

Guide to the James Jackson Jarves Collection

MS 301



compiled by Mary McKeever

May 1972

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 301

CREATOR: Jarves, James Jackson, 1818-1888

TITLE: James Jackson Jarves collection

DATES: 1838-1954

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.5 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Consists of family correspondence, general correspondence, diaries, and memorabilia of the Jarves family. Major family correspondents are James Jackson Jarves, his first wife, Elizabeth Russell Swain Jarves, his son Horatio Deming Jarves, and his second wife Isabel Heyden Jarves. Collection also contains working files of Francis Steegmuller, author of *The Two Lives of James Jackson Jarves*, 1951.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0301>

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.0301>.

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 Francis Steegmuller, Flora Amey Jarves, and Theodore Sizer.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

James Jackson Jarves Collection (MS 301). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

James Jackson Jarves was born Aug. 20, 1818, the son of Deming Jarves, founder of the famous Sandwich Glass Co., and Anna Smith (Stutson) Jarves. After his early education at Chauncey Hall school, Boston, Mass., he planned to continue studies at Harvard University. Because of failing eye sight however, he was unable to attend. In search of a better climate for his health, Jarves sailed for Hawaii in 1837. He stayed in Hawaii until 1848 except for two brief interludes, one in 1838 when he returned to Boston to marry his first wife, Elizabeth Russell Swain; and the second in 1842 when the Jarves family returned to Boston after a silk worm industry in Hawaii, in which Jarves held a partnership, went bankrupt.

Although Jarves' business adventures in Hawaii were more often than not unsuccessful, he met with limited success as a writer and editor. In 1843 he wrote the *History of the Hawaiian Islands*, and in 1840 he established *The Polynesian*, one of the first Hawaiian newspapers to be written in English. In 1844 *The Polynesian* became the official governmental newspaper and Jarves, with a five year contract, received the title of Director of the Government Press.

An unhappy marriage caused Jarves to break with his wife in 1848, leave his governmental position, and return to America for three years where he again participated in a disastrous business adventure, this time involving land speculation in California.

In 1851 the Jarves' family (then reunited) settled in Florence, Italy, and there Jarves developed an interest in art - specifically in medieval Italian paintings. Using his father's income, he amassed a collection of paintings that, covering a period of 600 years, exhibited the progress of Italian painting from its early beginnings. As with his previous business endeavors, his art collection was never financially profitable for him. Jarves decided to sell his collection "en bloc" in America, but he could not find a buyer. After several unsuccessful attempts to sell his collection in Boston and New York City (1859-1866), he was finally able to display his collection at Yale College in 1867 for a loan of \$20,000.00. Unable to repay the loan and \$2,000.00 interest three years later, he was forced to auction his collection. It was sold to Yale for \$22,000.00.

From the time that he settled in Florence until his death in 1888, Jarves' primary interest was art. Not only was he responsible for amassing a valuable European art collection and transporting it to the United States, but he was also a contributor to the art scholarship of the time. He wrote several books, including: *Art Hints* (1855); *Art Studies: The Old Masters of Italy* (1861); *The Art Idea: Sculpture, Painting, and Architecture in America* (1866); *Art Thoughts: The Experiences and Observations of an American Amateur in Europe* (1876).

For a more complete biography read: *James Jackson Jarves*, by Francis Steegmuller, Yale University Press, 1951.

Scope and Contents

The James Jackson Jarves Collection consist primarily of correspondence, which has been divided into three subsections: "Family Correspondence", "General Correspondence," and "Correspondence of Others". In "Family Correspondence" either the author and/or recipient of each letter is a family member. The entire subsection consists of 26 folders and is arranged alphabetically by author. The letters written by the ten authors in this section include those of James Jackson Jarves to his children; Elizabeth Russell Swain Jarves (first wife of Jarves) to her own parents (Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Swain); and Isabel Hayden Jarves (second wife of Jarves) to her stepchildren. Many of these letters give an insight into the often unhappy relationship between Jarves and other family members.

The 19 folders of "General Correspondence" are arranged alphabetically by author and contain letters dealing with Jarves' business and governmental activities in Hawaii. His inclination to provoke controversy is indicated by a series of heated exchanges between himself and J. Dudoit, French ambassador to Hawaii.

The last eight folders of correspondence consists of the "Correspondence of Others". These contain miscellaneous letters, some of which pertain to the Jarves art collection owned by Yale University.

