Joseph Oliver Carter Papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Brooke M. Black, November 25, 2011.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
Manuscripts Department
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
Phone: (626) 405-2129
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Joseph Oliver Carter Papers  
Dates (inclusive): 1893-1935  
Collection Number: mssHM 76530-76710  
Creator: Carter, Joseph Oliver, 1835-1909.  
Extent: 199 items in 4 boxes  
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, California 91108  
Phone: (626) 405-2129  
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Abstract: This collection primarily contains correspondence written to Hawaiian journalist, diplomat, and financier Joseph Oliver Carter (1835-1909). Most of the collection is about Queen Liliuokalani, her property and finances, and politics in Hawaii including the 1893 revolution and its consequences for Carter, Hawaiian annexation by the United States, the Hawaiian government and royalty.

Language: English.

Access
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Preferred Citation

Provenance
Purchased from Bonhams auction #19421, lot #1030, October 10, 2011.

Cataloger's Note
Queen Liliuokalani is a subject throughout the entire collection (she is the addressee of eight letters, which are listed under Indexing: Added Entries). Specific instances of her being a subject are not indexed in the finding aid, but her name appears on the folders where she is talked about. Other subjects not specifically indexed due to the number of items having them as subjects include: Hawaiian royalty, the Hawaiian government, the 1893 overthrow of the government, annexation of Hawaii by the U.S. and the issue of Statehood. These subjects can be found in the majority of the items.

Biographical Note
Joseph Oliver Carter, Jr. (1835-1909), journalist, public official, diplomat, financier and philanthropist, was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on December 20, 1835, to Captain Joseph Oliver Carter and Hannah Lord. Carter attended school in Boston at an early age. After returning to Hawaii in 1847, he finished school and began employment with A. B. Howe in Honolulu. He later worked as a clerk in the post office and became associated with H. M. Whitney, a dealer in books and a cotton grower in Hawaii. Carter then began working for the Pacific Commercial Advertiser until 1872 when he was elected to the Hawaiian Legislature. He was appointed Registrar of Public Accounts in 1874, after having been financier to prominent families in Hawaii. In 1880 he went back to business life becoming cashier and correspondent for C. Brewer & Co. In 1891, he became president of the company.

Throughout his life, Carter played an important role with Hawaiian royalty, the legislature and cabinet officers, often being called on for advice. He was the Privy Councilor to Queen Liliuokalani. During the 1893 Revolution, Carter sided with the Hawaiian people, working for their rights; he stood by the Queen’s side. After the overthrow of the Queen, Carter resigned his position at C. Brewer & Co. due to political differences with his business colleagues and opened his own business. He continued to be in charge of the business affairs of the former Queen, as well as trustee of the James Campbell Estate, the B. P. Bishop Estate, the Kamehameha Schools, and various private accounts and estates.

In 1898, when the question of Hawaii annexation came up, Carter went to Washington D. C. as a member of a mission to the present the cause of the Hawaiians, who were against such action. Carter held various other positions including Board
Carter married Mary Ladd, a member of another prominent pioneer Honolulu family, in 1859. They had six children: Charlotte, Mary, Rachel, Joseph Oliver, Sarah, and Henry Cushman.

Carter became blind in his last years, but continued his business dealings until his death on February 27, 1909. He was buried in Oahu Cemetery in Honolulu.

**Bibliography**


**Scope and Content**

The collection consists of 177 letters, two manuscripts, 1 piece of ephemera and 17 newspaper clippings.

