Thomas Nast Papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid re-keyed by Brooke M. Black, March 22, 2013.
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Overview of the Collection

Title: Thomas Nast Papers.
Bulk dates: 1860-1902.
Collection Number: mssHM 27714-27783
Creator: Nast, Thomas, 1840-1902.
Extent: 69 pieces in 1 box
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens. Manuscripts Department
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Abstract: This collection contains 69 letters of American cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) and his family, including letters from Nast written while covering the Heenan-Sayers prizefight and Giuseppe Garabaldi's military campaign in Sicily (1860); a tour of Pennsylvania Civil War battlefields in the summer of 1863; an 1872 trip to Washington, D.C.; his 1873 lecture tour; and from Guayaquil, Ecuador (1902).

Language: English.

Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. Thomas Nast Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance


Biographical Note

Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was a German-born American cartoonist. In 1861 he married Sarah Edwards of New York; the family lived first and New York and later in Morristown, New Jersey. Nast contributed drawings to Frank Leslie's illustrated newspaper, the New York Illustrated News (for which he covered the Heenan-Sayers fight of 1860 and Garibaldi's campaign), and Harper's Weekly (in which appeared Nast's Civil War drawings, and later political cartoons). In 1902 Nast was appointed consul at Guayaquil, Ecuador, where he died of yellow fever on December 7, 1902.

- Letters to Thomas Nast (Call number: mssHM 15520-15534)
- Thomas Nast Scrapbook of drawings, etc. related to the Heenan Sayers heavyweight fight, 1860 (Call number: mssHM 46703)
- Thomas Nast drawing and signature (1878 January 3) on page 20 of autograph album (Box 1) in John Anson Ford Papers. (Call number: mssFord papers)

Scope and Content

Collection of letters of American cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) and his family -- his wife, Sarah Edwards Nast, and his son Thomas Nast, Jr. There are twenty five letters by Thomas Nast, chiefly addressed to his wife, written during his trips to England and Italy to cover the Heenan-Sayers prizefight and Giuseppe Garabaldi’s military campaign in Sicily (1860), (this group also includes six letters addressed to William Luson Thomas, 1830-1900), the tour of Pennsylvania battlefields in the summer of 1863, the trip to Washington in the beginning of 1872, his 1873 lecture tour, and from Guayaquil, Ecuador (1902). Also included are three letters from Sarah Edwards Nast to her husband (1859 and 1869). There is also a copy (in the hand of Mrs. Nast) of a satire of Andrew Johnson (“So sayeth King Andy Johnson”), perhaps a caption to a political cartoon.
The rest of the collection are letters of condolence and official correspondence dealing with Thomas Nast's death and settling of his accounts. Correspondents include Herbert Henry Davis Peirce and Theodore Roosevelt. Selected Nast's letters were published by Albert Bigelow Paine in his Th. Nast: his period and his pictures (New York: Macmillan; London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1904).

**Arrangement**
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**
- Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875 -- Humor.
- Nast, Thomas, 1840-1902 -- Archives.
- Garibaldi, Giuseppe, 1807-1882.
- United States. Consulat (Guayaquil, Ecuador)
- Artists -- United States -- Correspondence.
- Cartoonists -- United States -- Correspondence.
- Consuls -- United States -- Correspondence.
- German Americans -- Correspondence.
- Journalists -- United States -- Correspondence.
- Ecuador -- Description and travel.
- Italy -- History -- 1815-1870 -- Sources.
- London (England) -- Description and travel.
- Pennsylvania -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives.
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives.
- Washington (D.C.) -- Description and travel.

**Forms/Genres**
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century.

**Additional Contributors**
- Nast, Sarah Edwards.
- Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.
- Thomas, William Luson, 1830-1900, correspondent.

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**Box 1**
**Correspondence**

### 1851-1859.

- **1851, Mar. 6. Hurd, John R.. Circular letter to Chairman of Sections, N.Y. Public Schools.** Printed circular, with extract from minutes of Executive Committee re: distribution of medals in schools and 10 replies with the circular. HM 27717-HM 27729
- **1853, Dec. 27. Wood, Fernando. To H. I Redfield.** Letter of recommendation on behalf of John A. Kyle. HM 27783
- **Approximately 1859. Nast, Sarah Edwards. To Thomas Nast.** New York. HM 27769
- **Approximately 1859. Nast, Sarah Edwards and Edwards, Eliza. To Thomas Nast.** New York. HM 27771

**London / Garibaldi's Campaign.**
Correspondence.

London / Garibaldi's Campaign.

1860, Aug. 28. Nast, Thomas. To William Luson Thomas. Mouteleone, Italy. HM 27742

The Civil War (1863).


Reconstruction.


Ecuador.


Death of Thomas Nast.

1902, Dec. 10. Ashton, Georgia. To Sarah Edwards Nast. Published, in part in Albert Bigelow Paine, Thomas Nast: His Period and his Pictures (p. 574). HM 27714

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Correspondence.
Death of Thomas Nast.

1902, Dec. 15. Peirce, Herbert Henry Davis. To Thomas Nast, Jr.. Washington, D.C. Also: translated copy of the letter from Minister of Ecuador to U.S. Secretary of State re: death of Thomas Nast. HM 27773-27774
1903, Jan. 31 - Apr. 29. United States. Treasury Dept.. To Sarah Edwards Nast. 4 L.S. HM 27779-27782
1903, Apr. 22. Nast, Thomas, Jr.. To U. S. Treasury Department. Typescript. Re: settlement of the account of Thomas Nast. HM 27768