Guide to the Thomas Vincent Cator Papers, 1881-1941

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Collection number: M032

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Descriptive Summary

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Date (inclusive): 1881-1941
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Creator: Cator, Thomas Vincent
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Repository: Stanford University. Libraries. Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives.
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BIOGRAPHY

Thomas Vincent Cator was born in Roxbury, New York on July 18, 1851. He spent his early years on a farm, attending the local academy when possible. After having taught school at the age of seventeen, Cator attended Cornell University. Upon graduation he entered a New York law firm and soon developed political interests. In 1880 Cator established residence in Jersey City and held an alderman's office for two years.

Having been bothered with malaria fever for some time, Cator journeyed to San Francisco, California in 1887. It was not long until he was involved in politics again, and in 1889, Cator married Miss Ethel Chapman.
Politically, Cator was at one time or another an Anti-Monopolist, a Republican, a Democrat, a Prohibitionist, a Nationalist, and a Populist. His most significant political contribution was as the leader of the Populist Party in California from 1890 until its dissolution in 1898. Cator ran for the U.S. Senate on the Populist ticket in 1892, 1894, and 1896, unsuccessfully in each effort. In 1901 he was appointed to the Elections Commission of the city of San Francisco and he served until his death, most of the time as president of the commission. He died on Sept. [19], 1920 of a heart attack.

SCOPE AND CONTENT
The Cator Papers are largely the correspondence received by Vincent Cator at the time of his involvement in the People's Party and afterwards, 1883-1915. Included in the collection are 16 letters written by Cator on various political subjects from 1894-1915. In addition, there are several papers of a legal nature and a biography written by Harold F. Taggart. There are also newspaper clippings of Cator's activities.

Of primary interest is the correspondence concerning Cator's relationship with the Populist Movement in California and New Jersey, and Cator's position on such issues as government ownership of railroads, free silver, anti-monopoly, and women's suffrage.

SERIES I: CORRESPONDENCE, 1882-1941

OUTGOING, 1893-1915
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Dec. 1, 1893-Dec. 27, 1915

INCOMING, 1882-1918
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Barlow, C.A., 1892-1898
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Barry, Irwin - Butler, Marion, 1883-1912
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Cain, Dr. J.H. - Cook, 1883-1896
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Cornell, Burdette - Donnelly, Ignatius, 1892-1910
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Dore, John S., Aug. 7, 1892-Dec. 31, 1892
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Dore, John S., Jan. 2, 1893-Apr. 12, 1896
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Drake, Herbert A. - Gilbert, J.L., 1881-1898
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Gillespie, George D. - Landrum, Mark, 1886-1917
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Lawlor, William D. - Norman, W.D., 1882-1911
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Perkins, George - Southern Pacific Co.[William Sproule], 1883-1918
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Van Dervoort, Paul - Vogelsarge, Charles A., 1883-1913
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Wardall, E.M., 1893-1898
Box 2, Folder 3
Wayland, James A. - World, The, 1884-1898

RELATED, 1892-1941
Box 2, Folder 4
Baker, G.W. - Wilson, [H.C.7], 1892-1941

SERIES II: SECONDARY SOURCE MATERIALS, 1881-CA, 1941

Box 2, Folder 5
Legal documents, 1892-1898
Box 2, Folder 6
Newscummings, Sept. 22, 1874-Apr. 22, 1887
Box 2, Folder 7
Newsculings, 1889-Dec. 17, 1893
Box 2, Folder 8
Newscnings, Feb., 1894-Dec. 8, 1895
Box 2, Folder 9
Box 2, Folder 10
Newsclings, Jan. 7, 1897-Jan. 11, 1934
Box 2, Folder 11
Newsclings, n. d.
Box 2, Folder 12
Printed matter on which Cator's name appears as author or participant, 1881-1897, and n.d.
Box 2, Folder 13
Other printed matter, 1881-1896, and n.d.
Box 2, Folder 14
Biography of Thomas Vincent Cator, by Harold Taggart, ca. 1941