Guide to the John Hays Hammond, Sr. Papers

MS 259

compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

July 1982

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 259

CREATOR: Hammond, John Hays, 1855-1936

TITLE: John Hays Hammond Sr. papers

DATES: 1893–1936

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 10 linear feet (16 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence and printed material concerning the business affairs of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, the economic development of South Africa, and the Jameson Raid; together with articles and speeches (1893-1934) relating to Hammond’s activities as a speechmaker in behalf of the Republican Party, organizer of the National League of Republican Clubs, special ambassador and representative of President William Howard Taft to the coronation of George V, king of Great Britain, and vice-president of the Boys’ Clubs of America. Includes photostatic copies from the papers of Richard Olney, concerning Hammond’s part in the Jameson Raid. Also included is a two volume set, The Autobiography of John Hays Hammond. Photographs of Hammond and his home are included in the papers.

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Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:
b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
John Hays Hammond, Sr. Papers (MS 259). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical
Born March 31, 1855, in San Francisco, California.
Died June 8, 1936, in Gloucester, Massachusetts.
Father, Richard Pindell Hammond (U. S. Military Academy 1841), Major U.S. Army; chairman of police commissioners of San Francisco; collector of Port of San Francisco; president San Francisco Board of Education; son of Dr. William Hammond and Mary (Tilghman) Hammond, of Hagerstown, Maryland. Mother, Sarah Elizabeth (Hays) Hammond; daughter of Harmon and Elizabeth (Cage) Hays, of Tennessee.
Hopkins Grammar School. Select course; on Class Supper Committee Freshman year; secretary Yale Athletic Club Senior year; member The Cloister and Book Snake.
Attended Royal School of Mines, Freiberg, Germany, 1876-1879; special expert U. S. Geological Survey 1879-1880; mining expert with office in San Francisco 1881-1882; superintendent Minas Nevas, near Sonora, Mexico, 1882-1883; consulting engineer, mining department Union Iron Works, San Francisco, 1884-1993; and Central Pacific Railway and Southern Pacific Railway; consulting engineer for Barnato Brothers in Transvaal, South Africa, April-October, 1893, for Cecil Rhodes 1894-1899, for Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa 1894-1899, British South Africa Company 1894-1899; had independent office as consulting engineer in London, England, 1896-1900; consulting engineer El Oro gold mines in Mexico 1900; general manager and consulting engineer Guggenheim Exploration Company 1903-1907; engaged in mining engineering and other purchase and promotion of mines, hydroelectric, and irrigation projects since 1907; chairman Engineers Exploration and Mining Corporation since 1933; professor of mining engineering at Yale 1902-1909; chairman United States Coal Commission 1922-1923; chairman New England Governors’ Emergency Fuel Committee 1925; honorary M. A. Yale 1898 and LL. D. 1925; D. E. Stevens Institute of Technology 1906; LL. D. St. John’s College (Maryland) 1907; E. M. Colorado School of Mines 1909; Sc. D. University of Pittsburgh 1915; Eng. D. University of Pennsylvania 1928; LL. D. Colby 1936 (conferred posthumously); author: The Truth About the Jameson Raid (1918), Great American Issues (1921), The Engineer (1921), and Autobiography(1935); special representative of the President of the United States at
coronation of George V of England 1911; chairman International Congress of Mines and Metallurgy at St. Louis Exposition 1904, World Court Commission 1914-1915, and department on political education, National Civic Federation, since 1908; president American Institute of Mining Engineers 1907-1908; National League of Republican Clubs 1908-1912; and California Society of New York; headed special commission of Panama-Pacific Exposition to Europe 1912; vice president Boy's Clubs of America, Inc.; since 1919; gave money for land, building, and original equipment for Hammond Metallurgical Laboratory, Yale University, 1903; established a loan fund for deserving students of the Sheffield Scientific School 1904; established Hammond Scholarship for student from Mexico 1923; member American Committee of International Chamber of Commerce; honorary member of American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (received William Lawrence Saunders Medal 1929), and American Society of Mechanical Engineers; fellow of American Academy of Arts and Sciences and American Academy for the Advancement of Science.

Married January 1, 1881, in Hancock, Maryland, Natalie, daughter of James W. M. and Mary C. (Lum) Harris, of Mississippi. Children Harris, ex-’06 S.; John Hays, ’10 S.; Richard Pindell, ’20S.; Nathaniel Harris (died 1906); and Natalie. Mrs. Hammond died June 18, 1931.


(Taken from the Yale Obituary Record)

Scope and Contents

The papers of mining engineer John Hays Hammond (1855-1936) include correspondence, letter books, and printed material (1893-1936) concerning the economic development of South Africa and the Jameson Raid, and articles and speeches (1893-1934).

Hammond’s experiences, related in vivid detail in his two-volume autobiography published in 1935, were dramatic and adventurous enough to inspire the writing of Richard Harding Davis’ Soldiers of Fortune, which was published in 1897. Before the age of forty, Hammond had amassed a sizable fortune. His almost uncanny talent for discovering and developing a good prospect was internationally recognized, and in 1893 Barney Barnato persuaded him to manage his mining interests in South Africa. Soon after, Hammond was employed by Cecil Rhodes, whom he came to admire greatly. An early advocate of deep-level mining, Hammond was given complete charge of Rhodes’ gold and diamond mines and made each undertaking a financial success. After the dismal failure of the Jameson Raid, the leaders of the Johannesburg Reform Committee, including Hammond, were arrested and subsequently sentenced to death. In the collection are many letters, and photostatic copies of the papers of Richard Olney, petitioning for his release. The bulk of the correspondence, however, pertains to business affairs of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa.

