Henry David Cooke Papers mssCooke

Gayle Richardson
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1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, California 91108
reference@huntington.org
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Contributing Institution: The Huntington Library
Title: Henry David Cooke papers
Creator: Cooke, Henry David, 1825-1881
Identifier/Call Number: mssCooke
Physical Description: 3.91 Linear Feet (2 boxes, 1 expansion folder, 1 oversize folder)
Date (inclusive): 1838-1956
Date (bulk): 1846-1881
Abstract: Letters and documents related to the life and career of the American journalist, businessman, and politician Henry David Cooke.
Language of Material: Materials are in English.
Conditions Governing Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Henry David Cooke papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Mrs. Henry Dave Cooke, 1980 (mssHM 47644-47748); Gift of Barrie Cooke Folsom and Henry D. Cooke, Jr., February 2018 (mssHM 83873-83874).
Biographical / Historical
Henry David Cooke (1825-1881) American businessman, journalist, and politician. In 1846 he accompanied William G. Moorhead, his brother-in-law, consul and naval agent to Valparaiso. He then moved to California, where he was engaged in trade on the Pacific coast. In 1849 he married Laura S. Humphreys. Having lost his fortune, he returned to Ohio, his home state and, with the help of his brother Jay Cooke, became editor and owner of Sandusky Register and the Ohio State Journal. He was active in the state and national politics, supporting Salmon P. Chase and John Sherman. In 1861 became a partner in the house of Jay Cooke and Co. and was involved in raising money for the war effort. In 1871, he also acted as an intermediary for his brother in his interest in Cyrus W. Field's plan for a Pacific cable. A close friend of U.S. Grant, he was appointed the first governor of the District of Columbia, but resigned in 1873. For the last twenty years of his life he lived in Georgetown where he was noted for his charity works.
Scope and Contents
A collection containing 169 items; mssHM 47644-47748: Personal and professional correspondence of Henry D. Cooke. Included are the correspondence, deeds, bonds, agreements, contracts, accounts, and other financial and business records. The correspondence with Laura S. Humphreys Cooke and John Sherman constitute two larger groups of letters. Other correspondents include James Gillespie Blaine, Salmon Portland Chase, Jay Cooke, William Tecumseh Sherman, and Julia Dent Grant. The letters cover Cooke's travels in Panama and Chile, life in California (including news of the gold discovery), his political activities, business interests, and family matters. Also included are: a political cartoon entitled "The exhausted receiver," by J.P. Davis and S. Peer, Cyrus West Field's proposal on "the establishment of a submarine telegraph communication between the West coast of America and the eastern shores of Russia, China, etc." addressed to Alexander II, Emperor of Russia, and a contract and specifications for an organ for St. John Episcopal Church in Georgetown (1870) commissioned by Cooke to Henry Erben. The ephemera contains visiting cards, invitations, receipts, tax forms, stock certificates, etc. There is also the 1956 correspondence of his grandson Henry Dave Cook with Leslie Edgar Bliss, the Librarian of the Huntington Library, regarding possible acquisition of Henry D. Cooke's papers. MssHM 83873: This diary belonging to Henry D. Cooke, documents his trip to Europe in the spring and summer of 1864, including a fundraising effort to finance the public debt of the United States. In 1937, Cooke's granddaughter, Eleanor Cooke Pearson, took the same diary to describe a trip from San Pedro, California to Europe. Includes transcriptions of the diary. MssHM 83874: This printed form signed by President Ulysses S. Grant, appoints Henry D. Cooke as Governor of District of Columbia in 1871. Printed form filled in; with seal.
Processing Information
Processed by Huntington Staff, circa 1980 and 2018. In 2020, Gayle Richardson created the finding aid derived from legacy in-house summary report.

**Arrangement**
Arranged alphabetically by author.

**General**
Former call numbers: mssHM 47644-47748, mssHM 83873-83874.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Businessmen -- United States
Transpacific cables
Finance, Public -- United States -- History -- 19th century
Fiscal policy -- United States -- History -- 19th century
Governors -- Washington (D.C.)
Journalists -- Ohio
Organ (Musical instrument) -- Construction
Political cartoons
Politicians -- United States
California -- History -- 1846-1850
California -- Gold discoveries
Chile -- Description and travel
Panama -- Description and travel
United States -- History -- 19th century
Washington (D.C.) -- History -- 19th century
Financial records -- United States -- 19th century
Forms (documents) -- United States -- 19th century
Legal documents -- United States -- 19th century
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century
Personal papers -- United States -- 19th century
Professional papers -- United States -- 19th century
Blaine, James Gillespie, 1830-1893
Bliss, Leslie Edgar, 1889-1977
Cooke, Jay, 1821-1905
Cooke, Laura Humphreys
Erben, Henry, 1800-1884
Field, Cyrus W. (Cyrus West), 1819-1892
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873
Grant, Julia Dent, 1826-1902
Pearson, Eleanor Cooke
Sherman, John, 1823-1900
Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891

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**Box 1**

**Correspondence**
Scope and Contents
mssHM 47644-47699. Personal and business correspondence, memorandams.

**Box 2**

**Correspondence**
Scope and Contents
mssHM 47700-47748. Correspondence, documents and two envelopes of ephemera.
Folder 1  
**Travel diary**  
*Scope and Contents*  
mssHM 83873. Housed in an expansion folder; also included: computer generated transcript of the diary.

Folder 2  
**Appointment**  
*Scope and Contents*  
mssHM 83874. Housed in an oversize folder; printed form, filled in, with seal. Signed by U.S. Grant and Hamilton Fish.