INDEX TO THE
Chester A. Arthur
Papers
Preface

THIS INDEX to the Chester A. Arthur Papers is a direct result of the wish of the Congress and the President, as expressed by Public Law 85-147 of August 16, 1957, and amended by Public Law 87-263 dated September 21, 1961, to arrange, microfilm, and index the papers of the Presidents in the Library of Congress in order "to preserve their contents against destruction by war or other calamity," to make the Arthur and other Presidential Papers more "readily available for study and research," and to inspire informed patriotism. An appropriation to carry out the provisions of the law was approved on July 31, 1958, and actual operations began on August 25.

The microfilm of the Arthur Papers became available in 1960. Positive copies of the film may be purchased from the Chief, Photoduplication Service, Library of Congress, Washington 25, D.C. A positive print is available for interlibrary loan through the Chief, Loan Division, Library of Congress.

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Introduction

Provenance*

"YOU MAY BE SURE that I am as interested as you are in having the Arthur papers finally come to rest in the Library of Congress. The ones that I have in my possession have travelled a good deal—over to Europe, back to Colorado, California, and now here [New York]. During his lifetime, my father would never let anyone see them—not even me. When they finally came into my possession, I was amazed that there were so few. At my father's funeral in Albany, or rather at the interment of his ashes which took place several months after his death [July 17, 1934], I enquired of all the cousins there assembled—the nieces and nephews of my grandfather, as to what had happened to the bulk of the papers. Charles E. McElroy, the son of Mary Arthur McElroy who was my grandfather's First Lady, tells me that the day before he died, my grandfather caused to be burned three large garbage cans, each at least four feet high, full of papers which I am sure would have thrown much light on history." So wrote Chester A. Arthur III to Dr. Thomas P. Martin, then Acting Chief of the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, on April 15, 1938.¹

For many years President Arthur was represented in the Manuscript Division by a single document, a letter he had written during the Civil War and which the Library purchased in 1902. Beginning in 1910 and continuing to the present, successive chiefs of the division have done what they could to assemble surviving Arthur manuscripts. For the first of these chiefs, Gaillard Hunt, who in that year initiated the search for the main body of the Arthur Papers, there was little but discouragement as a result of his inquiries. However, his persistence and what he was able to learn were to encourage his successors. He wrote first to Col. William G. Rice and learned the address of Mrs. John E. McElroy, Arthur's sister and official hostess during his administration. Mr. Hunt wrote to her and learned from her that Chester A. Arthur, Jr., controlled the papers. After several attempts, Mr. Hunt learned Mr. Arthur's address and wrote to him. The reply—written on March 13, 1915, five years after the search began—provided the first concrete but frustrating evidence:

"I beg you will excuse my tardiness in replying to your letter of November 4th [1914]. The question of my father's papers is a very sore subject with me. "These papers were supposed to be in certain chests which were stored on their receipt from Washington, in the cellar of 123 Lexington Avenue. After my father's death, they were removed, I believe, by direction of the executors to a store house recommended by Mr. McElroy at Albany. Several years ago on making my residence in Colorado, I sent for these chests of papers and found in them nothing but custom house records of no particular value or importance. Where the papers they were supposed to contain have vanished, is a mystery."

Three years later, in 1918, the Library acquired, as a loan, its second Arthur document, the draft of his veto message of the Fitz-John Porter bill. Arthur H. Masten, a nephew of the President, had not inherited the document but had received it as a gift from the widow of Adrian H. Joline, in whose autograph collection it had been found. Masten's heirs have given the Library of Congress title to this manuscript. The Library renewed its inquiries in various quarters from time to time with no significant result until Charles Moore, in 1924, while Acting Chief of the Manuscript Division, wrote a long letter to John H. Finley of the New York Times.² As a result, Dr. Finley published in the Times an editorial plea for Arthur manuscripts, but there was no immediate response. Other inquiries were made to: J. Stanley-Brown, who had been President James A. Garfield's secretary and who had also served Arthur briefly; Charles M. Hendley, a former White House executive clerk, who provided some personal recollections; [June 26, 1924.]

