Finding Aid of the Clayonian Literary Society Lecture Committee records 0101

Finding aid prepared by Jacqueline Morin, Sue Luftschein
USC Libraries Special Collections
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2014 April
**Title:** Clayonian Literary Society Lecture Committee records  
**Collection number:** 0101  
**Contributing Institution:** USC Libraries Special Collections  
**Language of Material:** English  
**Physical Description:** 1.25 Linear feet3 boxes  
**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1865-1896  
**Date (inclusive):** 1865-1937  
**Abstract:** The Clayonian Literary Society was charged with inviting notable persons of the day to speak at its meetings. George Long Hutchings, a banker, was chairman of the Clayonian Society of Newark, New Jersey at least until 1871. Some of the club’s speakers included G. W. Curtis, Anna E. Dickinson, Bret Harte, and Frederick Douglass, among many other authors, musicians, actors, abolitionists, and activists. The collection is comprised of “acceptance” as well as “rejection” letters of the luminaries who were invited to address the literary society, as well as many signed receipts.  
**creator:** Barnabee, Henry Clay, 1833-1917  
**creator:** Barton, Clara, 1821-1912  
**creator:** Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887  
**creator:** Clayonian Literary Society.  
**creator:** Curtis, George William, 1824-1892  
**creator:** Cushman, Charlotte, 1816-1876  
**creator:** Dickinson, Anna E., (Anna Elizabeth), 1842-1932  
**creator:** Dougherty, Daniel, 1826-1892  
**creator:** Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895  
**creator:** Gough, John B., (John Bartholomew), 1817-1886  
**creator:** Hutchings, George Long  
**creator:** Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884  
**creator:** Taylor, Bayard, 1825-1878  
**Preferred Citation**  
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**Conditions Governing Access**  
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**Acquisition**  
**Scope and Content**  
The Clayonian Literary Society Lecture Committee records consists of letters, receipts, and a small amount of ephemera. The bulk of the letters is addressed to George R. Hutchings. Represented in the letters are responses from authors and speakers regarding dates and locations of speaking engagements, as well as fees. Persons of note include Clara Barton, George William Curtis, Anna E. Dickinson, Bayard Taylor, and Wendell Phillips, among many other authors, musicians, actors, abolitionists, and activists. The collection also includes Hutchings’ personal and business letters and ephemera.  
**Historical and Biographical Note**  
The Clayonian Literary Society was founded in Newark, New Jersey in 1861. It’s mission was “the improvement, mental, social and moral, of its members, especially the cultivation of the intellectual faculties, by Composition, Debate, and other literary exercises” (“Constitution and by-laws”, 1867). This was achieved through weekly meetings held from October 1st through July 1st, in which members presented essays, heard invited speakers, and held critical debates. George Long Hutchings, to whom the bulk of the correspondence is addressed, was the chairman for a number of years of the Society. A New York banker who later continued his career in East Orange, New Jersey, Hutchings was born in 1845 in London, England while his parents were travelling en route from India where they had been serving as missionaries. Little else is
known about Hutchings except that which was provided in a brief New York Times obituary also included in the collection. Married three times, he had a son, Dewitt Hutchings, who married Allis Miller and they lived in the Glenwood Hotel (later called the Mission Inn) in Riverside, California. The inn had been founded by Allis’s parents, Frank and Isabella Miller; several generations of Millers ran the hotel until 1956 when the children of Allis and Dewitt Hutchings sold the inn shortly after their death. Jeanne Hutchings, the widow of Allis and Dewitt’s son, Frank, is the source of the collection.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Barnabee, Henry Clay, 1833-1917 -- Correspondence
- Barton, Clara, 1821-1912 -- Correspondence
- Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887 -- Correspondence
- Clayonian Literary Society. -- Correspondence
- Curtis, George William, 1824-1892 -- Correspondence
- Cushman, Charlotte, 1816-1876 -- Correspondence
- Dickinson, Anna E., (Anna Elizabeth), 1842-1932 -- Archives
- Dougherty, Daniel, 1826-1892 -- Correspondence
- Douglass, Frederick, 1818-1895 -- Correspondence
- Gough, John B., (John Bartholomew), 1817-1886 -- Correspondence
- Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884 -- Correspondence
- Taylor, Bayard, 1825-1878 -- Correspondence
- Ephemera
- Letters
- Literature--Societies, etc.--19th century--Archival resources
- Newark (N.J.)--Intellectual life--19th century--Archival resources
- Newark (N.J.)--Social life and customs--19th century--Archival resources
- Receipts (financial records)

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**Box 1, Folder 1**

**Barnabee, Henry Clay 1871-1872**

*Physical Description:* 6 letters.

