

Guide to the Gabor Naphegyi Papers

MS 1155



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	3
Requesting Instructions	3
Administrative Information	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition	3
Conditions Governing Access	4
Conditions Governing Use	4
Preferred Citation	4
Biographical / Historical	4
Scope and Contents	4
Collection Contents	6
Selected Search Terms	7

Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1155

CREATOR: Naphegyi, Gábor, 1824-1884

TITLE: Gabor Naphegyi papers

DATES: 1786-1868

BULK DATES: 1852-1868

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: The papers are in English and Spanish.

SUMMARY: The papers include correspondence; and legal, financial, and personal papers (the bulk of which are in Spanish or English) and relate to Naphegyi's professional association with Santa Anna and to his own financial problems.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1155>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1155>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Edwin Francis Cory, 1934.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Gabor Naphegyi Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Importer, author, financial and legal agent; b. in Hungary; became naturalized American citizen in 1868; involved with his wife in various enterprises in Mexico, ca. 1850-1865; director of the Mexican department of the Knickerbocker Life Insurance Co., N.Y.C., 1865-1866; acted as financial and legal agent for General Antonio López de Santa Anna, 1866-1867.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Gabor Naphegyi, importer, author, and financial and legal agent for General Antonio López de Santa Anna during the latter's stay in the United States in 1866-1867, consist of approximately six hundred letters, bills, receipts, legal papers, and other items dating between 1852 and 1868. The papers are in both Spanish and English.

Naphegyi, born in Budapest, became a naturalized United States citizen and later moved to Mexico City. By the 1850s he was involved with his wife, Maria Amalia Kurezyn, in various enterprises, including the Santa Anna Mine, resulting by 1860 in financial difficulties. In 1865 the Naphegyis returned to the United States and settled in New York City, where Naphegyi was employed as director of the Mexican department of the Knickerbocker Life Insurance Company. The following year, when Santa Anna arrived in New York, Naphegyi acted as his financial and legal agent. It is unclear what previous acquaintance the two men had, but Santa Anna speaks in his autobiography of Naphegyi as "a Hungarian I had befriended in Mexico." (1)

Santa Anna came to New York on May 12th, 1866, from St. Thomas, where he had been in exile since 1855, to arrange American aid through Secretary of State William H. Seward and others to regain control of Mexico. He appealed, among others, to the Fenian Brotherhood; a draft of his speech may be found in Folder 23. He soon discovered, however, that his supposed supporters Darío Mazuera and Abraham Báez had swindled him and left him in grave financial straits. He hoped to improve the situation by arranging mortgages and selling bonds; they were, however, illegal and led to his increasing legal difficulties in the United States. Naphegyi acted as his agent throughout this period and was later accused by Santa Anna of defrauding him. (2) According to a newspaper clipping in the collection (Folder 36), Naphegyi was briefly arrested and then countersued. Santa Anna sailed for Vera Cruz with a motley crew of Mexicans and Germans on May 6, 1867, but was prevented from landing by the U.S. Navy acting in support of Mexican President Benito Juárez, was eventually arrested, tried for treason, and again sent into exile.

The bulk of the papers in this collection relate to the association of Santa Anna and Naphegyi, to their disputes over financial matters, to Santa Anna's intrigues up to the time of his arrest, and to the legal entanglements surrounding his activities. In the correspondence are eight letters and a number of

memoranda from Santa Anna and letters addressed to Naphegyi and to Santa Anna from others, including an apparent blackmail attempt, December 22, 1866. Among the correspondents are Santa Anna's associate Colonel Luis Vidal y Rivas, Darío Mazuera, Abraham Báez, Manuel M. de Meza, Major General R. Clay Crawford (commander of the so-called Liberating Army of Mexico), Dr. Theodore Walser, Augustus Prentice, Jarvis N. Lake, Anthony W. Goodell, and C. Nicholas Perczel. The latter writes in French and German, as do several other correspondents. There are also a number of letters in code.

There are also legal papers concerned with Santa Anna's lawsuits in the United States and Mexico, and with his mortgages and bonds, as well as various agreements with Naphegyi and others, and a host of bills and receipts. In addition to these, there are documents and letters concerning Naphegyi's own financial problems in Mexico, insurance policies, inventories of his property, and family papers such as letters from his brother-in-law George Kurezyn, a love letter from his wife (October 10, 1867) and a waltz dedicated to her, baptismal certificates of their children, and an unidentified photograph, possibly of their children. Also in the collection are several miscellaneous items: a Spanish decree from 1786 on the payment of servants and day-laborers, attached to related documents; a few newspaper clippings and other printed matter; and envelopes and labelled wrappers found separated from the documents they originally enclosed.

Yale University received these papers as the gift of Edwin Francis Cory in 1934.

1. *The Eagle: The Autobiography of Santa Anna* edited by Ann Fears. Crawford, Austin, 1967; p. 198.
2. *Ibid.*, pp. 242-244.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 22	Correspondence	1855-1868, undated
b. 2, f. 23	Memoranda; drafts of speeches; letter to the editor	1866, undated
b. 2, f. 24 - 26	Legal papers	1852-1867, undated
b. 2, f. 27 - 33	Financial papers	1855-1868, undated
b. 2, f. 34	Family papers	1856-1868, undated
b. 2, f. 35	Decree re: payment of servants and day-laborers	1786
b. 2, f. 36	Printed matter; calling cards	[1866-1867], undated
b. 2, f. 37	Envelopes and wrappers	undated

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

Financial institutions -- New York (State) --
New York

Geographic Names

Latin America
Mexico -- Politics and government -- 1861-1867
New York (N.Y.) -- Economic conditions

Names

Naphegyi, Gábor, 1824-1884
Santa Anna, Antonio López de, 1794?-1876