry Yates, 1900
Satterlee, Jane Lawrence, 1900, undated
BOX 9 Schaeffer, Ignaz von, Baron, 1883-1887
Schlözer, Kurd von, 1884
Schlumberger, Gustave Léon, undated
Schwan, Theodore, 1921
Scott, Hugh Lenox, 1895
Scott, Robert K., 1869
Semple, Letitia T., 1899, 1900, undated
Shea, George, 1942
Shea, John, undated
Shedd, William Edgar, 1939
Sheridan, Irene, 1890
Sheridan, Philip Henry, 1866-1869, undated

Container List

Container Contents

Smalley, George W., 1891, 1895, undated
Smith, Walter Bedell, 1944
Smith, Ralph Corbett, 1945
Smith, William, 1890, 1892
Somervell, Brehon Burke, undated
Squires, Herbert G., 1898
Stanford, Jane L., 1890
Storer, Bellamy (1847-1922), 1899, undated
Stratemeyer, George E., 1941, 1945
Story, Emma Eames, 1905, undated
Strathmore, [Lady] [Frances Dora?], 1899
Streuve, de Marie, undated
Studebaker, Peter E., 1892
Sullivan, T. R. (1849-1916), 1892
Sumner, Edwin V., 1886, 1896
Sumner, Samuel S., 1895-1900
Summerall, Charles Pelot, 1928
Sutherland, Millicent, Dutchess of, 1896, undated
Swaim, David Gaskill, 1892
Terry, Thomas Alexander, 1946, undated
Tower, Charlemagne (1848-1923), 1897, 1902
Townsend, E. D., 1865
Tuck, Julia, 1931
Vallombrosa [Duchess], 1884, undated (in French)
Van Deman, Ralph H., 1929
Van Rensselaer, Schuyler, Mrs., undated
Van Swinderen, Elizabeth, undated
Van Vliet, Stewart, 1895
Veragua, Cristóbal Colón de la Cerda, duque de, circa 1890s
Vest, George Graham, 1882
Villalón, José R., 1899
Vincent, Edgar, 1896-1899, undated
Wade, James Franklin, 1890-1898
Wagner, Arthur L., 1900
Walker, Francis Amasa, 1880-1886
Walker, Walton Harris, 1945
Warburton, Barclay H., 1903
Wardman, George, 1895
Warner, Langdon, 1942
Warren, Emily F., 1890
Washburn, Hempstead, 1892
Webb, William Seward, 1897, undated
Welsh, John, 1882
Werts, George T., 1895
Weston, John F., 1891, 1895
Wheatley, L. L., 1939

Container List

Container

Contents

Wheaton, Frank, 1890
Wheeler, Raymond Albert, undated
Whipple, Henry Benjamin, 1897
Wiasemsky, Dorothea Rosalie [Princess], 1940
Whitney, William C., 1887-1892, undated
Wickersham, Cornelius W., 1941
Wilder, Wilber Elliott, 1887, 1890
Wilkins, Raymond S., 1956
Wilkinson, Theodore Stark (1888-1946), 1942, 1943, undated
Willamor, Gregorie, undated
Williams, C. C., 1943
Williams, Norman, 1890
Williams, Robert, 1891
Wilson, George G., 1895
Wilson, Hugh Robert, circa 1941-1945
Wilson, James H., 1903
Wilson, John M., 1897
Wilson, Walter K., 1939
Winan, Edwin Baruch, 1930
Wint, Theodore Jonathan, 1887
Wogan, John B., undated
Wolfley, Lewis, 1889
Wolseley, Garnet Wolseley, Viscount, 1897-1900
Wright, Wallace, 1939
Zalinski, Edmund Louis Gray, 1889
Zulick, C. Meyer, 1887
Autographs on menu card from *Victoria and Albert* (yacht), 1906
Unidentified