The majority of the collection is correspondence written to Joseph Oliver Carter (there are only two letters written by him, one of which is to Queen Liliuokalani). Notable participants include: Joseph K. Aea, attorney for the Queen; Calvert T. Bird, attorney for the James Campbell estate; Charles Reed Bishop; J. A. Cummins, Hawaiian royalty and businessman; attorney Clarence Woods DeKnight; journalist Julian Hawthorne; Hawaiian diplomat and politician Curtis Pi‘ehu ‘Iaukea; Prince David Kawanakoa; William Kinney, Hawaiian businessman; G. W. MacFarlane, attorney for the Queen; reporter Julius A. Palmer; Abigail Campbell Parker, widow of James Campbell and mother of Princess Abigail Kawanakoa; Senator Richard F. Pettigrew; Hawaiian Chief Justice Alexander George Morison Robertson; Hawaiian politician Robert W. Shingle; Hawaiian minister David Willis Keliikamoku White; Albert Shelby Willis, United States Congressman and Minister to Hawaii; and Charles Burnett Wilson, Marshal of Kingdom of Hawaii and Royal Guard.

Most of the collection is about Queen Liliuokalani, her property and finances, and politics in Hawaii including the 1893 revolution and its consequences for Carter, Hawaiian annexation by the U.S., the Hawaiian government and royalty. (Letters between Carter and Senator Pettigrew are all about the Hawaiian government and annexation by the U.S. as are the letters between Carter and his friend Ned McFarlane.) Other subjects include: James Campbell and his estate; Samuel Mills Damon; Benjamin Franklin Dillingham; Sanford B. Dole; Princess Kauai‘ula; Princess Abigail Campbell Kawanakoa; education in Hawaii; the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum; Punahou School; Chinese and Japanese immigrants in Hawaii; Mormons in Hawaii; and sugar growing and tariffs.

The letters by L. M. Keaunui and S. K. Mahoe to Queen Liliuokalani are in Hawaiian.

The two manuscripts consist of a copy of a resolution made by C. Brewer & Co. stating that it is in full support of the provisional government of Hawaii and that any officer or employee that shows “any other disposition on the part of the Company as against the said Government, such action is disavowed by us as Stockholders...” and a printed copy of the “Proposed Investigation of the Government of the Territory of Hawaii: Hearing Before the Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs United States Senate,” from 1932, January 16.

The ephemera consists of a sheet of paper with three signatures including the Governor of Maui, John M. Kapena. The 17 newspaper clippings are about the Hawaiian Princess Abigail Kawanakoa, the possible statehood of Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands.

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by author.

**Indexing: Added Entries**

**Additional contributors in this collection include:**

Kapena, John Makini.

Kawanakoa, David.

Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917.
Pettigrew, Richard F. (Richard Franklin), 1838-1926.
  • Addressee of Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909, letter (1898, Feb. 5). HM 76560.

Indexing: Subjects

Subjects in this collection include:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.
  • Subject in Charles Reed Bishop, 1822-1916 letters (1895-1908) letters to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76536-76557.

Bishop, Charles Reed, 1822-1915.
  • Subject in Samuel C. Allen letters (1894-1900) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76533-76536.
  • Subject in F. W. MacFarlane letter (1898, Mar. 8) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76583.
  • Subject in C. E. Mason letter (1907, Aug. 10) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76633.

Campbell, James, 1826-1900.
  • Subject in Samuel C. Allen letters (1894-1900) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76533-76536.
  • Subject in Calvert T. Bird letter (1906, June 29) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76540.
  • Subject in Holmes & Stanley letter (1908, Feb. 17) to Abigail Campbell Parker. HM 76570.
  • Subject in G. W. MacFarlane letter (1907, Apr. 6) to P. N. Lienthal. HM 76602.
  • Subject in C. E. Mason letter (1907, Aug. 10) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76633.
  • Subject in Abigail Campbell Parker letters (1900-1904) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76644-76672.

Chinese – Hawaii
  • Subject in Richard F. (Richard Franklin) Pettigrew letter (1899, Sep. 8) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76680.

Damon, Samuel Mills, 1845-1924.
  • Subject in Samuel C. Allen letters (1894-1900) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76533-76536.
  • Subject in Charles Reed Bishop, 1822-1916 letters (1895-1908) letters to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76536-76557.
  • Subject in Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909 letter (1898, Feb. 5) to Richard F. (Richard Franklin) Pettigrew, 1848-1926. HM 76560.

Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.
  • Subject in Charles Reed Bishop, 1822-1915 letters (1897) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76553, HM 76555.

