Finding Aid for the Townsend Harris Papers, 1855-1892

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Finding Aid for the Townsend Harris Papers, 1855-1892

Collection number: 839

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
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Contact Information
Manuscripts Division
UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
Telephone: 310/825-4988 (10:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pacific Time)
Email: spec-coll@library.ucla.edu
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Processed by:
David MacGill, November 1992
Encoded by:
Caroline Cubé
Online finding aid edited by:
Josh Fiala, July 2002

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Townsend Harris Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1855-1892
Collection number: 839
Creator: Harris, Townsend, 1804-1878
Extent: 1 oversize box
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Townsend Harris (1804-1878) was born in Sandy Hill, New York. In 1855, he was appointed U.S. Consul General to Japan. He negotiated commercial treaties with Siam in 1857 and Japan in 1858. After the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, he resigned and returned to New York City. The collection consists of a microfilm copy of the original journal and letters of Townsend Harris, the first U.S. Consul to Japan, from the original manuscript at the College of the City of New York.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Biography
Harris was born October 3, 1804 in Sandy Hill, New York; at age 13 started work at a dry goods store in New York City; joined his father and brother in business importing china; elected as a Democrat to the Board of Education in 1846, where he successfully led the fight for a free college which later became the College of the City of New York; purchased a trading ship, sailed to California, and undertook voyages in the Pacific and Indian Oceans which ended in financial disaster; in 1855 he was appointed U.S. Consul General to Japan; negotiated commercial treaties with Siam in 1857 and Japan in 1858; after the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, he resigned, returned to New York City, became a War Democrat, and joined the Union League Club; spent his remaining years concerned with temperance, Christian missions, and foreign affairs; he died on February 25, 1878.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of a microfilm copy of the original journal and letters of Townsend Harris, the first U.S. Consul to Japan, from the original manuscript at the College of the City of New York.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Harris, Townsend, 1804-1878--Archives.
Consuls--United States--Archival resources.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Japan.
Journals (accounts).
Microfilms.

Papers, 1855-1892
Physical Description: (1 box, microfilm [positive], 3 reels)