

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

James Gordon Bennett Papers
1831-1861
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Anastacio Teodoro
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Summary

Main entry:	Bennett, James Gordon, 1795-1872
Title:	James Gordon Bennett Papers, 1831-1861 (bulk 1844-1851)
Size:	.5 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 volume)
Source:	Donated by Mrs. Rodman Gilder, 1955; Purchase, 1963
Abstract:	James Gordon Bennett (1795-1872) was the founder and editor of the New York Herald.
Access:	Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division. Microfilm must be used in lieu of originals when available.
Preferred citation:	James Gordon Bennett Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Diaries
Alternate formats:	Boxes 1 and 2 available on microfilm, call number *ZL-243.

Biographical note

James Gordon Bennett (1795-1872) was the founder and editor of the New York Herald. Born in New Mill, Banffshire, Scotland, Bennett emigrated to the United States in 1819. He worked as a teacher and lecturer before founding the New York Herald in 1835.

Scope and content note

The collection consists of letters and other communications to James Gordon Bennett as editor and publisher of the *New York Herald*, and a diary kept by Bennett during a journey through New York State from June to August of 1831. The letters were sent by literary contributors and correspondents in various cities and include responses to articles published in the paper, requests for positions with the *Herald*, advertisements, and suggestions for future articles. Topics include U.S., New York State and New York City politics, religion, crime, and advertising. Also included are three letters and a signed agreement from R. Hoe & Co., 1841 and 1861 regarding the provision of equipment for the *Herald*. Bennett's replies are not present. Miscellaneous unsorted materials contain scripts of articles, poems, short stories and other submissions for publication and newspaper clippings.

Bennett's diary covers his travels through New York including the towns of Saratoga, Schenectady, Utica, Syracuse, Auburn, Ithaca, Geneva, Canandaigua, Avon Springs, Rochester, Lockport, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Batavia, and Geneva. During part of his journey he was accompanied by Martin Van Buren, Benjamin F. Butler, and Nathaniel S. Benton. The diary contains quotes from conversations with politicians, editors and other on current events, the U.S. Bank, and anti-Masonry.

Arrangement note

The James Gordon Bennett Papers are organized in the following series:

Series I. Letters to James Gordon Bennett, 1840-1851, 1861, n.d.

Series II. Miscellaneous scripts and submissions

Series III. Diary, 1831 Jun-Aug

However, on the microfilm of Box 2, Series II precedes the undated letters to Bennett

Container list

Series I. Letters to James Gordon Bennett, 1840-1851, 1861, n.d.			
<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	1	1841-1843
		2	1844 Jan-Feb
		3	1844 Mar -Jul
		4	1846-1849
		5	1850 Jan-Feb
		6	1850 Mar-Dec
		7	1851 Apr-Dec
1	2	1-2	Undated
		3	Series II. Miscellaneous scripts and submissions
<u>Vol</u>			Series III. Diary, 1831 Jun-Aug
1			