Dole, Sanford B. (Sanford Ballard), 1844-1926.
  • Subject in Charles Reed Bishop, 1822-1915 letters (1897-1908) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76553, HM 76555.
  • Subject in Ned MacFarlane letter (1900, Feb. 17) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76625.
  • Subject in Julius A. (Julius Auboineau) Palmer, 1840-1899 letters (1896-1897) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76637, HM 76641.
  • Subject in Richard F. (Richard Franklin) Pettigrew letter (1900, Mar. 7) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76683.

Education – Hawaii
  • Subject in Charles Reed Bishop, 1822-1916 letters (1895-1908) letters to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76536-76557.

Japanese – Hawaii
  • Subject in Richard F. (Richard Franklin) Pettigrew letter (1899-1900) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76680, HM 76686.

Kaiulani, Princess of Hawaii, 1875-1899.
  • Subject in Julius A. (Julius Auboineau) Palmer, 1840-1899 letter (1897, Oct. 20) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76643.
Kawananakoa, Abigail Campbell.
  • Subject in Abigail Campbell Parker letters (1900-1904) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76644-76672.
  • Subject in Newspaper Clippings (1935).
Kawananakoa, David.
  • Addressee of George H. Fairchild telegram (189?). HM 76564.
Mormons – Hawaii
Punahou School.
  • Subject in Charles Reed Bishop, 1822-1916 letters (1895-1908) letters to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76536-76557.
  • Subject in Julius A. (Julius Auboineau) Palmer, 1840-1899 letter (1895, Aug. 7) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76636.
Sugar growing – Hawaii
  • Subject in Samuel C. Allen letter (1894, Oct. 16) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76535.
  • Subject in Richard F. (Richard Franklin) Pettigrew letter (1899, June 3) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76677.
  • Subject in O. M. Vesper letters (1894) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76695-76696.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
  Campbell, James, 1826-1900.
  Carter, Joseph Oliver, 1835-1909 -- Archives.
  Damon, Samuel Mills, 1845-1924.
  Dillingham, Benjamin Franklin, 1844-1918.
  Dole, Sanford B. (Sanford Ballard), 1844-1926.
  Kaʻiulani, Princess of Hawaii, 1875-1899.
  Kawananakoa, Abigail Campbell.
  Kawananakoa, House of.
  Liliʻuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917.
  Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.
  Punahou School.
  Chinese -- Hawaii.
  Education -- Hawaii.
  Japanese -- Hawaii.
  Mormons -- Hawaii -- History -- Sources.
  Plantations -- Hawaii.
  Sugar growing -- Hawaii.
  Hawaii -- Annexation to the United States.
  Hawaii -- Description and travel.
  Hawaii -- History -- Overthrow of Monarchy, 1893 -- Sources.
  Hawaii -- History -- 1893-1900 -- Sources.
  Hawaii -- Kings and rulers.
  Hawaii -- Politics and government.
  Honolulu (Hawaii)
  United States -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
  United States -- Politics and government -- 19th century -- Sources.
  Virgin Islands -- History -- 20th century -- Sources.
Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) Hawaii -- 19th century.
Letters (correspondence) Hawaii -- 20th century.
Manuscripts -- United States -- 19th century.
Newspaper clippings -- United States -- 20th century.

Additional Contributors
Aea, Joseph K.
Bird, Calvert T.
Bishop, Charles Reed, 1822-1915.
De Knight, Clarence Woods, 1867-1936.
Hawthorne, Julian, 1846-1934.
'Iaukea, Curtis Pi'e'hu, 1855-1940.
Kapena, John Makini.
Kawanakaoa, David.
Kinney, William, b. 1832.
Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917, recipient.
MacFarlane, G. W.
Palmer, Julius A. (Julius Auboineau), 1840-1899.
Parker, Abigail Campbell.
Pettigrew, Richard F. (Richard Franklin), 1848-1926.
Shingle, Robert W.
White, David Willis Keliokamoku.
Willis, Albert S. (Albert Shelby), 1843-1897.
Wilson, Charles Burnett, 1850-1926.
C. Brewer and Company.
United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs.

