

John Hay

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Frank Tusa
Revised and expanded by Donna Ellis**



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2002

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2003**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms003049>

Latest revision: 2004-07-23

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of John Hay

Span Dates: 1783-1999

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1897-1905)

ID No.: MSS25379

Creator: Hay, John, 1838-1905

Extent: 11,290 items; 36 containers plus 40 oversize; 29 linear feet; 23 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Statesman, diplomat, historian, journalist, and poet. Correspondence and letterbooks, speeches, diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks, and memoranda, mainly for the years 1897-1905 when Hay served as U.S. ambassador to Great Britain and U.S. secretary of state. Earlier papers deal with his legal, literary, and journalistic activities and with his service as assistant secretary to Abraham Lincoln. Includes correspondence of his wife, Clara Louise Stone Hay (1849-1914), for the years 1882-1914.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Names:

Hay, John, 1838-1905

Adams, Brooks, 1848-1927--Correspondence

Adee, Alvey A. (Alvey Augustus), 1842-1924--Correspondence

Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1832-1917--Correspondence

Cortelyou, George B. (George Bruce), 1862-1940--Correspondence

Eliot, Charles William, 1834-1926 --Correspondence

Hay, Clara Louise Stone, 1849-1914--Correspondence

James, Henry, 1843-1916--Correspondence

King, Clarence, 1842-1901--Correspondence

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865

Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence

McKinley, William, 1843-1901

McKinley, William, 1843-1901--Correspondence

Pauncefote, Julian, Baron, 1828-1902--Correspondence

Rockhill, William Woodville, 1854-1914--Correspondence

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence

Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence

Spring Rice, Cecil, Sir, 1859-1918--Correspondence

Twain, Mark, 1835-1910--Correspondence

Subjects:

New York tribune

American newspapers--New York

American poetry

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Great Britain

Land grants--Kentucky

Law--Illinois

Slavery--United States

Spanish-American War, 1898

Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States

United States--Foreign relations--1897-1901

United States--Foreign relations--1901-1909

United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain

Occupations:

Authors
Cabinet officers
Diplomats
Journalists
Poets
Statesmen

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of John Hay, statesman, diplomat, historian, journalist, and poet, were given to the Library of Congress in 1952 by Hay's son and daughter, Clarence L. Hay and Alice Hay Wadsworth. Additional material was received from his grandchildren, Mrs. Stuart Symington, Reverdy Wadsworth, and James J. Wadsworth, in 1960 and from James W. Symington in 1999. A few items were also obtained through gift, purchase, and transfer between 1910 and 1942.

Processing History:

The papers of John Hay were arranged and described in 1971. Additional material received in 1999 and items transferred from the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection were incorporated into the collection in 2002. When the collection was rehoused in 2002, the organization of the material remained unchanged. Although the finding aid and container list were revised to indicate the current housing, the container numbers noted in the microfilm edition reflect the original housing.

Transfers:

A broadside was transferred to the Rare Book and Special Collections Division where it is identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of John Hay in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on twenty-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 Hay Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1838, Oct. 8	Born, Salem, Ind.
1858	Graduated, Brown University, Providence, R.I.
1859	Entered law office of Milton Hay, Springfield, Ill.
1861-1864	Assistant private secretary to Abraham Lincoln
1864-1865	Assistant adjutant general in the United States army

1865-1867	Secretary of American legation, Paris, France
1867-1868	Charge d'affaires, Vienna, Austria
1869-1870	Secretary of American legation, Madrid, Spain
1870-1875	Editorial writer, <i>New York Tribune</i>
1874	Married Clara Louise Stone (died 1914)
1879-1881	Assistant secretary of state
1881	Editor, <i>New York Tribune</i>
1897-1898	Ambassador to Great Britain
1898-1905	Secretary of state
1905, July 1	Died, Lake Sunapee, N.H.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Hay (1838-1905) span the years 1783 to 1999, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1897-1905. The collection focuses on his diplomatic efforts as secretary of state but also contains material on his career before 1898 and on his personal life. It is composed mainly of correspondence, [scrapbooks](#), and newspaper clippings supplemented by [diaries](#), [letterbooks](#), and [miscellaneous material](#). There is also an [autograph collection](#) relating chiefly to slavery in the United States.

