Louis Janin Papers (Addenda): Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Louis Janin Papers (Addenda)
Dates (inclusive): 1863-1895
Collection Number: mssHM 64294-64311
Creator: Janin, Louis, 1837-1914.
Extent: 18 volumes in 2 boxes
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection consists of 18 diaries kept between 1863 and 1895 by American mining engineer Louis Janin (1837-1914), which chiefly contain accounts of trip California, Nevada, Japan, and Mexico to survey mines.

Language: English.

Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Louis Janin Papers (Addenda), The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance
Gift of Mrs. Elliot Evans, May 18, 1987.

Biographical Note
Mining engineer Louis Janin (Nov. 7, 1837-March 6, 1914), one of three sons in a New Orleans family who followed the profession of mining engineer, figured prominently in Western mining for nearly sixty years. Educated at Yale and then at the Freiberg Mining Academy, Janin began his career out West in 1861, shortly after his return from Europe. He made his first mark on the profession in the early 1860s on the Comstock Lode, where he applied his scientific training to improving the extraction of silver from formerly-discarded tailings. In subsequent years, first in the employ of others and later in his own practice, he obtained experience on mining fields all over the Far West. Having established a considerable reputation as a consulting engineer for accuracy and discriminating judgment, Janin acquired a growing list of clients including investors in Mexican properties and, in 1873, the Japanese government. His many skills and the breadth of his experience particularly attracted litigants in mining suits, who regularly employed Janin to ascertain the facts of the matter or provide corroborative testimony. Although afflicted in later life with a variety of ailments, Janin carried on with his work for some years and attained the profound respect of his peers. The three sons of his marriage to Elizabeth Marshall, Louis, Jr., Eugene, and Charles, chose their father's profession, carrying on the distinguished family name with their own careers.

Scope and Content
This collection contains 18 diaries of American mining engineer Louis Janin (1837-1914). The diaries contain descriptions of mines, notes of mine surveys, and accounts of trips to survey mines in California, Nevada, Japan, and Mexico. Five of the volumes deal with Janin's 1873 stay in Japan, and include details regarding the management of mines in Japan. The diaries also include some personal and family information.

- Charles Henry Janin Papers, 1858-1937. (Call number: mssJanin, Charles)
- Louis Janin Papers, 1859-1914. (Call number: mssHM 64294-64311)
- Janin Family Papers, 1735-1932. (Call number: mssJanin family)

Arrangement
The volumes are arranged chronologically.

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

**Subjects**
- Janin, Louis, 1837-1914 -- Archives.
- Mines and mineral resources -- California.
- Mines and mineral resources -- Japan.
- Mines and mineral resources -- Mexico.
- Mines and mineral resources -- Nevada.
- Mines and mineral resources -- West (U.S.)
- Mining engineering -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
- Mining engineers -- Archives.
- Japan -- Description and travel.
- Mexico -- Description and travel.

**Forms/Genres**
- Diaries -- West (U.S.).

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**Box 1**

**Diaries, 1863-1880 (HM 64294-64302)**

- HM 64294 Diary, Sonora (Mexico). 1863
- HM 64295 Diary. 1863-1864
- HM 64296 Diary. 1866
- HM 64297 Diary, Japan. 1873
- HM 64298 Diary, Japan. 1873 March-December
- HM 64299 Diary, Japan. 1873 May-August
- HM 64300 Diary, Japan. 1873 August-December
- HM 64301 Diary, Japan. 1873 November-December
- HM 64302 Diary. 1880

**Box 2**

**Diaries, 1881-1895 (HM 64303-64311)**

- HM 64303 Diary. 1881-1889
- HM 64304 Diary. 1884
- HM 64305 Diary. 1884-1885
- HM 64306 Diary, Placerville and Santa Barbara, California. 1885
- HM 64307 Diary, Baja, California (Mexico). 1886
- HM 64308 Diary, Baja, California (Mexico). 1886-1888
- HM 64309 Diary, Nevada and Mexico. 1887-1888
- HM 64310 Diary. 1889
- HM 64311 Diary. 1895