American Dredging Company incoming correspondence

Finding aid prepared by Brooke M. Black.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: American Dredging Company incoming correspondence

Dates: 1870-1881

Collection Call Number: mssAmericanDredgingcorrespondence

Creator: American Dredging Company

Extent: 140 letters in 1 box

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Language of Material: The records are in English.

Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], American Dredging Company incoming correspondence, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information
The collection was purchased from Michael Brown in June 2014.

Historical Note
The American Dredging Company was originally incorporated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1867. John Somers was the president and Franklin B. Colton was the treasurer. It is one of the most famous dredging companies in American history. After operating independently for over 125 years, it was purchased by Weeks Marine in 1993.

Scope and Content
This incoming correspondence deals mostly with the company’s work on the Dutch Gap on the James River Improvement Project in Virginia, their work with the U.S. Engineer's Office on the Philadelphia Navy Yard at League Island, and their work with the Coosaw Mining Company in Charleston, South Carolina. The correspondence also deals with several other projects. Most of the correspondence is written to Somers and Colton. Correspondents include: William P. Craighill, William Ludlow, Franklin C. Prindle, Robert Ransom, Andrew Adger, David Lopez, Benjamin Maillefert, and Grantham Israel Taggart, Sr. (list is not exhaustive). The correspondence had previously been bound together (now separated). There is some water damage to the letters; some letters are stuck together. Fragile condition.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged chronologically.

Personal Names
Adger, Andrew Moffett, 1846-1915.
Colton, Franklin B., active 1871, recipient.
Lopez, David, 1809-1884.
Maillefert, Benjamin S. H., 1813-1884.
Prindle, Franklin Cogswell, 1841-1923.
Ransom, R. (Robert), 1828-1892.
Somers, John S., 1816-1894, recipient.
Taggart, Grantham Israel, 1828-1905.

**Geographic Areas**  
Philadelphia (Pa.).

**Corporate Names**  
Coosaw Mining Company.  
James River Improvement Company.  
Philadelphia Naval Shipyard (Philadelphia, Pa.)

**Subjects**  
Dredges.  
Dredging.  
Engineers--United States--Correspondence.

**Genre**  
Business records--Pennsylvania--19th century.  
Correspondence--United States--19th century.

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**Box 1**  
**American Dredging Company Incoming Correspondence 1870-1881**  
Physical Description: 1 box

**Folder 1**  
**Correspondence (1870, April - 1871, March)**  
29 items

**Folder 2**  
**Correspondence (1871, April)**  
24 items

**Folder 3**  
**Correspondence (1871, May - June)**  
30 items

**Folder 4**  
**Correspondence (1876 - 1880)**  
28 items

**Folder 5**  
**Correspondence (1881)**  
29 items