James Clement Moffat Collection, 1832-1861: Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number: C1128
Repository: Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections
Manuscripts Division
One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size: 0.4 linear feet
1 archival box
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: Consists of selected manuscripts and correspondence of the nineteenth-century Scottish-born church historian and educator James Clement Moffat.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at Firestone Library.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary Information</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography/History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrangement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access and Use</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition and Appraisal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing and Other Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject Headings</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contents List</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Church historian James Clement Moffat, son of David Douglas Moffat and Margaret Clement, was born in Glencree, Scotland, on May 30, 1811. He studied Latin, Greek, French, German, and Hebrew while he worked at a printing shop. He came to the United States in 1832 with the intention of following his trade as a printer, but a chance meeting with Professor (afterward President) John Maclean of the College of New Jersey (Princeton University) led to his entering the junior class of that college, where he graduated in 1835. He studied and tutored at Yale and also at Princeton, and in 1839 he went to Lafayette College as professor of Latin and Greek. The Presbytery of Oxford, Ohio, licensed him to preach in 1851, and later ordained him, without his having taken a theological course. In 1852 he returned to the College of New Jersey as professor of Latin, history, and then of Greek. He became professor of church history in Princeton Theological Seminary in 1861, a position he held for seventeen years. Moffat published a long poem Alwyn: A Romance of Study (1875), which is known to be autobiographical.

The collection consists of selected manuscripts and correspondence of Moffat, the bulk of which are letters to his father, his mother, his brother John, and his sister Margaret. In letters to his brother he describes his life and classes at Princeton University, and later talks about the political situation and the legislature in the cities where he is living. In the letters to his father he talks about life at Princeton, his different appointments, the teaching offer made by Pres. John MacLean at the College of New Jersey, and his work at Lafayette College. Included are two letters from J. K. Douglas in Camden, S.C.: one (1832) is to Capt. Norman Peck of the ship Frances regarding David Moffat and his family migrating to America, and the second (1833) is to David Moffat letting him know that his son James sent him a letter indicating that he intends to embark on a ship headed for Charleston, S.C., and that Peck instructed his friends to take care of him. Other correspondents include William Henry Green, Alexander T. McGill, G. Wilson McPhail, who are recalling him to the chair of church history in the Princeton Theological Seminary after he resigned. Also included is a memorandum or journal of dates and events in Moffat's life (1833-1888), notes on the "Cannon" (1880s), "My Christmas Card," a manuscript poem to Henry C. Matthews (1880), and an undated poem titled "Lines on the Death of Miss Caroline Haile." There are typed transcription of many of the letters.

Folders are arranged in alphabetical order by correspondent and then chronologically.

The collection is open for research.
Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. No further photoduplication of copies of material in the collection can be made when Princeton University Library does not own the original. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections. The library has no information on the status of literary rights in the collection and researchers are responsible for determining any questions of copyright.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Custodial History

The collection was formed as a result of a Departmental practice of combining into one collection material of various accessions relating to a particular person, family, or subject.

Provenance and Acquisition

Letters to Moffat's brother John, and one to his father, dated 1835, were a gift of Mrs. William W. Knight in May 1959.

"Lines on the Death of Miss Caroline Haile" was a gift of C. W. Haile, through Princeton Prof. Libbey, on Jan. 10, 1901.

All other letters and manuscripts were a gift of Rev. Chas L. Cooder in July 1929.

Processing and Other Information

Preferred Citation

Citations should be as follows: James Clement Moffat Collection, Box #, Folder #, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Dina Britain on August 9, 2006. Finding aid written by Dina Britain on August 14, 2006. Folder inventory added by James Clark '14 in 2012.

