

J. M. Mason Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
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Prepared by Patrick Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2003

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Collection Summary

Title: J. M. Mason Papers

Span Dates: 1838-1870

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1865)

ID No.: MSS31591

Creator: Mason, J. M. (James Murray), 1798-1871

Extent: 3,600 items; 9 containers; 1.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: United States senator and representative from Virginia and Confederate diplomatic agent in Great Britain. Chiefly diplomatic communications sent while Mason was a Confederate commissioner. Includes correspondence; dispatches; lists of supplies for the Confederate States from London; statements and depositions regarding piracy, claims, the blockade, and other naval and marine matters; cotton bonds and warrants; circulars; and printed matter.

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.

People

Benjamin, J. P. (Judah Philip), 1811-1884.

Browne, William M. (William Montague), 1823-1883--Correspondence.

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Bulloch, James Dunwoody, 1823-1901--Correspondence.

Collie, Alexander--Correspondence.

Hotze, Henry, 1833-1887--Correspondence.

Hunter, R. M. T. (Robert Mercer Taliaferro), 1809-1887.

Huse, Caleb, 1831-1905--Correspondence.

Lamar, L. Q. C. (Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus), 1825-1893--Correspondence.

Lindsay, W. S. (William Schaw), 1816-1877--Correspondence.

Mann, A. Dudley (Ambrose Dudley), 1801-1889--Correspondence.

Mason, J. M. (James Murray), 1798-1871.

Memminger, C. G. (Christopher Gustavus), 1803-1888--Correspondence.

North, James H.--Correspondence.

O'Connor, Charles, 1804-1884--Correspondence.

Russell, John Russell, Earl, 1792-1878--Correspondence.

Sinclair, George T.--Correspondence.

Slidell, John, 1793-1871--Correspondence.

Spence, James, 1811-1876--Correspondence.

Williams, James, 1796-1869--Correspondence.

Organizations

Fraser, Trenholm, and Co. (Liverpool, England)--Correspondence.

Great Britain. Foreign Office.

Rinaldo (Sloop)

Society for Promoting the Cessation of Hostilities in America (London, England)--Correspondence.

Southern Independence Association--Correspondence.

Virginia (Ironclad)

Subjects

Claims.

Cotton trade--Confederate States of America.

Hampton Roads, Battle of, Va., 1862.
Merchant marine--Great Britain.
Pirates.
Trent Affair, 1861.

Places

Confederate States of America--Commerce--Great Britain.
Confederate States of America--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
Confederate States of America--History, Naval.
Great Britain--Commerce--Confederate States of America.
Great Britain--Foreign relations--Confederate States of America.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Representatives, U.S. Congress--Virginia.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Virginia.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of J. M. Mason, United States senator and representative from Virginia and Confederate diplomatic agent in Great Britain, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1912.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of J. M. Mason 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, J. M. Mason Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Murray Mason (1798-1871) span the period 1838-1870, with the bulk of the material dating from 1862 to 1865. The collection consists chiefly of Mason's diplomatic communications as Confederate commissioner to Great Britain and includes correspondence, dispatches, lists, statements and depositions, cotton bonds and warrants, circulars, and printed matter.

The papers include instructions to Mason from Confederate officials R. M. T. Hunter, J. P. Benjamin, and William M. Browne as well as letters from the British Foreign Office. Also included is correspondence regarding the *Trent* Affair; the log of the HMS *Rinaldo*, 1862; letters and other papers regarding British merchant vessels; a report on the attack of the CSS *Virginia* (Ironclad) on Federal ships in Hampton Roads, Virginia; and letters concerning fuel to Mason from officers commanding Confederate ships in European waters.

Correspondents include William M. Browne; James Dunwody Bulloch; Alexander Collie; Fraser, Trenholm, and Co.; Henry Hotze; Caleb Huse; L. Q. C. Lamar; W. S. Lindsay; A. Dudley Mann; C. G. Memminger; James H. North; Charles O'Connor; John Russell, Earl Russell; George T. Sinclair; John Slidell; the Society for Promoting the Cessation of Hostilities in America (London, England); the Southern Independence Association (Manchester, England); James Spence; and James Williams.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Chronological file
BOX 1	1838, Jan. 15-1862, Feb. 8
BOX 2	1862, Feb. 10-July 21
BOX 3	1862, July 22-Dec. 22
BOX 4	1862, Dec. 23-1863, Mar. 17
BOX 5	1863, Mar. 18-June 16
BOX 6	1863, June 18-1864, Mar. 7
BOX 7	1864, Mar. 8-Dec. 16
BOX 8	1864, Dec. 18-1870, Mar. 31
BOX 9	Dispatches
BOX 9	1862, Feb. 2-1865, May 1