American diplomacy from 1898 to 1905 is the central theme of the [Diaries and Notebooks](#) and various correspondence series. As secretary of state during the period, Hay played a crucial role in the formulation and execution of American foreign policy. The diaries reflect Hay's role in the later years of his tenure in office. The [Letterbooks](#) and [John Hay Letters](#) series reveal his views and activities in the diplomatic sphere under presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. Hay's letters to his wife in the [Family Correspondence](#) series, although primarily concerned with personal and social activities, also provide an occasional glimpse into his official concerns.

The [Special Correspondence](#) and [General Correspondence](#) series provide information on all aspects of American foreign affairs while Hay was secretary of state and are useful in portraying his nondiplomatic activities as well. The letters from American diplomatic agents throughout the world reveal the conditions in various countries that influenced official American policy and the manner in which policy decisions were implemented. The largest number of letters in this category are from Joseph Choate and William W. Rockhill in the [Special Correspondence](#). Hay's correspondence with Roosevelt and Alvey A. Adee, among others, provides an intimate glimpse into the formation of policy. The [Special Correspondence](#) and [General Correspondence](#) series also help to elucidate Hay's personal and political concerns.

The container list includes an index to the [Special Correspondence](#) series. Included among the correspondents are Brooks Adams, Samuel L. Clemens, George B. Cortelyou, Charles William Eliot, Henry James, Clarence King, Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), William McKinley, Julian Pauncefote, Elihu Root, and Cecil Spring-Rice.

A [Miscellany](#) series contains autographs, drawings, invitations, notes, photographs, printed matter, receipted bills, research material, speeches, and writings. Included is a vellum copy of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution autographed by the signators of the amendment.

The [Scrapbooks](#) series contains newspaper clippings dealing with America's participation in the Spanish-American War and Hay's personal and political activities, particularly from 1898 to 1905.

The [Addition](#) includes a land grant issued by the state of Kentucky on July 2, 1798, to Abraham Lincoln (1744-1786), grandfather of President Abraham Lincoln, and his heirs, along with a letter of January 5, 1877 to John G. Nicolay from A. C. Matthews concerning the grant and a report documenting its authenticity. Also included is a scrapbook containing photographs and newspaper clippings relating to diplomatic functions and family occasions.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in eleven series:

- [Diaries and Notebooks, 1861-1908, n.d.](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1898-1905](#)
- [John Hay Letters, 1858-1905, n.d.](#)
- [Family Correspondence, 1882-1914, n.d.](#)
- [Special Correspondence, 1885-1913, n.d.](#)
- [Autograph Collection, 1783-1878](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1856-1905, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1802-1953](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1860-1905](#)
- [Addition, 1798-1999](#)
- [Oversize, 1783-1905](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1
REEL 1

Series

Diaries and Notebooks, 1861-1908, n.d.

Diaries and notebooks containing occasional copies of letters, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and a negative photostat of the key to the printed edition of *Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary*, selected by Henry Adams and edited by Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1908.

BOX 2
REEL 1-2

Letterbooks, 1898-1905

Bound volumes of copies of letters sent by Hay.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 3-5
REEL 3-4

John Hay Letters, 1858-1905, n.d.

Holograph and typed letters and holograph, typed, and photostatic copies of letters sent by Hay.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 6-7
REEL 5-6

Family Correspondence, 1882-1914, n.d.

Letters from Hay to his wife, Clara Louise Stone Hay; letters received and occasional letters sent by Clara Louise Stone Hay; and one bound volume of letters to her.
The John Hay letters are separated from the Clara Louise Stone Hay correspondence, and both groups are arranged chronologically.

BOX 8-13
REEL 6-9

Special Correspondence, 1885-1913, n.d.

Letters to John Hay and occasionally to his wife from prominent correspondents.
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.

BOX 13
REEL 10

Autograph Collection, 1783-1878

A bound volume entitled "From Congo to Congress" containing original and facsimile correspondence, autographs, clippings, notices, and documents relating generally to slavery in the United States.