*The Library of Congress acknowledges with gratitude the assistance of Chester A. Arthur III, grandson of the President, and George F. Howe, the latter's biographer, each of whom read a draft of this essay and provided valuable comment and suggestions. Mr. Howe's interest goes back to 1926, when he selected President Arthur as the subject for his doctoral dissertation.

¹ Except as specified, letters cited are in the files of the Manuscript Division.
Rudolph Forster, in 1924 executive clerk at the White House; Elihu Root and Robert T. Lincoln; and the County Clerk of New York County, N.Y., who provided a copy of Arthur's will; and various others.

In June 1925 Louise Reed Mitchell, the daughter of Arthur's secretary, James C. Reed, informed the Librarian of Congress that she had inherited some 50 Arthur manuscripts. She sold these to the Library. The Librarian's Annual Report for 1925, p. 56-57, reviewed the search and the results up to that time and assessed the collection as "neither extensive nor are the documents themselves of high historical importance; but a gap in the records of the presidency has been filled in as satisfactory a manner as is possible."

In 1938 a fresh trail, opened up by a suggestion made by Jeannette P. Nichols, led to President Arthur's grandson, part of whose reply introduces this essay. In the same year, as a result of an exchange of letters with the Library, Mr. Arthur deposited 90 of the more important documents he had in his possession. These manuscripts, together with an additional 470 documents which had remained in his possession, were sold to the Library in 1958.

It was fortunate that the greatly augmented but still small collection reached its present size soon after the Congress authorized and directed the Librarian of Congress to arrange, microfilm, and index the Arthur and 22 other collections of Presidential Papers. Before the filming and indexing had been completed, further additions were received. Twelve letters written by Arthur in the 1850's were given by the noted collector, Charles A. Feinberg. Another major segment of the Arthur Papers is available because of a friendship that began during the Civil War. Robert G. Dun and Chester A. Arthur were business associates and personal friends in New York City for at least a quarter of a century. Both were members of the Union League Club in New York. Arthur served as counsel for The Mercantile Agency, as Dun's company was called, for two decades. Fortunately for all who may interest themselves in the career of Arthur, Owen A. Sheffield, retired Secretary of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., presented photocopies or typed copies accompanied by annotations, of all known documents in the files of the company relating to Arthur. The gift was made in 1959 with the consent and the cooperation of J. Wilson Newman, president of Dun & Bradstreet. Many of these documents have particular value. A letter written by Dun to the manager of his Pittsburgh office on June 1, 1870, for example, contains a spirited description of Arthur's character, written long before anyone guessed that he would be the 21st President of the United States.

Also in 1959, Robert S. Macfarlane, president of the Northern Pacific Railway, kindly supplied copies of several telegrams and related material which add to the records concerning Arthur's trip to Yellowstone Park in 1883. A few other documents and copies of documents complete one of the smallest of the 23 groups of Presidential Papers in the Library. The number of items is 1,413 and they are bound in 12 volumes. The microfilm reproduction of these was released to the public in 1960.

There remains the matter of the large number of lost Arthur manuscripts. Letters written by Arthur to others and preserved in their papers, together with copies of their letters to him, offer a sampling of what the Arthur Papers once contained. The photocopies of letters from the files of Dun & Bradstreet (Series 2) are useful for this purpose and so, to a lesser degree, are transcripts and references (Series 3) to Arthur papers in other collections. An example may be cited of what is known to have existed. Arthur kept journals while on a trip with Henry D. Gardiner in 1857. The two young men spent 4 months touring the West as far as Kansas and Minnesota. Ward Burlingame, a Kansas newspaper reporter, interviewed Arthur 26 years later when he was about to depart for the West again, this time to Yellowstone Park. The published interview records all that has been found with reference to the journals: "The travels of the two extended over some four months, and the president could not recall, without access to his papers, packed away in his New York house, the names of all the places at which they stopped. By the way, it occurs to me that the complete journals of this trip, carefully kept by the principal traveler, would prove a veritable bonanza
to the writer fortunate enough to get hold of them."

