

Guide to the Alexis de Tocqueville Papers

GEN MSS 2099



by Brooke McManus

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 2099

CREATOR: Tocqueville, Alexis de, 1805-1859

TITLE: Alexis de Tocqueville papers

DATES: 1832-1895

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.59 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to French author and politician Alexis de Tocqueville, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.tocqueville>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.tocqueville>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

A number of separate accessions received by the library through 2008 combine to make up the Alexis de Tocqueville Papers. Source information is recorded in the finding aid.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research

Conditions Governing Use

The Alexis de Tocqueville Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Alexis de Tocqueville Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Processing Information

Former call numbers: Uncat MS Vault 654, Uncat MSS 324, Uncat MSS 1138, Uncat MS Vault File

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Various acquisitions associated with the collection have not been merged and organized as a whole. Each acquisition is described separately in the contents list below, identified by a unique call number and titled according to month and year of acquisition.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Most folder titles appearing in the contents list below were transcribed from the recto or verso of the artwork. Otherwise, folder titles were supplied by staff during processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)

Alexis de Tocqueville was a French politician and author best known for *Democracy in America* (1835, 1840).

Scope and Contents

This finding aid encompasses accessions of single manuscripts and small groups of manuscripts and other papers, by or pertaining to French author and politician Alexis de Tocqueville, which the library has chosen to group and list as an artificial collection.

The collection primarily consists of letters from or to Tocqueville. Correspondents include John Quincy Adams, George Bancroft, Edward Everett, Léonard Faucher, Émile de Girardin, Michel Lévy, William H. Prescott, Jeanne Françoise Julie Adélaïde Bernard Récamier, Jean-Charles Rivet, Theodore Sedgwick, Jared Sparks, Charles Sumner, George Sumner, and others. Also included is a small amount of material related to Tocqueville's father Hervé de Tocqueville and brother Hippolyte des Tocqueville, and a letter book of British economist Nassau William Senior.

Collection Contents

Series I: September 1990 Acquisition, 1845 July 26

Purchased from Michel Brisebois Libraire on the Louis Mayer Rabinowitz Memorial Fund, 1990.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

| | | |
|------------|---|--------------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Tocqueville, Hippolyte de. Autograph letter, signed, to the President de la Commission des Tabacs | 1845 July 26 |
|------------|---|--------------|

Series II: February 1992 Acquisition, 1847–1868

Purchased from Autographes on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1992.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault 654

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

| | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|
| b. 1, f. 2-4 | Tocqueville, Alexis de. Thirty autograph letters, signed, to Jean-Charles Rivet | 1847–1858 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | Ampère, J.-J. (Jean Jacques). Nine autograph letters, signed, to Jean-Charles Rivet | 1856–1863 |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Corcelle, Francisque de. Autograph letter, signed, to Jean-Charles Rivet | 1857 |
| b. 1, f. 7 | Lanjuinais, Victor. Ten autograph letters, signed, to Jean-Charles Rivet | 1847–1868 |

Series III: July 1996 Acquisition, undated

Purchased from Maggs Brothers Ltd. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1996.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

| | | |
|------------|---|---------|
| b. 1, f. 8 | Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to [Jeanne Françoise Julie Adélaïde Bernard Récamier] | undated |
|------------|---|---------|

Series IV: January 1997 Acquisition, 1844 May 29

Purchased from Autographes on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1997.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 9

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, "au directeur du Moniteur"

1844 May 29

Series V: January 1997 Acquisition, 1844 January 27, no year March 8

Purchased from Moirandat Company on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1997.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

| | | |
|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 10 | Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to "Monsieur"; autograph letter, signed, to "Monsieur Julius" | 1844 January 27, no year March 8 |
|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|

Series VI: September 1997 Acquisition, 1855 July 9

Purchased from Autographes on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 1997.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 11

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to [Emile de Girardin]

1855 July 9

Series VII: March 1998 Acquisition, 1845–1850

Purchased from Autographes on the Library Associates Endowment Fund, 1998.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 12

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Six autograph letters, signed, to [Julien Travers?]

1845–1850

Series VIII: March 1999 Acquisition, 1858 December 11

Purchased from Autographes on the Louis Mayer Rabinowitz Memorial Fund, 1999.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 13

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to F. (Frédéric) Chassériau

1858 December
11

Series IX: October 2000 Acquisition, [18]54 March 16

Purchased from Maggs Brothers Ltd. on the Louis Mayer Rabinowitz Memorial Fund, 2000.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 14

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to unidentified

[18]54 March 16

Series X: September 2001 Acquisition, 1856 June-1860 November, undated

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2001.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 15 | Tocqueville, Alexis de. Twenty-eight autograph letters, signed, to Michel Levy | 1856 June-1858 December |
| b. 1, f. 16 | Tocqueville, Hippolyte de. One autograph letter, signed, to Michel Levy and one autograph letter, signed, to unidentified | 1860, undated |

Series XI: July 2002 Acquisition, 1832–1859*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund and Chandler White and Philena Pennell Smith Acquisitions Fund, 2002.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 324

Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.

