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Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and
American Literature

Guide to the

James Fenimore Cooper collection of papers

1825-1904 [bulk 1825-1849]

Berg Coll MSS Cooper

Processed by Staff.

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

Preferred citation: [Identification of the item]. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature, The New York Public Library.

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 (+) [Afloat and ashore] Preface. Chapters 1-30 [ie. Chapters 1-15, v. 3 and chapters 1-15, v. 4, of the Philadelphia, 1844, edition] Holograph. Some pages mutilated n.d. (240 p) (240 p)
- Oversize (+) "Afloat and ashore." Chapters 29-30 [ie. Chapters 14-15, v. 2, of the Philadelphia, 1844 edition] Holograph n.d. (16 p) (16 p)
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)
With manuscript fragment, in an unidentified hand, corresponding to Volume 3, p. 56-67 of the N.Y., Putnam, 1853 edition, dated [1851] 13 p.; with concluding marginal note, "Here ends the portion dictated by Mr. Cooper."; Text corresponds to the Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1839 edition
- 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 [Oak openings, The; or, The bee hunter] Holograph n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
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 Prairie, The. Part of chapter 26. Manuscript in the hand of his daughter, Susan Augusta Cooper, with ms. corrections by J. F. Cooper n.d. (4 p) (4 p)
H.
- Manuscript box [Water witch, The] Holograph draft (fragment) from Chapters VI and VII with numerous corrections 1830 (1 p) (1 p)
- Oversize (+) Wyandotte. Holograph. Pages 102-108 wanting n.d. (263 p) (263 p)
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.

Correspondence (cont.)

Outgoing Correspondence (cont.)

- 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.
- Manuscript box Johnston, the Rev. Thomas B. ALS to 1844 Nov. 8 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box 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.
- Manuscript box Philips, Henry. ALS to 1845 May 23 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Russell, Lady William. ALS to. Refers to Moore's Life of Byron 1830 Mar. 15
(1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Tefft, Israel Kreech. ALS to 1833 Nov. 29 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Manuscript box Thomas, George C. ALS to 1844 Nov. 8 (1 p) (1 p)
Y.
- Manuscript box Wilkes, Charles. Fragment of ALS to 1828 May 7 (1 p) (1 p)
H.
- Incoming Correspondence
- 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.
- Related Correspondence
- Manuscript box Barham, R. H. ALS to [Richard] Bentley. Mentions Cooper's Eve Effingham
1842 (1 item) (1 item)
B.
- Manuscript box 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.

Correspondence (cont.)
Related Correspondence (cont.)

- Manuscript box Conrad, Joseph. 2 TL (copies) to David Garnett. Letter of Dec. 22, 1902 relates to J. F. Cooper [1902] Dec. 22, 1904 Dec. 23 (2 items) (2 items)
John D. Gordan bequest
- Manuscript box 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
- Manuscript box Checks (2) made out to himself by James Fenimore Cooper 1846 June 8, 1846
(Cooper) July 3 (2 items) (2 items)