Inasmuch as many of President Arthur's papers have been destroyed, searchers may wish to examine the personal papers of his contemporaries in the Library of Congress and elsewhere for information about him and his times. The personal papers or autograph collections in the Library of Congress listed below contain varying numbers of letters by, to, or relating to President Arthur:

- American Academy of Arts and Letters
- Bancroft-Bliss
- Beecher, Henry W.
- Blaine, James G.
- Bristow, Benjamin H.
- Chandler, William E.
- Chandler, Zachariah
- Cleveland, Grover
- Conkling, Roscoe
- Curry, J. L. M.
- Davis, J. C. Bancroft
- Evarts, William M.
- Fish, Hamilton
- Garfield, James A.
- Gresham, Walter Q.
- Harrison, Benjamin
- McCulloch, Hugh
- Manning, Daniel
- The Players Collection
- Porter, Fitz-John
- Root, Elihu
- Schofield, John M.
- Schurz, Carl
- Sheridan, Philip H.
- Sherman, John
- Sherman, William T.
- Taft, William H.
- Toner, Joseph M.
- Whitney, William C.
- Young, John Russell
- Autograph Collection
- The Players Collection
- The Southern Historical Collection of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.; the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia; the United States Naval Academy Museum, Annapolis, Md.; and Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn. A Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States, edited by Philip M. Hamer (New Haven, 1961), which includes entries indexed under “Presidents, U.S.,” may lead a searcher to other Arthur manuscripts. The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections now being assembled at the Library of Congress also may eventually reveal the whereabouts of other Arthur manuscripts.

Selected Bibliography


How to Use This Index

The index to the Chester A. Arthur Papers is designed primarily as a means of ascertaining what documents exist in this collection and where they may be found on the microfilm reproduction. It is essentially a name index, first listing the names of writers and recipients of letters alphabetically, and then chrono-

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logically when the same name appears more than once. It is not a subject index, but materials such as autographs, proclamations, and the will of President Arthur in this collection are cross-indexed under these subject headings as well as under the name of the writer. Some miscellaneous items, for which no name appears, are listed under a subject title.

To find a document or furnish a reference, note first the series number, then the date to the document under the main entry, and turn to the date of the document in the appropriate series.

This index was produced by the use of key-punched cards which were sorted and printed mechanically. This accounts for the fact that the information appears in columns. The technique permitted a number of economies but has imposed in return a few limitations. Some of the paraphernalia normally found in indexes and calendars had to be abandoned. Many of the peculiarities of this index are illustrated in the sequence of sample entries which appears with this explanation.

The names of correspondents—that is, writers of letters to President Arthur or persons addressed by him, including organizations and Government agencies—are arranged alphabetically as in column one. A letter not written by or to President Arthur is indexed both by writer and recipient, as in the third and sixth samples. Any correspondence on behalf of an organization, public or private, is indexed under the name of the organization rather than the name of the writer, as in the seventh entry. Such corporate entries, if local in scope, are indexed under their geographical locations, as in the fifth entry. Except for the largest cities, the name of the town or county is followed by the abbreviated State name.

If the writer of an unsigned letter cannot be identified, the entry is indexed under the word “UNKNOWN” in its proper alphabetical position, as in the eighth example. The names of other Presidents appear in full, as in the fourth entry.

Since space is limited in the writer-recipient column, the second name appearing in this column, usually following “TO” or “FROM” is frequently given in a shortened or abbreviated form. In such cases the second name (except President Arthur’s name) is also entered fully in the normal alphabetical order. For example, in the third entry of the sample index, the name given as “FRED J. PHILLIPS” appears later as “PHILLIPS FREDERICK J.” When lack of space does not permit use of the full name for an indexed item, a short form must be used, as in sample entries nine through eleven, but the full name is given separately in a cross-reference, as in the twelfth sample entry. All titles—civil, military, ecclesiastical, hereditary, honorary, and others—are omitted, except “MRS.” for a married woman whose own first name is not known.

The date column calls for little comment beyond emphasizing what has already been mentioned, i.e., when there are two or more entries for a single name in the index, they are arranged chronologically, regardless of the person addressed or the nature of the document. Abbreviations for the name of the months have been reduced to two letters.

The particular attention of the user is invited to the fact that the number of pages for an item includes every page which has any writing. A page by this definition includes envelopes or cover sheets, docket entries, endorsements of one or more words, file numbers, and similar writing. Only notations made by the Library of Congress are excluded from the page count.

