

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Bancroft, George, Papers, 1819-1901

Location:

Mss. boxes "B"
Oversize boxes "B"

Size of collection:

2 mss. boxes
1 oversize folder (1 item)

N.U.C.M.C. number:

75-1889

RLIN id: MAAR91-A144

Sources of information on collection:

For a biographical sketch of Bancroft, see Dictionary of American Biography, I, pp. 564-570.

Source of collection:

Bancroft letters gift of Horace Davis, 1901; Catalog of printed books in Bancroft's personal library gift of Victor Paltsits; 2 March 1853 letter to Fanny[?] gift of Mrs. Philip Thayer, 1989

Collection description:

George Bancroft (1800-1891), historian and diplomat, was the son of Aaron Bancroft (1755-1839) and Lucretia Chandler Bancroft (1765-1839).

This collection includes approximately one hundred letters written over a seventy year span from 1819 to 1889, and six hundred sixty-four folio sheets on which are pasted typewritten slips describing the books which comprised Bancroft's personal library.

The letters for the period 1819 to 1822, written from Europe, are (like almost all the letters) addressed to his family and outline his study for a Ph.D. at Gottingen, his travels, and observations about European life and customs. There are nineteen letters written in this period from Gottingen, Hamburg, Prague, Berlin, Heidelberg, Paris, Rome, and Marseilles.

The letters for the period 1823 to 1863 were addressed chiefly to his sister, Eliza Bancroft (1791-1872), who married John Davis (1787-1854), Governor of Massachusetts and U.S. Senator. These letters range from discussions on Bancroft's association with Joseph Green Cogswell (1786-1871) at Round Hill School in Northampton, Mass., to his tenure as American Minister to England, 1846-1849, to his preoccupation with details of the publication and distribution of his books.

The letters for the period 1867 to 1889 consider generally his

observations and reflections on events in Europe while Minister to Germany, 1867-1874. Of particular interest are his letters from Berlin in the period 1869-1871. Many of these letters are addressed to his niece by marriage, Frederica King Davis, Mrs. John Chandler Bancroft Davis.

The oversize folder contains a letter dated from Paris, 19 July 1821 from Bancroft to his sister Jane Putnam Bancroft (1798-1839).

Only the correspondence in this collection has been catalogued.

See Contents List.

10 September 1973
revised 21 July 1998

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Contents List

Manuscript Box One

Folder1	Correspondence, undated; 1818-1863
Folder2	Correspondence, 1864-1889
Folder3	Materials relating to George Bancroft (not cataloged)
Folder4	Catalog of the printed books, etc. ... A - F

Manuscript Box Two

Folder1	Catalog of the printed books, etc. ... G - O
Folder2	Catalog of the printed books, etc. ... P - Z