Letters to Alexis de Tocqueville

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------|
| b. 1, f. 17 | Beckwith, N. M. | 1857 |
| b. 1, f. 18 | Miscellaneous correspondence | 1837–1857 |
| b. 1, f. 19 | Prescott, William H. | 1839, 1859 |
| b. 1, f. 20 | Spencer, John C. | 1840–1850 |
| b. 1, f. 21 | Adams, John Quincy | 1837 |
| b. 1, f. 22 | Sumner, George | 1852–1857 |
| b. 1, f. 23 | Walsh, Robert | 1843–1859 |
| b. 1, f. 24 | Sumner, Charles | 1857 |
| b. 1, f. 25 | Childe, Edward V. | 1852–1857 |
| b. 1, f. 26 | Sedgwick, Theodore | 1856 |
| b. 1, f. 27 | Sparks, Jared | 1832–1837 |
| b. 1, f. 28 | Everett, Edward | 1848–1852 |
| b. 1, f. 29 | Bancroft, George | 1850–1851 |
| b. 1, f. 30 | Townsend, Isaiah | 1838–1846 |

Series XII: October 2002 Acquisition, 1858 October 16

Purchased from Autographes on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2002.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 31

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to J. (Jules) Ravenel

1858 October 16

Series XIII: May 2003 Acquisition, circa 1852

Purchased from Drouot Estimations on the Library Associates Endowment Fund, 2003.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 32 Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to [Alexandre-François-Auguste Vivien de Goubert] circa 1852

Series XIV: August 2003 Acquisition, 1849 September 6

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch on the Louis Mayer Rabinowitz Memorial Fund, 2003.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 33

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to "Cher colleague"

1849 September
6

Series XV: August 2003 Acquisition, undated

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch on the Louis Mayer Rabinowitz Memorial Fund, 2003.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 34

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to Monsieur Rondonneau

undated

Series XVI: October 2003 Acquisition, 1842 December 23

Purchased from Pierre Beres on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2003.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 35

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Autograph letter, signed, to Monsieur de Liesville

1842 December
23

Series XVII: October 2003 Acquisition, 1838 June 19, undated

Purchased from Pierre Beres on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2003.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 36

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Three autograph letters, signed, to Léon Faucher

1838 June 19,
undated

Series XVIII: October 2003 Acquisition, 1854 April 4, 1846-1856

Purchased from Pierre Beres on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2003.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

| | | |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| b. 1, f. 37 | Tocqueville, Hervé de. Codicil to the will of Hervé de Tocqueville, autograph manuscript, with documents from his collection relating to the reigns of Louis XV and XVI | 1854 April 4, 1846-1856 |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|

Series XIX: November 2003 Acquisition, 1847 June 17, undated

Purchased from Moirandat Company on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2003.

Former call number: Uncat MS Vault File

b. 1, f. 38

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Four autograph letters, signed, to Monsieur Bellee

1847 June 17,
undated

Series XX: September 2006 Acquisition, 1834–1895

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2006.

b. 2, f. 40

Letters from Alexis de Tocqueville to Walter Nassau Senior

1854

Series XXI: January 2008 Acquisition, 1854

Purchased from Librairie Benoit Forgeot on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2008.

Former call number: Uncat MSS 1138

b. 1, f. 39

Tocqueville, Alexis de. Notebook: ms.

1854

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

Politicians -- France -- 19th century
Politicians -- United States -- 19th century

Occupations

Authors -- France -- 19th century
Statesmen

Names

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848
Bancroft, George, 1800-1891
Everett, Edward, 1794-1865
Faucher, Léon, 1803-1854
Girardin, Emile de, 1806-1881
Lévy, Michel, 1821-1875
Prescott, William Hickling, 1796-1859
Rivet, Jean-Charles Rivet, 1800-1872
Sedgwick, Theodore, 1811-1859
Senior, Nassau William, 1790-1864
Sparks, Jared, 1789-1866
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874
Sumner, George, 1817-1863
Tocqueville, Alexis de, 1805-1859
Tocqueville, Herve de, d. 1856
Tocqueville, Hippolyte des, 1797-1877