The final or addenda column of the index has been used as a “catchall” for data which cannot be fitted into the closely calculated spacing of the main entry. Documents other than letters are, in each instance, identified in this column, occasionally by content but more often by form. When a date or a name and a date appear in the addenda column, the manuscript is for some reason not in its place in the normal chronological order on the microfilm and in the manuscript collection—for instance, an enclosure filed with its covering letter rather than under its own date.

For information concerning the series arrangement, see the description which appears on page 12 and the reel list which follows the sample index entries.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writer or Recipient</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>S.</th>
<th>P.</th>
<th>Addenda</th>
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<td>ARTHUR CHESTER A-UNION COLLEGE</td>
<td>1848 AG 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1 BA DIPLOMA</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1885 MY 24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NYC UNION LEAGUE TO CAA</td>
<td>1881 DE 22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>WITH COVER</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>WITH COVER</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>UNKNOWN</td>
<td>*1883 SE 17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>FR ANNIE</td>
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<td><em>WAITE MORRISON R TO</em>J BANCROFT DAVIS</td>
<td>1882 FE 17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TYPED TRANSCRIPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>WAITE MORRISON R TO</em>CAA</td>
<td>*1883 JA 24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>WAITE MORRISON R FR</em>H VON BUECKLERS</td>
<td>1884 AP 20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WAITE MORRISON REMICK</td>
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**Reel List**

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<td>1</td>
<td>1882 Jan 1-1925 Apr 27</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1925 May 1-1938 Mar 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1862 Aug 6-1887 Feb 7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1871 Nov 23-1926 Jan 4</td>
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</tbody>
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**Abbreviations**

- Acct/s: Account/s
- Agcy: Agency
- Asmt/s: Assessment/s
- Assoc: Association
- Assur: Assurance
- Atty: Attorney
- Autobiog: Autobiographical
- BA: Bachelor of Arts
- Bd: Board
- Biog: Biographical
- Bro/s: Brother/s
- Bur: Bureau
- CAA: Chester A. Arthur
- Celeb: Celebration
- Cent: Centennial
- Cert: Certificate
- Cham Com: Chamber of Commerce
- Clb: Club
- Clip: Clipping
- Co: Company
- Com: Committee/Commerce/Commission
- Cvr: Cover
- Dept: Department
- Dist: District
- Est: Estate
- Et al: And others
- Exchg/Exchge: Exchange
- Exec: Executive
- Expse: Expense
- Fin/Finan: Finance
- Fr: From
- Frag/s: Fragment/s
- Geneal: Genealogical
- GW: George Washington
- Inaug: Inauguration
- Illus: Illustration
- Inhb: Inhabitants
- Ins/Insur: Insurance
- Inst: Instruction
- Invit: Invitation
- Jour: Journalism
- Memo/s: Memorandum
- Nat: National
- [NP]: [Not President]
- NW: Northwest
- Off: Official
- P: Page
- Peq H: Pequot House
- Pub: Public
- Ratif: Ratification
- Rept: Receipt
- Rept Bill: Receipted Bill
- Receipt Bill: Receipted
- Rep/Repub: Republican
- Recom: Recommendation
- Reptd: Receipted
- Rep: Repair
- S: Series
- Sch: School
- Shordh: Shorthand
- Steamer
- Stmt: Statement
- Steamship
- Svs: Services
- Tel: Telegram
- Test: Testamentary
- Univ: University
- US: United States
- Vs: Venus
- Xmas: Christmas

The asterisk (*) indicates information supplied, wholly or in part, or a doubtful reading of name or date.
<table>
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<th>Writer or Recipient</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>S. P.</th>
<th>Addenda</th>
<th>Writer or Recipient</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Addenda</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendices

For the convenience of users of this index, the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections card, the description of the Arthur Papers which appears with the microfilm copy, and a statement of the Librarian (which also appears on the microfilm) follow.

NATIONAL UNION CATALOG CARD

3 ft. (1413 items)

In Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

In part, transcripts and photocopies of original correspondence in the files of Dun and Bradstreet, Inc.