In 1903, Hammond became consulting engineer for the Guggenheim Exploration Company, sharing in the profits of their North American mines. After his retirement in 1907, he engaged actively in public and philanthropic affairs. Hammond (Yale, 1876) had known Taft since his student days, and although he did not accept any of the political posts offered him by the president, he delivered numerous speeches for the Republican Party. In 1911, he was appointed Special Ambassador and Representative of the President to the Coronation of George V. The peace movement attracted him; Hammond served as president of the American Society for the Judicial Settlement of International Disputes in 1911 and organized the World Court League in 1915. Above all, he was interested in the education and training of young people. Largely out of his own funds, he reorganized the National League of Republican Clubs. Hammond was a professor of mechanical engineering at Yale from 1902 to 1909 and donated funds for the Hammond Metallurgical Laboratory. As vice-president of the Boys’ Clubs of America, he worked to promote the founding of new clubs. His generous efforts in these and other areas are fully described in the Articles and Speeches section.

Additional Hammond material is located in the Papers of Edward M. House and Henry L. Stimson, and in the Howell Wright Collection.
Arrangement

The collection is arranged by type of material.
## Collection Contents

### Inventory

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correspondence</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1-14</td>
<td>1893–1896 February</td>
<td>1893–1896 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 1-7</td>
<td>1911–1936, undated</td>
<td>1911–1936, undated</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Private letter books</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 8-9</td>
<td>1893–1895</td>
<td>1893–1895</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 4, f. 1-2</td>
<td>1896–1897 October 29</td>
<td>1896–1897 October 29</td>
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<td>b. 5, f. 1</td>
<td>1899</td>
<td>1899</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 2</td>
<td>Letter book of Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Ltd.</td>
<td>1896–1897</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles and speeches</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 1-9</td>
<td>1893–1914</td>
<td>1893–1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8, f. 1-9</td>
<td>1917–1925</td>
<td>1917–1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 9, f. 1-10</td>
<td>1926–1934, undated</td>
<td>1926–1934, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 1-2</td>
<td>1911–1921</td>
<td>1911–1921</td>
</tr>
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<td>b. 11A, f. 1-2</td>
<td>1925–1929</td>
<td>1925–1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 1-4</td>
<td>1930–1932, undated</td>
<td>1930–1932, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 5</td>
<td>Autobiographical material</td>
<td>1912, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 6</td>
<td>Biographical material</td>
<td>1848, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes <em>Jack Hays: The Intrepid Texas Ranger</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 7-9</td>
<td>Biographical material</td>
<td>1905, 1908, 1918, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 10</td>
<td>Articles about John Hays Hammond</td>
<td>1910–1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12A, f. 1</td>
<td>Anecdotes and jokes by unidentified author</td>
<td>Undated</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Memorabilia
- **b. 12A, f. 2**: Memorabilia
  - Date: 1931, undated

### Photographs
- **b. 12A, f. 3-4**: Includes portrait size images of Hammond, as well as stereoscopic photographs presumably of Hammond’s home.
  - Date: 1942, undated

### Printed Material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 1</td>
<td>Boer people and General Cronje</td>
<td>Undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 2-3</td>
<td>Jameson Raid</td>
<td>1897</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 4</td>
<td>Johannesburg travel book</td>
<td>1926</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 5</td>
<td><em>Returns of an Informal Census, Southern Rhodesia</em></td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 6</td>
<td><em>Rhodesia, by P. S. Inskipp</em></td>
<td>1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 7</td>
<td>Select Committee on British South Africa</td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 8</td>
<td><em>Statements of Charles Leonard on the Position of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal, and appendices</em></td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 9</td>
<td>Supplement, <em>African Critic</em>, re Charles Leonard’s statements, 1897</td>
<td>1897</td>
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<td>b. 13, f. 10</td>
<td><em>Status of the Uitlander: A Lecture</em>, by Advocate Wessels</td>
<td>1894</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 11</td>
<td><em>The Work of Cecil Rhodes, A Sonnet Sequel</em>, by Theodore Watts-Dunton</td>
<td>Undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 13, f. 12</td>
<td>News clippings re South Africa</td>
<td>1895–1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 14, f. 1</td>
<td><em>South African Republic</em></td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 14, f. 1</td>
<td><em>Standard &amp; Diggers News</em></td>
<td>1896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Newspaper
- **f. 14, f. 1**: *South African Republic* | 1896

### Publications by John Hays Hammond
- **b. 13, f. 13**: Bound volume of magazine/journal articles | 1921–1926
- **b. 13, f. 13**: *The Engineer, Vocational Series Charles Scribner’s Sons* | 1924
Accession 1983-M-016. Additional material

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Engineering
Gold mines and mining -- South Africa
Jameson’s Raid, 1895-1896
Mines and mineral resources

Geographic Names
Africa
South Africa -- Economic conditions
South Africa -- History -- 1836-1909
United States -- Foreign relations
United States -- Politics and government

Genres / Formats
Autobiographies (documents)

Occupations
Mining engineers

Names
Davis, Richard Harding, 1864-1916
Díaz, Porfirio, 1830-1915
Edison, Thomas A. (Thomas Alva), 1847-1931
Eliot, Charles William, 1834-1926
Hammond, John Hays, 1855-1936
Hilles, Charles Dewey, 1867-1949
Olney, Richard, 1835-1917
Sullivan, Mark, 1874-1952
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930

Corporate Bodies
 Consolidated Gold Fields Limited
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )
Yale University -- Faculty
Yale University. Sheffield Scientific School