BOX 14-29
REEL 10-21

General Correspondence, 1856-1905, n.d.

Letters received.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 30-36
REEL 21-23

Miscellany, 1802-1953, n.d.

Invitations, cards, and notices; John Hay writings, speeches, and research materials; materials compiled by Tyler Dennett about Hay; autograph album; printed matter including pamphlets and newspaper clippings; unbound photographs; and two photograph albums.
Arranged by type of material. The newspaper clippings are not included on the microfilm.

BOX 36
not filmed

Scrapbooks, 1860-1905

Bound volumes of newspaper clippings relating generally to the Spanish-American War and American diplomacy.
Arranged by subject and therein chronologically.

BOX 36
not filmed

Addition, 1798-1999

Correspondence, land grant, and scrapbook.
Arranged by type of material.

BOX OV 1-OV 40

Oversize, 1783-1905

Autographs, historical documents, and scrapbooks.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. Except for the scrapbook in the Addition, all items are available on the microfilm edition where they were filmed as listed in their original series.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 15,213

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Diaries and Notebooks, 1861-1908, n.d. Diaries and notebooks containing occasional copies of letters, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and a negative photostat of the key to the printed edition of <i>Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary</i> , selected by Henry Adams and edited by Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1908.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Diaries, 1904-1906, n.d. (2 folders) Notebooks, 1861-1868, 1878, n.d. (2 folders) Key to printed edition of <i>Letters of John Hay and Extracts from Diary</i> , selected by Henry Adams and edited by Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1908
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	Letterbooks, 1898-1905 Bound volumes of copies of letters sent by Hay. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 2 REEL 1-2	1898-1905 (3 folders)
BOX 3-5 REEL 3-4	John Hay Letters, 1858-1905, n.d. Holograph and typed letters and holograph, typed, and photostatic copies of letters sent by Hay. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3 REEL 3	1858-1899 (12 folders) 1900 Jan.-Sept. (2 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3-4	Oct.-Dec. 1901-1902 (8 folders) 1903 Jan.-Oct. (4 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 4	Nov.-Dec.

John Hay Letters, 1858-1905, n.d.

Container

Contents

1904-1905, n.d.
(9 folders)

BOX 6-7
REEL 5-6

Family Correspondence, 1882-1914, n.d.

Letters from Hay to his wife, Clara Louise Stone Hay; letters received and occasional letters sent by Clara Louise Stone Hay; and one bound volume of letters to her.
The John Hay letters are separated from the Clara Louise Stone Hay correspondence, and both groups are arranged chronologically.

BOX 6
REEL 5

Hay, John, to Clara Louise Stone Hay, 1894-1905, n.d.

(5 folders)

Hay, Clara Louise Stone, letters received and sent

Unbound

1882-1904

(4 folders)

1905

Jan.-June

July-Dec.

BOX 7
REEL 5

(6 folders)

1907-1914, n.d.

(2 folders)

BOX 7
REEL 6

Bound, July 1905 *See Oversize*

BOX 8-13
REEL 6-9

Special Correspondence, 1885-1913, n.d.

Letters to John Hay and occasionally to his wife from prominent correspondents.
Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and therein chronologically.

BOX 8
REEL 6

Adams, Brooks, 1897-1902

Adee, Alvey A., 1897-1907

(10 folders)

Barnes, B., 1903-1904

Bigelow, William Sturgis, 1899-1904, n.d.

Bishop, Joseph Bucklin, 1892-1905, n.d.

BOX 9
REEL 6-7

Cameron, E. S., 1897-1898, n.d.

Carnegie, Andrew, 1898-1907, n.d.

Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1898-1905

(12 folders)

BOX 10
REEL 7-8

Clarke, John and Charlotte, 1891-1907, n.d.

Clemens, Samuel L., 1899-1904

Cortelyou, George B., 1899-1905

(6 folders)

Special Correspondence, 1885-1913, n.d.

