

Ainsworth Rand Spofford Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73040972>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms014001>

Prepared by Nancy Hayden and David Mathisen
Revised and expanded by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014

Collection Summary

Title: Ainsworth Rand Spofford Papers

Span Dates: 1819-1970

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1899)

ID No.: MSS40972

Creator: Spofford, Ainsworth Rand, 1825-1908

Extent: 600 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2.8 linear feet

Extent: 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm73040972>

Summary: Librarian of Congress. Chiefly correspondence during the years Spofford served as librarian of Congress and personal and family correspondence.

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

Adams, James P. (James Pickett), 1828-1904. James P. Adams centennial address. 1876.

Anthony, Susan B. (Susan Brownell), 1820-1906--Correspondence.

Bancroft, George, 1800-1891--Correspondence.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo, 1803-1882--Correspondence.

Hayes, Rutherford B., 1822-1893--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, 1807-1882--Correspondence.

Seward, William H. (William Henry), 1801-1872.

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

Spofford family.

Spofford, Ainsworth Rand, 1825-1908.

Twain, Mark, 1835-1910--Correspondence.

Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892--Correspondence.

Organizations

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.

Library of Congress.

Subjects

Libraries--Washington (D.C.)

Occupations

Librarians of Congress.

Provenance

The papers of Ainsworth Rand Spofford, librarian of Congress, were given by Barbara Spofford Morgan in 1970. Other items were received through gift, transfer, and purchase between 1923 and 1994.

Processing History

The Spofford Papers were processed in 1972. Additional material was incorporated into the collection and the finding aid was revised in 1984 and 1987. An item was added in 2014 and the finding aid was further revised.

Additional Guides

A card index to Spofford's correspondence, arranged by name of correspondent, is available in the Manuscript Reading Room.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Ainsworth Rand Spofford 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 two reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1825, Sept. 12	Born, Gilmanton, N.H.
1845-1851	Bookseller and publisher, Cincinnati, Ohio
1852	Married Sarah Putnam Partridge
1859-1861	Associate editor, <i>Cincinnati Daily Commercial</i>
1861-1864	Chief assistant librarian of Congress
1864-1897	Librarian of Congress
1897-1908	Resigned as librarian of Congress to resume position as chief assistant librarian of Congress
1908, Aug. 11	Died, Holderness, N.H.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ainsworth Rand Spofford (1825-1908) span the period 1819 to 1970, with the bulk of the material dating from 1860 to 1899. The papers consist chiefly of correspondence during the years Spofford was librarian of Congress, and

include items of personal and family correspondence. Correspondents include Susan B. Anthony, George Bancroft, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rutherford Birchard Hayes, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, William T. Sherman, Mark Twain, and Walt Whitman.

The remainder of the Spofford Papers consists of biographical material, some of Spofford's published writings, a bibliography of his writings, one notebook containing listings of sermons and discourses and another listing histories of counties and towns in the United States, a speech and an essay, an address by James P. Adams, autographs, newspaper clippings, photographs, and memorabilia. Also included is a letter of appointment as librarian of Congress signed by Abraham Lincoln and William Henry Seward in 1864.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,763

Container	Contents
BOX 1 REEL 1	Correspondence
BOX 1 REEL 1	1819-1858
BOX 1 REEL 1	1860-1869
BOX 1 REEL 1	1870-1879
BOX 1 REEL 1	1880-1889
BOX 1 REEL 1	1890-1970
BOX 1 REEL 1	Undated
BOX 2 REEL 1	Bibliography, undated
BOX 2 REEL 1	Biographical material, 1849-1909
BOX 2 REEL 2	Notebooks, 1831, circa 1905, undated
BOX 2 REEL 2	Miscellany, 1858-1924
BOX 2 REEL 2	Publications, 1870-1903 (2 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	Speech and essay, 1850
BOX 2 REEL 2	Address by James P. Adams, 1876-1877
BOX OV 1 not filmed	Letter of appointment as librarian of Congress, 1864