The correspondence is followed by a few miscellaneous items, one including a diary by Elizabeth R. S. Jarves which renders her impressions about her first trip to Hawaii. Another diary, by Horatio Deming Jarves (James and Elizabeth Jarves' first child), records his account of his first few months of battle (1861) in the Civil War.

Boxes 2-5 contain the working files for Francis Steegmuller's *The Two Lives of James Jackson Jarves* (Yale University Press, 1951). These files include a large number of photostatic and transcript copies of letters of James Jackson Jarves and members of his family, plus photostatic copies of his writings and other related materials. The photostatic letters are copies of originals in the National Archives; the transcripts are copies of letters in Box 1, Series I. Also included are letters of Francis Steegmuller regarding research and publication of the book.

The Steegmuller addition was donated to Yale University by Mr. Steegmuller in 1955. It was added to the James Jackson Jarves Papers in 1980.

Arrangement

Arranged in three series: I. Correspondence. II. Special Files. III. Working Files for *The Two Lives of James Jackson Jarves* by Francis Steegmuller

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1838-1882, 1906-1908, 1954

The number of items are contained in parentheses before the unitdate

Family Correspondence

Anonymous

b. 1, f. 1	Jarves, Flora Amey (1)	Undated
b. 1, f. 2	Jarves, Horatio Deming (1)	Undated
Carmen R. Vida de Everett		
b. 1, f. 3	Jarves, Elizabeth Russell Swain (1)	1851
[Chevalita Jarves]		
b. 1, f. 4	[Jarves, Horatio Deming] (1) English	Undated
Chevalita Jarves		
b. 1, f. 5	Jarves, James Jackson (1)	Undated
Elizabeth Russell Swain Jarves		
b. 1, f. 6	Jarves, Horatio Deming (12)	1848, 1849, 1859
b. 1, f. 7	Swain, Maria L. (3)	1840, 1843, 1846
b. 1, f. 8	Swain, Oliver (12)	1838-1841, [1845?]
b. 1, f. 9	Swain, Oliver (12)	1846-1848, 1855,undated
b. 1, f. 10	Swain, Mrs. Oliver (10)	1838, 1841, 1846, 1847, 1849, 1854, 1858
b. 1, f. 11	Swain, Revilo (1)	1838
Horatio Deming Jarves		
b. 1, f. 12	"Aunty" (1) English	1882
b. 1, f. 13	Jarves, Chevalita (6)	1862, undated
b. 1, f. 14	Jarves, Elizabeth Russell Swain (1)	[1860?]
Isabel Hayden Jarves		
b. 1, f. 15	Jarves, Flora Amey (14)	1863, 1864, 1866, 1868, 1870, 1875, undated

Family Correspondence > Isabel Hayden Jarves (continued)

b. 1, f. 16	Jarves, Horatio Deming (6)	1874, 1875, 1882
James Jackson Jarves		
b. 1, f. 17	Jarves, Chevalita (1)	1865
b. 1, f. 18	Jarves, Flora Amey (19)	1863-1867
b. 1, f. 19	Jarves, Flora Amey (20)	1868-1874
b. 1, f. 20	Jarves, Flora Amey (25)	Undated
b. 1, f. 21	Jarves, Horatio Deming (13)	1857, 1871, 1872, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1882
b. 1, f. 22	Jarves, Horatio Deming (including letter fragments) (7)	Undated
b. 1, f. 23	Swain, Oliver (3)	1839, 1840, 1841
b. 1, f. 24	Swain, Mrs. Oliver (3)	1841, 1850, undated
Mary W. Parker		
b. 1, f. 25	Jarves, Flora Amey (1)	Undated
Maria L. Swain		
b. 1, f. 26	Jarves, Elizabeth Russell Swain (1)	1857
<u>General Correspondence</u>		
Ana, Keoni		
See: box 1, folder 39		
b. 1, f. 28	Black, Charles Christopher (1)	[186?]
b. 1, f. 29	Correnti, Cesare (1815-1888) (1)	Undated
b. 1, f. 30	Dudoit, J. (2)	1839 August
b. 1, f. 31	Eastlake, Sir Charles Lock (1793-1865)(1)	1861 June 14
b. 1, f. 32	Judd, G. P. (3)	1843, 1847, 1850
See Also: box 1, folder 44		
b. 1, f. 34	Kamehameha III, King of Hawaii (?-1854) (1)	1841, 1847
b. 1, f. 35	Kamehameha IV, King of Hawaii,(1854-1863) (1)	1858 March 26
b. 1, f. 36	Kirkup, Seymour Stocker (1)	1859 October 6
b. 1, f. 37	Mazzini, Giuseppe (1805-1872) (1)	Undated
b. 1, f. 38	Pasi, Raffaelli (1819-1890) (1)	1884 December 22
b. 1, f. 39	Premier of Hawaii (1)	1847

General Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 40	Richards, William (1)	1846
b. 1, f. 41	St. Julian, J. (1)	1848
b. 1, f. 42	Stirling-Maxwell, Sir William (1)	1876 April 16
b. 1, f. 43	Wyllie, R. C. (8)	1848
b. 1, f. 44	Wyllie, R. C. (2)	1849
b. 1, f. 45	Wyllie, R. C. (2)	1851
<u>Correspondence of Others</u>		
Anderson, Rufus (1790-1880)		
b. 1, f. 46	[?] (1) English	1851
Bereusen, Mary		
b. 1, f. 47	Weir, Prof. (1)	1908 January 31
Jaccaci, August F.		
b. 1, f. 48	Weir, Prof. (1)	[1906?] November 30
b. 1, f. 49	[?] (1) English	[1906?] December 10
G. P. Judd		
Wyllie, R. C. See: box 1, folder 44		
Howard Kerr		
b. 1, f. 51	Sizer, Theodore (1)	1954 June 22
J. C. Wyllie		
b. 1, f. 52	Ricord, John (1)	1853

Series II: Special Files

The number of items are contained in parentheses before the unitdate

b. 1, f. 1	Diary of Elizabeth Russell Swain Jarves (voyage to Hawaii) (1)	1838 November-December
b. 1, f. 2	Diary of Horatio Deming Jarves (while soldier in Civil War) (1)	1861 April-October
b. 1, f. 3	Expense list of glass furnished by E. Schwartz for pictures in Jarves Gallery (1)	Undated
b. 1, f. 4	Obituaries, Jarves Family (3)	Undated
b. 1, f. 5	Memorabilia - Jarves Family (5)	Undated
b. 1, f. 6	Francis Steegmuller's notes of James J. Jarves' correspondence, Privy Council Records, and Minutes of Other Conferences. (3)	1846-1853
	Francis Steegmuller's notes on Privy Council Proceedings See: box 1, folder 39	1847 August 5

Series III: Working Files for *The Two Lives of James Jackson Jarves* by Francis Steegmuller

b. 3, 2	Correspondence of Francis Steegmuller re research and publication of <i>The Two Lives of James Jackson Jarves</i>	1946-1950
b. 3	Author and subject files	[1946-1950?]
b. 4	First draft of <i>The Two Lives of James Jackson Jarves</i> : typescript	Undated
b. 4	Photostatic copies of letters and other materials from the National Archives re James Jackson Jarves	1848-1882, undated
b. 4	Photostatic copy of <i>Descriptive Catalogue of "Old Masters"</i> by James Jackson Jarves	1860
b. 4	Transcripts of letters of James Jackson Jarves and members of his family	1840-1861
b. 5, f. 1-4	Photostatic copies of letters and writings and other materials re James Jackson Jarves	1849-1882
b. 5A, f. 1-3	Photostatic copies of letters and writings and other materials re James Jackson Jarves	1849-1882
b. 5B, f. 1	Photostatic copies of letters and writings and other materials re James Jackson Jarves	1849-1882
b. 5B, f. 2-3	Photographs used in <i>The Two Lives of James Jackson Jarves</i>	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

Art
Art -- Collectors and collecting
Business
Families
Shipping

Geographic Names

Asia
Hawaii -- Description and travel
Hawaii -- History -- To 1893
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

Genres / Formats

Diaries

Names

Dudoit, J.
Jarves, Elizabeth Russell Swain
Jarves, Isabel Heyden
Jarves, James Jackson, 1818-1888
Kamehameha, King of the Hawaiian Islands, III,
1813-1854
Kamehameha, King of the Hawaiian Islands, IV,
1834-1863
Steegmuller, Francis, 1906-1994
Wyllie, Robert Crichton, 1798-1865

Families

Jarvis family