Container

Contents

BOX 10 REEL 8	Davis, L. Clarke and Rebecca Harding, 1900-1904
	Davis, Richard Harding, 1900-1901, n.d.
	Eddy, Spencer, 1901-1905
	Eliot, Charles William, 1899-1903
	Elliot, Henry Ware, 1899-1905, n.d.
	Griscom, Lloyd Carpenter and Clement A., 1899-1905
BOX 11 REEL 8	Hanna, Marcus Alonzo, 1895-1903, n.d.
	James, Henry, 1897-1907, n.d. [letter of 18 Dec. 1903, James to Hay, verso of page five not on microfilm]
	King, Clarence, 1891, n.d.
	Lodge, Henry Cabot (1850-1924), 1898-1907, n.d.
	Loeb, William (1866-1937), 1901-1905 (5 folders)
	McKinley, William, 1897-1901, n.d.
	Mason, Frank H., 1897-1905
	Montgomery, Benjamin F., 1900-1901
	Morgan, Edwin V., 1899-1905, n.d.
BOX 12 REEL 9	Pauncefote, Julian, 1897-1902, n.d.
	(3 folders)
	Porter, John Addison, 1897-1900 (2 folders)
	Rhodes, James Ford, 1885-1907, n.d.
	Rockhill, William W., 1898-1904, n.d. (4 folders)
	Roosevelt, Theodore (1858-1919), 1897-1907 (3 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 9	Root, Elihu, 1899-1913, n.d.
	(3 folders)
	Shanks, William Franklin Gore, 1898-1904
	Spring-Rice, Cecil, Sir, 1891-1905, n.d. (2 folders)
	Stanton, Theodore, 1902-1904, n.d.
	Stover, Bellamy and Maria, 1898-1903, n.d.
	Winter, William, 1898-1904
BOX 13 REEL 10	Autograph Collection, 1783-1878
	A bound volume entitled "From Congo to Congress" containing original and facsimile correspondence, autographs, clippings, notices, and documents relating generally to slavery in the United States.
BOX 13 REEL 10	"From Congo to Congress" <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 14-29	General Correspondence, 1856-1905, n.d.

General Correspondence, 1856-1905, n.d.

Container

Contents

REEL 10-21	Letters received. Arranged chronologically. 1856-1898
BOX 14 REEL 10-11	(12 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 11	1899
	Jan.-June (11 folders)
BOX 16 REEL 11-12	July-Dec. (11 folders)
BOX 17 REEL 12-13	1900
	Jan.-June (11 folders)
BOX 18 REEL 13	July-Dec. (12 folders)
BOX 19 REEL 13-14	1901
	Jan.-June (11 folders)
BOX 20 REEL 14-15	July-Dec. (13 folders)
BOX 21 REEL 15-16	1902
	Jan.-June (14 folders)
BOX 22 REEL 16	July-Dec. (13 folders)
BOX 23 REEL 17	1903
	Jan.-May (13 folders)
BOX 24 REEL 17-18	June-Sept. (12 folders)
BOX 25 REEL 18	Oct.-Dec. (10 folders)
BOX 26	1904

General Correspondence, 1856-1905, n.d.

Container

Contents

REEL 18-19

Jan.-Apr.
(11 folders)

BOX 27
REEL 19-20

May-Aug.
(13 folders)

BOX 28
REEL 20-21

Sept.-Dec.

BOX 29
REEL 21

(14 folders)
1905, n.d.
(11 folders)

BOX 30-36
REEL 21-23

Miscellany, 1802-1953, n.d.

Invitations, cards, and notices; John Hay writings, speeches, and research materials; materials compiled by Tyler Dennett about Hay; autograph album; printed matter including pamphlets and newspaper clippings; unbound photographs; and two photograph albums.

Arranged by type of material. The newspaper clippings are not included on the microfilm.

BOX 30
REEL 21

Invitations, cards, and notices, 1864, 1880-1881, 1890, 1897-1905, n.d.

(9 folders)

BOX 31
REEL 21-22

(9 folders)

BOX 32
REEL 22

(8 folders)

BOX 33
REEL 22

Writings, speeches, and research material, 1863, 1875, 1892-1912, n.d.