mssHM 76530-76710

Box 1

A - K

Aea, Joseph K. 3 letters (1907) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76530-76532
Allen, Samuel C. 4 letters (1894-1900) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909.
HM 76533-76536
Barnes, W. P., Mrs. 2 letters (1905) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909.
HM 76537-76538
Bird, Calvert T. 7 letters (1905-1908) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909.
HM 76539-76545
Bishop, Charles Reed, 1822-1915. 12 letters (1895-1908) to Joseph Oliver Carter,
1835-1909. HM 76546-76557
C. Brewer and Company. Resolution regarding Provisional Government of Hawaii:
manuscript copy? [1893]. In fragile condition. HM 76558
Carter, Joseph Oliver, 1835-1909. 1 letter (1906, Aug. 31) to Liliuokalani, Queen of
Hawaii, 1838-1917. HM 76559
Carter, Joseph Oliver, 1835-1909. 1 letter (1898, Feb. 5) to Richard F. (Richard
Franklin) Pettigrew, 1838-1926. Includes typed copy. HM 76560
De Knight, Clarence Woods, 1867-1936. 1 letter (1905, June 26) to Liliuokalani,
Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917. HM 76561
Dickey, J. H. 1 letter (1897, Feb. 22) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76562
Fairchild, George H. 1 letter (1900, Oct. 9) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76563
Fairchild, George H. 1 telegram (1897) to David Kawananakoa. HM 76564
Fried-Griselda, A. 1 letter (1904, Sep. 4) to Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917. HM 76565
Gulick, Charles T. 1 letter (1894, Feb. 8) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76566
Hawthorne, Julian, 1846-1934. 1 letter (1901, July 3) to Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917. HM 76567
Highton, Henry E. 1 letter (1904, Feb. 23) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76568
Holmes & Stanley. 1 letter (1905, Apr. 26) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76569
Holmes & Stanley. 1 letter (1908, Feb. 17) to Abigail Campbell Parker. HM 76570

Signed by Henry Holmes.

Humphreys, A. S. 2 letters (1903-1905) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76571-76572
ʻIaukea, Curtis Piʻehu, 1855-1940. 3 letters (189?-1900) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76573-76575
Kawananakoa, David. 1 telegram (1899, Nov. 30) to G. W. MacFarlane. HM 76576
Keaunui, L. M. 1 letter (1905, Oct. 5) to Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917. HM 76577

In Hawaiian.

Kinney, William, b. 1832. 1 letter (1894, Apr. 15) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76578

Box 2

L - M
Laine, L. I. 1 letter (1903, June 12) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76579
M. W. McClesney & Sons. 1 letter (1907) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76580

Signed by J. M. McClesney?

McCartney, M., Mrs. 1 letter (1905, May 5) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76581
McClellan, George B. 1 letter (1902, Jan. 6) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76582
MacFarlane, F. W. 5 letters (1898-1908) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76583-76587
MacFarlane, F. W. 1 letter (1902, May 5) to J. A. (John Adams) Cummins, 1834-1919. HM 76588
MacFarlane, Florence. 7 letters (1902-1904) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76589-76595
MacFarlane, G. W. 6 letters (1894-1900) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76596-76601
MacFarlane, G. W. 1 letter (1907, Apr. 6) to P. N. Lilienthal. Incomplete. HM 76602
MacFarlane, G. W. 2 letters (1899) to Liliuokalani, Queen of Hawaii, 1838-1917. HM 76603-76604
MacFarlane, Gardie. 1 letter (1897, July 22) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76605
MacFarlane, F. W. 1 letter [undated] to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909 and Mary Carter. HM 76606
MacFarlane, H. R. 1 letter ([1899], Apr. 30) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76607
[MacFarlane], Ned. 19 letters (1894-1901) to Joseph Oliver Carter, 1835-1909. HM 76608-76626
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