John Wesley Vandevort collection

Finding aid prepared by Gina C Giang.
The Huntington Library
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Descriptive Summary
Title: John Wesley Vandevort collection
Inclusive Dates: 1865-1898
Collection Number: mssVandevort
Collector: Vandevort, John Wesley, 1837-
Extent: 13 boxes (5.42 linear feet)
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
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San Marino, California 91108
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Abstract: The collection consists chiefly of letters, with some manuscripts and documents related to John Wesley Vandevort and his Pittsburgh holdings in the steel industry.
Language of Material: The material is in English.
Access
The collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to the following web site.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Acquisition Information
Gift of D.V. Bell, 1949.
Processing Information
Collection was roughly organized by Huntington staff sometime after 1949. In June 2019, Gina C Giang re-housed the collection, created a finding aid, and added the financial records (boxes 12 and 13), which had previously been separated and handled as ephemera.
Biography
John Wesley Vandevort (1837-circa 1898) was a native of Pittsburgh and an associate of Andrew Carnegie in the firm of Carnegie and Kloman. In 1885 he moved to Pasadena, California, for his health, and in addition to his continuing interests in the iron and steel industries, he participated in Pasadena social and civic affairs and San Diego real estate projects.
Scope and Content
The collection consists chiefly of letters, with some manuscripts and documents related to John Wesley Vandevort and his Pittsburgh holdings in the steel industry. There are also seven diaries related to Vandevort's tours of Europe and a 1878-1879 trip around the world with Andrew Carnegie (2 pocket diaries). Correspondents in the collection include: Henry Phipps (102 letters) and Andrew Carnegie and/or his wife Louise (8 letters). The collection also has a letterbook containing typewritten letters of an 1865 European tour by John Hallen Franks and thirty-six letters addressed to John Wesley Vandevort's brother, Robert T. Vandevort. There are also materials about the Johnstown Flood of 1889. Included are financial records such as accounts, bills, receipts, and statements.
Personal Names
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919.
Phipps, Henry, 1839-1930.
Franks, John Hallen.
Vandevort, John Wesley, 1837-
Vandevort, Robert T., correspondent.
Subjects
Floods -- Pennsylvania -- Johnstown (Cambria County).
Industrialists -- United States -- Correspondence.
Iron industry and trade -- Pennsylvania -- Pittsburgh -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
Steel industry and trade -- Pennsylvania -- Pittsburgh -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
Voyages around the world -- Diaries.

Geographic Areas
Europe -- Description and travel.
Pasadena (Calif.) -- Social life and customs.
Pittsburgh (Pa.) -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.

Genre
Business records -- Pennsylvania -- 19th century.
Diaries -- United States -- 19th century.
Financial records -- United States -- 19th century.
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- 19th century.
Personal papers -- United States -- 19th century.

Alternate Authors
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919.
Carnegie, Louise Whitfield.
Franks, John Hallen.
Phipps, Henry, 1839-1930.
Vandevort, Robert T., correspondent.

Correspondence to John W. Vandevort
Box 1 A-C
Box 2 C-F
Box 3 G-K
Box 4 L-O
Box 5 P
Box 6 Q-V
Box 7 W-Z
Box 8

Ledgers and letterbooks, 1865-1897
Box 9

Notebooks and business papers, 1866-1895
Box 10

Printed pieces and ephemera, approximately 1870-1895
Box 11

Correspondence: Robert Vandevort, Henry Phipps, and others
Includes John Hallen Franks letterbook.

Financial records
Box 12 1885-1891
Financial records

Box 13

1892-1896, undated