Dennett, Tyler, research material regarding Hay, 1930-1931, n.d.

Drawings, notes, printed ephemera, receipted bills, and an autographed copy of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1863-1868, 1897-1905, n.d. [*See also Oversize*](#)

BOX 34
REEL 23

Printed matter, 1898-1905

Pamphlets, 1802, 1896-1905, 1953

Autograph album, 1877-1878

“Proposal for Second Peace Conference at the Hague,” 1904

BOX 35
REEL 23

Photographs

Album, n.d.

Unbound, 1904, n.d.

“President McKinley, California, and Buffalo,” 1901 [*See Oversize*](#)

“Maryland, My Maryland,” and cover letter by James R. Randall, 1887 [*See Oversize*](#)

“The Helmet of Mambrino, A Letter to Horace F. Cutter from Clarence King,” 1882 [*See Oversize*](#)

not filmed

Newspaper clippings, ca. 1878-ca. 1918
(5 folders)

Miscellany, 1802-1953, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 36	(6 folders)
BOX 36 not filmed	Scrapbooks, 1860-1905 Bound volumes of newspaper clippings relating generally to the Spanish-American War and American diplomacy. Arranged by subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 36	<u><i>See Oversize</i></u>
BOX 36 not filmed	Addition, 1798-1999 Correspondence, land grant, and scrapbook. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 36	Lincoln, Abraham (1744-1786), land grant, 1798, 1887, 1999 (3 folders) Correspondence, 1889, 1893 Scrapbook, 1837-1938 <u><i>See Oversize</i></u>
BOX OV 1-OV 40	Oversize, 1783-1905 Autographs, historical documents, and scrapbooks. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed. Except for the scrapbook in the Addition, all items are available on the microfilm edition where they were filmed as listed in their original series.
BOX OV 1	Family Correspondence Hay, Clara Louise Stone, letters received and sent Bound, July 1905 (Container 7; Reel 6)
BOX OV 2	Autograph collection "From Congo to Congress," 1783-1878 (Container 13; Reel 10)
BOX OV 3	Miscellany Drawings, notes, printed ephemera, receipted bills Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, 1864 (<u><i>Container 33; Reel 22</i></u>)
BOX OV 4	Photographs "President McKinley, California, and Buffalo," 1901 (Container 35; Reel 23)
BOX OV 5	"Maryland, My Maryland," and cover letter by James R. Randall, 1887 (Container 35; Reel 23)
BOX OV 6	"The Helmet of Mambrino, A Letter to Horace F. Cutter from Clarence King," 1882 (Container 35; Reel 23)
BOX OV 7	Scrapbooks Miscellaneous 1860-1874 (Container 36) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 8	1861-1882 (Container 36) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 9	1871-1874 (Container 36) (2 vols.)

Oversize, 1783-1905

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX OV 10	1874-1890 (Container 36) (3 vols.)
BOX OV 11	1891-1900 (Container 36) (3 vols.)
BOX OV 12	1898 1900 (Container 36) (1 vol.)
BOX OV 13	(3 vols.)
BOX OV 14	(3 vols.)
BOX OV 15	(1 vol.) 1900-1901 (Container 36) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 16	1901 (Container 36) (3 vols.)
BOX OV 17	(3 vols.)
BOX OV 18	1901-1902 (Container 36) (2 vols.) 1902 (Container 36) (1 vol.)
BOX OV 19	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 20	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 21	1902-1903 (Container 36) 1903 (Container 36) (1 vol.)
BOX OV 22	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 23	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 24	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 25	(1 vol.) 1903-1904 (Container 36)
BOX OV 26	1904 (Container 36) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 27	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 28	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 29	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 30	1905 (Container 36) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 31	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 32	(1 vol.)
BOX OV 33	Spanish-American War 1897-1898 (Container 36) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 34	1898 (Container 36) (2 vols.)
BOX OV 35	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 36	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 37	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 38	(2 vols.)
BOX OV 39	(2 vols.)

Oversize, 1783-1905

Container

Contents

BOX OV 40

Addition

Scrapbook, 1837-1938 (Container 36)