Finding Aid to the Allen Lawrence Chickering Papers, 1937-1957MS 371

Finding aid prepared by California Historical Society staff; revised by Tanya Hollis.
California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
415-357-1848
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2001, revised 2009
Collection Summary

Collection Title: Allen Lawrence Chickering papers

Date (inclusive): 1937-1957

Collection Number: MS 371

Creator: Chickering, Allen Lawrence, 1877-1958

Physical Description:

Extent: 2 boxes
(1.0 linear feet)

Repository: California Historical Society

678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
415-357-1848
reference@calhist.org

URL: http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/

Physical Location: Collection is stored onsite.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Abstract: Correspondence, news clippings, ephemera, printed materials, and other documents pertaining to the discovery, investigation, and custody of Drake's Plate of Brasse, found in Marin County in 1937, which carried an inscription declaring Sir Francis Drake's claim of the land on behalf of the English monarch; together with some general correspondence of the California Historical Society and its publication, California Historical Society Quarterly (1947-1956). Chickering organized subscriptions to finance acquisition of the plate and was involved in the controversy regarding its authenticity. Includes metallurgists' reports, with photographic plates, concerning related archaeological study and objects found in the vicinity of the plate's discovery.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Allen Lawrence Chickering Papers, MS 371, California Historical Society.

Donor

Gift of Allen Chickering.

Biography

Chickering was president of California Historical Society in 1937 when the supposed Drake "Plate of Brasse" was found. He organized subscriptions to finance its acquisition and was involved in the controversy regarding its authenticity. He was also in touch with the later archaeological work carried out in Marin County.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, news clippings, ephemera, printed materials, and other documents pertaining to the discovery, investigation, and custody of Drake's Plate of Brass, found in Marin County in 1937, which carried an inscription declaring Sir Francis Drake's claim of the land on behalf of the English monarch; together with some general correspondence of the California Historical Society and its publication, The California Historical Society Quarterly (1947-1956). Chickering organized subscriptions to finance acquisition of the plate and was involved in the controversy regarding its authenticity. Includes metallurgists' reports, with photographic plates, concerning related archaeological study and objects found in the vicinity of the plate's discovery.

Brass--Metallurgy

British Museum
Drake Navigators Guild
Golden Gate International Exposition, 1939
Marin Conservation League
Miwok Indians--Antiquities
Miwok Indians--Languages
Miwok Indians--Languages
Redwood Empire Association
Royal Geographic Society, London
Royal Geographic Society, London (F1, Miscellaneous Correspondence 1937-38; F11, Authenticity)
Sir Francis Drake Association
U.S. National Park Service
Alexander, Wallace M.
Black, James B.
Bolton, Herbert E.
Blyth, Charles R.
Bolton, Herbert E.
Caywood, Lewis
Brown, Everett J.
Bryant, Mrs. E.A.
Caldeira, William
Caywood, Louis
Cermeno, Sebastian R.
Chickering, Allen L., Jr.
Chickering, Sherman
Clear, Warren J.
Cline, J.M.
Crone, G.R.
Crone, G.R.
Cutler, Leland W.
Edmondson, Clyde
Ehrman, Sidney M.
Eyre, Edward L.
Fair, Harry H.
Fink, Colin G.
Flower, R.
Force, R.C.
Haselden, Reginald B.
Heizer, Robert F.
Hildebrand, Joel
Huggins, Dorothy
Kinnaird, Lawrence
Kroeber, Alfred L.
Lamont, Donald Y.
Livermore, Caroline
McCown, Theodore D.
McGrath, R.T.
Meighan, Clement W.
Menzies, Winifred (Mrs. Robert)
Miller, C.O.G.
Moffitt, James K.
Moore, C.C.
Neasham, Aubrey
Nichols, Henry D.
North, Hart A.
Okell, Jack
Oko, A.S.
Rawlings, Stuart L.
Richardson, Harriette T.
Schilling, Rudolph
Shinn, Beryle W.
Sproul, Robert G.
Starr, W.A.
Wagner, Henry R.

Separated Materials
Photographs and negatives transferred to Photography Collection, shelved under: General Subjects--Drake Plate.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
California Historical Society.
Drake, Francis, Sir, 1540?-1596
Archaeology--California--Marin County
Forgery of antiquities--California
Marin County (Calif.)--Antiquities

Box 1, Folder 1 Drake: Miscellaneous Correspondence 1937-1938
Box 1, Folder 2 Drake: Miscellaneous Correspondence 1939-1941
Box 1, Folder 3 Drake: Miscellaneous Correspondence 1942-1948
Box 1, Folder 4 Drake: Miscellaneous Correspondence 1949
Box 1, Folder 5 Drake: Miscellaneous Correspondence 1950-1956
Box 1, Folder 6 California Historical Society: Correspondence 1947-1951
Box 1, Folder 7 California Historical Society: Correspondence 1952-1954
Box 1, Folder 8 California Historical Society: Correspondence 1955-1956
Box 1, Folder 9 Drake: Manuscript Material
Box 1, Folder 10 Drake: Discovery of Plate and Rights of Ownership
Box 1, Folder 11 Drake: Authenticity of Plate
Box 2, Folder 12 Drake: Subscriptions - Funds for Purchase, Subsequent Digs, and Publications
Box 2, Folder 13 Drake: Donation to U.C. & Exhibition of Plate
Box 2, Folder 14 Drake: Requests for Replicas & Photos of Plate
Box 2, Folder 15 Drake: Other Objects
Box 2, Folder 16 Drake: Related Excavations (1947-48-49)
Box 2, Folder 17 Drake: Metallographic Examination of Old Iron Spikes and Nails, By Colin G. Fink & E.P. Polushkin, Columbia University 1948 September
Box 2, Folder 18 Drake: Report on Metal Spikes Found Near Point Reyes, Drake's Bay Area, California, By Colin G. Fink & E.P. Polushkin 1949 November
Box 2, Folder 19 Drake: Metallographic Examination of Two Heavy Iron Rods and of Two Small Spikes Submitted to Us by Dr. Robert F. Heizer of the University of California 1949 September
Box 2, Folder 20 Drake: Miscellaneous Ephemera
Box 2, Folder 21 Drake: MS Report by Aubrey Neasham
Box 2, Folder 22 Drake: News Clippings and Pamphlets