**Box 1, Folder 2**

**Barton, Clara 1866**

*Physical Description:* 3 letters; 1 receipt signed by Barton.

**Box 1, Folder 3**

**Beecher, Rev. Henry Ward 1866 December**

*Scope and Content*

Letter confirming lecture by Rev. Beecher sent by his wife; original payment check.

**Box 1, Folder 4**

**Billings, Josh 1878 September 19**

*Scope and Content*
Receipt inscribed: “Good for ninety days/Josh Billings”.

Box 1, Folder 5

**Brewster, W.B. undated**

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 6

**Brown, Solomon G. 1865 December 6**

Physical Description: Signed payment receipt.

Box 1, Folder 7

**Chase, Salmon P. 1870 September 24**

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 8

**Colfax, Schuyler 1868, 1869**

Physical Description: 2 letters, 1 letter fragment.

Box 1, Folder 9-10

**Curtis, George William 1866-1867, 1870-1873**

Physical Description: 21 letters; 1 letter fragment.

Box 1, Folder 11

**Cushman, Charlotte 1892, 1893**

Physical Description: 2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 12

**De Cordova, Jacob 1865 December 27**

Physical Description: Signed payment receipt.

Box 1, Folder 13-14

**Dickinson, Anna E. 1866-1869, 1871**

Physical Description: 23 letters, 2 signed payment receipts.
Box 1, Folder 15

Dolly, George 1869? November 7

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 16

Dougherty, Daniel 1872

Physical Description: 2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 17

Douglass, Frederick 1866

Physical Description: 2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 18

Gallaher, H.M., Reverend 1866 February 19

Physical Description: 1 signed payment receipt.

Box 1, Folder 19

Gilmore, P.S. 1870 September 19

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 20

Gough, John B. 1866-1867, 1870, 1873, 1876, undated

Physical Description: 7 letters, 3 signed payment receipts.

Box 1, Folder 21

Halpine, Charles G. 1866 June 22

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 22

Harte, Bret 1873 January 15

Physical Description: 1 signed payment receipt.
Box 1, Folder 23

Hitchcock, Roswell D. 1865 August 22

Physical Description: 1 letter, 1 signed payment receipt.

Box 1, Folder 24

Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Physical Description: 2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 25

Kellogg, Clara Louise 1870 February 12

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 26

Logan, John A. 1866 August 14

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 27

Logan, Olive 1891 August 9

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 1, Folder 28

Merwin, James Burtis 1866 March 15

Physical Description: 1 signed payment receipt.

Box 1, Folder 29

Morton, Henry 1866, 1870

Physical Description: 4 letters.

Box 2, Folder 1

Phillips, Wendell 1867-1868, 1871, undated

Scope and Content

21 letters, 1 signed payment receipt. Includes one letter to Phillips from Isaiah Peckham writing on behalf of the Newark Baptist Church Music Committee.
Box 2, Folder 2

Roberts, Charles 1870 October 28

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 2, Folder 3

Rockefeller, John D. undated

Box 2, Folder 4

Schenck, Noah Hunt 1866, 1888, undated

Physical Description: 3 letters.

Box 2, Folder 5

Seward, William Henry 1866 January 12

Physical Description: 1 letter.

Box 2, Folder 6

Storrs, Richard S. 1866, undated

Physical Description: 1 letter, 1 signed payment receipt.

Box 2, Folder 7

Taylor, Bayard 1865-1868

Physical Description: 10 letters, 2 signed payment receipts.

Box 2, Folder 8

White, Charles L. 1865?

Physical Description: 2 letters.

Box 2, Folder 9

Willits, A.A. 1865

Physical Description: 2 letters.

George L. Hutchings

Box 2, Folder 10

Biographical Material-- G.L. Hutchings

Box 2, Folder 11

Hutchings Family History Information

Box 2, Folder 12

New Jersey Society of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America 1896
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 13</th>
<th><strong>Hutchings business and personal correspondence 1869, 1886, 1887, 1896</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 14</td>
<td><strong>Ephemera--Bookplates</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 15</td>
<td><strong>Ephemera--Miscellaneous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blank stationery from Everett Realty Co., addressed envelopes (without contents), and a few letters with indecipherable signatures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
<td><strong>Ephemera--Tax Receipt 1867</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>