Encoding

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2012-07-02T09:44-0400

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

Subject Headings

· College of New Jersey (Princeton, N.J.)--History--19th century--Sources.
· Frances (Ship : 1826-1853)
· Princeton Theological Seminary--History--19th century--Sources.
· Princeton University--Faculty--19th century--Correspondence.
· Church historians--United States--19th century--Correspondence.
· Correspondence--19th century
· Manuscripts--19th century
· Poems--19th century
· Princeton University
· Religion
Contents List

ALS from J.K Douglas to Captain Norman Peck, Relating to the Moffat Family Migrating to America, Camden, S.C., 1832
Box: 1 Folder: 1

ALS from J.K. Douglas to David Moffat, Relating to the Moffat Family Migrating to America, Camden, S.C., 1833 June 14
Box: 1 Folder: 2

ALS from William Henry Green to James C. Moffat, Recalling Him to the Chair of Church history in the Theological Seminary at Princeton After His Resignation, Princeton, N.J.; Includes Copy of Moffat's Reply, 1857 July 14
Box: 1 Folder: 3

ALS from Alexander T. McGill to James C. Moffat, Enclosing Original Report on His Election to the Chair of Church history in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, 1868
Box: 1 Folder: 4

ALS from G. Wilson McPhail to James C. Moffat, Calling Him to the Chair of Church History in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, Philadelphia, Pa.; Also Signed by Martin Ryerson, 1861 May 29
Box: 1 Folder: 5

ALS from G. Wilson McPhail to James C. Moffat, Concerning His Call to the Chair of Church History in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, 1861 June 6
Box: 1 Folder: 6

AD, "Lines on the death of Miss Caroline Haile"; Might Have Been Written by Moffat When He Was a Boy, undated
Box: 1 Folder: 7

ALS to His Father, David Moffat, from Newton Stewart, Scotland, 1832 September 14
Box: 1 Folder: 8

36 ALSs to His Brother, John; with Typed Transcripts, 1832 December 15-1840 July 11
Box: 1 Folder: 9

4 ALSs to His Father, David D. Moffat, with Typed Transcripts, 1833 March 29-1840 April 10
Box: 1 Folder: 10

AMs on "The Cannon," as He Saw It "In the autumn of 1833...", 1880s
Box: 1 Folder: 11

ALS to His Father, David Moffat, Relating to Chapel Attendance and the Philadelphian Society, 1833 November 28
Box: 1 Folder: 12

ALS to His Sister, Margaret, 1833 December 24
Box: 1 Folder: 13

ALS to His Father, David D. Moffat, Describing College Life, 1834 June 28
Box: 1 Folder: 14

ALS to His Father, David D. Moffat, Describing Personal Appearance of Henry Clay, Who Was Made Member of Cliosophic Society, 1834 November 26
Box: 1 Folder: 15

ALS to His Sister, Margaret, Telling of Increase to 215 Students and the New Buildings, 1835 June 22
Box: 1 Folder: 16

ALS to His Sister, Margaret, Concerning the Fourth of July in Princeton and the Burning of the Presbyterian Church, 1835 July 5
Box: 1 Folder: 17
ALS to R.W. Stites, Concerning Engagement to Tutor Two Kirkpatrick Brothers at Yale, 1835 September 22

ALS to His Father, David D. Moffat, Telling of Appointment as Valedictorian and Introduction to Yale, Describing New Haven and the People, 1835 October 17

ALS to His Father, David D. Moffat, Relating to Attending Medical Lectures at Yale, 1836 March 30

ALS to His Sister, Margaret, Concerning Release from Princeton Engagement, Remaining at Yale as Tutor, and Leaving Medical Courses for Year in Theological Department, 1837 June 3

ALS to His Sister, Mrs. Margaret Williams; with Typed Transcript, 1838 March 27

ALS to His Father, David D. Moffat, Telling of Being Appointed Professor of Ancient Languages at Lafayette College, 1840 February 15

ALS to His Father, David D. Moffat, Mentioning Offer to Teach at College of New Jersey Made by President Maclean and Faculty, 1856 September 15

ALS to His Sister, Margaret, Concerning Accepting Position at "Princeton College" and Plans to Move There in May, 1857 March 18

ALS to His Father, David D. Moffat, Concerning His Appointment as Tutor in Greek at College of New Jersey and Having Left New Haven to Take Up Residence in Princeton, 1857 October 10

DS; Naturalization Papers, 1861 April 26

3 ALS (copies) to J. Wilson McPhail, Martin Ryerson, and Dr. Hodge, Accepting the Chair of Church History in the Theological Seminary at the College of New Jersey, 1861 June 6-22

AMsS to Henry C. Matthews; "My Christmas Card", 1880 December 25

"Memoranda" Manuscript, Autobiographical Notes, 1833-1888