Summary

Creator: Cooper, James Fenimore, 1789-1851

Title: James Fenimore Cooper collection of papers

Date: 1825-1904 [bulk 1825-1849]

Size: 45 items

Source: This is a synthetic collection, created from materials acquired through gift and purchase from various sources.

Abstract: This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, and financial documents.

Access: Restricted access.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature


Processing note: Processed by Staff; Machine-readable finding aid created by Lynn Lobash and Nina Schneider.

Creator History
James Fenimore Cooper was an American novelist, essayist, and writer of historical works.

Custodial History
Previous owners include the publisher Richard Bentley, Edward Walker Harden, W. T. H. Howe, the Rev. Paul E. McAlenney, and Owen D. Young. The letters from Joseph Conrad to David Garnett were a bequest of John D. Gordan.
Scope and Content Note
This is a synthetic collection consisting of manuscripts, correspondence, and financial documents. The manuscripts comprise portions of his novels and stories including "Afloat and Ashore," "The Headsman," "Homeward Bound," "The Oak Openings, or, The Bee-Hunter," "The Prairie," "The Water Witch," and "Wyandotte"; as well as drafts of the essays "Old Ironsides" and "The History of the Navy of the United States." The correspondence consists of letters from the author, dating from 1825 to [1850], to John Fagan, Thomas W. Field, James S. Mead, J. D. P. Ogden, J. K. Paulding, Henry Philips, Lady William Russell, Charles Wilkes, the publishers Carey and Lea, and others; as well as letters, dating from [1842] to 1904, between various correspondents, including Richard Harris Barham, Richard Bentley, Joseph Conrad, Susan Fenimore Cooper, Charles Henry Hart, and others. There is also a letter addressed to Cooper from Sir Walter Scott, dated 1826.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Correspondence

Names
Cooper, James Fenimore, 1789-1851
Bentley, Richard, 1794-1871
Conrad, Joseph, 1857-1924
Cooper, Susan Fenimore, 1813-1894
Fagan, J. (John)
Field, Thomas W. (Thomas Warren), 1820-1881
Gordan, John D., 1907-1968
Harden, Edward Walker, 1868-
Hart, Charles Henry, 1847-1918
Howe, W. T. H. (William Thomas Hildrup)
Ingoldsby, Thomas, 1788-1845
McAlenney, Paul E
Mead, James S
Ogden, James De Peyster, 1790-1870
Paulding, James Kirke, 1778-1860
Philips, Henry, 1839-1895
Russell, William, Lady
Scott, Walter, 1771-1832
Wilkes, Charles, 1798-1877
Young, Owen D., 1874-
Carey & Lea
Container List

Manuscripts

Oversize (+)


Oversize (+)

Edward Walker Harden bookplate; Y.

Manuscript box

[Headsman, The] Chapter II. Holograph fragment n.d. (1 item) (1 item)

Manuscript box

[Headsman, The] One holograph leaf n.d. (1 item) (1 item)
H.

Manuscript box

[History of the navy of the United States, The] Holograph, incomplete. Many pages mutilated but complete and filed in single folder for each mutilated page n.d. (364 p. in 91 folders) (364 p. in 91 folders)

Oversize (+)

Homeward bound. Manuscript with chapter headings and notations in the hand of Cooper n.d. (480 p) (480 p)
From the libraries of Richard Bentley, the English publisher, and Rev. Paul E. McAlenney; H.

Manuscript box

H.

Manuscript box

Old Ironsides. Holograph of first installment. This portion ends with, ",...Jumping Billy went to work," leaving 11 printed lines in addition to this manuscript n.d. (36 p) (36 p)
Published in Putnam's monthly magazine, v. 1, no. 5 (May, 1853), p. 473-487

Manuscript box

H.

Manuscript box

[Water witch, The] Holograph draft (fragment) from Chapters VI and VII with numerous corrections 1830 (1 p) (1 p)

Oversize (+)

Corresponds to Philadelphia, Lea and Blanchard, 1843 edition

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence

Carey and Lea, Messrs. ALS to 1826? (1 p) (1 p)
H.

Manuscript box

Carey and Lea, Messrs. ALS to 1826 Apr. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box

Carey, Lea and Carey, [Messrs.]. ALS to 1827 July 29 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.

Manuscript box

Clark, Lewis Gaylord. ALS to 1838 Sept. 9 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
Fagan, John. ALS to 1849 Mar. 3 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Fagan, John. ALS to 1849 Mar. 30 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Fagan, [John]. ALS to 1850 Feb. 8 or 1850 Feb. 9 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Field, Thomas W. ALS to 1848 Nov. 4 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Johnston, the Rev. Thomas B. ALS to 1844 Nov. 8 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Johnston, the Rev. Thomas B. ALS to 1845 May 26 (1 item) (1 item) H.

Lyon, Monsieur de. ALS to 1825 Sept. 23 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Matthews and Duyckinck, Messrs. ALS to 1841 Dec. 6 (2 p) (2 p) H.

Mead, James S. ALS to 1836 Nov. 4 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Ogden, J. D. P. ALS to 1839 Feb. 5 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Paulding, J. K. ALS to 1846 May 9 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Philips, Henry. ALS to 1845 May 23 (1 p) (1 p) Y.

Russell, Lady William. ALS to. Refers to Moore's Life of Byron 1830 Mar. 15 (1 p) (1 p) Y.

Tefft, Israel Kreech. ALS to 1833 Nov. 29 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Thomas, George C. ALS to 1844 Nov. 8 (1 p) (1 p) Y.

Wilkes, Charles. Fragment of ALS to 1828 May 7 (1 p) (1 p) H.

Scott, Sir Walter. ALS to Cooper [1826] Nov. 26 (1 leaf) (1 leaf) With ANS at the head of letter in Cooper's hand. H.

Barham, R. H. ALS to [Richard] Bentley. Mentions Cooper's Eve Effingham 1842 (1 item) (1 item) B.

Barham, Richard Harris. AL to [Richard Bentley] with draft of preface for a proposed edition of J. F. Cooper's Homeward Bound on p. [2] 1842 Aug. 12 (1 item) (1 item) Signed with initials. B.

Cooper, Susan Fenimore. 7 ALS to Charles Henry Hart. Relates to S. F. Cooper's father, James Fenimore Cooper 1865 Dec. 9 - 1877 Sept. 27 (7 items in 2 folders) (7 items in 2 folders)

Financial Documents

Checks (2) made out to himself by James Fenimore Cooper 1846 June 8, 1846 July 3 (2 items) (2 items)