The surviving bulk of Arthur's papers, most of which are said to have been burned at his direction the day before he died. Correspondence, receipted bills, and other papers. Includes dummies or copies of MSS. relating to Arthur in other collections of the Library. The correspondence includes 25 letters written to Arthur by Julia I. Sand (1881–83) and about 100 letters written by, to, or concerning Arthur (1862–87) reflecting his friendship with Robert G. Dun. Other corre-

(Continued on next card)

MS 60-427


Purchased from Louise R. Mitchell, 1925; Chester A. Arthur iii, 1958; other items acquired by gift, exchange, or purchase, 1902-59.


MS 60-427
DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The bulk of the personal papers of Chester Alan Arthur (1830-1886), Collector of the Port of New York, Vice President, and President of the United States, were [it is reported] burned at his direction the day before he died. Numerous inquiries by officials of the Library of Congress in the 20th century revealed that Louise Reed Mitchell, daughter of Arthur's secretary and confidant, J. C. Reed, owned some 50 documents. These documents were acquired in 1925.

In 1938 Chester A. Arthur III, grandson of the President, deposited 90 documents which he owned. These manuscripts, together with an additional 470, were purchased by the Library 20 years later.

Photocopies of letters exchanged by President Arthur and R. G. Dun or concerning the President in the files of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., were presented in 1959.

A few additional items have been acquired from time to time. A complete list of acquisitions from 1902 on is appended to this statement.

The Arthur Papers are arranged in three series:

Series 1. General Correspondence and Related Manuscripts. 1843-1938. Four manuscript boxes. Letters received, some letters sent, related original manuscripts, and a few photostats of original manuscripts. Arranged chronologically.


The user is cautioned that the publication of the contents of this microfilm may be construed as constituting a violation of literary property rights. These rights derive from the principle of common law that the writer of an unpublished letter or other manuscript has the sole right to publish the contents thereof, unless he affirmatively parts with the right; the right descends to his legal heirs regardless of the ownership of the physical manuscript itself. It is the responsibility of an author or his publisher to secure the permission of the owner of literary property rights in unpublished writings.

In the case of the Chester A. Arthur Papers, no dedication to the public of the literary rights is known (April 10, 1959) to have been made.

SOURCES OF ACQUISITION

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<td>1918</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Deposit by Arthur H. Masted; converted to gift 1957.</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>3091</td>
<td>Gift of James A Donegan.</td>
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<td>1925</td>
<td>3105</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>5121</td>
<td>Gift of George B. Cortelyou.</td>
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<td>1957</td>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>11,646</td>
<td>Photostats of originals in New Jersey Historical Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>11,713</td>
<td>Gift of Walter N. Eastburn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>11,705</td>
<td>Gift (photocopies) of Owen A. Sheffield with permission of J. Wilson Newman, president, Dun &amp; Bradstreet, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>11,761</td>
<td>Gift (photocopies) of Northern Pacific Railway, through Robert S. Macfarlane, president of the company.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>11,867</td>
<td>Purchase.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
STATEMENT OF THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

The following statement on the Presidential Papers Program appears on the microfilm of each group of papers:

The personal papers of 23 Presidents of the United States are in the Library of Congress. Under an Act of Congress (Public Law 85–147) approved August 16, 1957, the Librarian of Congress was directed to arrange, microfilm, and index these papers. The purpose of the legislation was to provide greater security through the wide distribution of copies of the microfilm and to facilitate the use of the papers by scholars and others. An appropriation for this work was made in August 1958, and the project was begun the same month. Presidents whose papers are in the Library are:

| George Washington | James K. Polk | Chester A. Arthur |
| Thomas Jefferson  | Zachary Taylor | Grover Cleveland |
| James Madison     | Franklin Pierce | Benjamin Harrison |
| James Monroe      | Abraham Lincoln | William McKinley |
| Andrew Jackson    | Andrew Johnson | Theodore Roosevelt |
| Martin Van Buren  | Ulysses S. Grant | William H. Taft |
| William H. Harrison | James A. Garfield | Woodrow Wilson |
| John Tyler        |                 | Calvin Coolidge |

The size and complexity of the groups of Presidential papers vary greatly. One group of Presidential papers contains fewer than 1,000 documents and is arranged in a simple chronological order. Another contains about 500,000 documents and will require division into a number of series with different internal arrangements. A specific statement about each group of Presidential papers follows this general statement.

The user is advised that indexes (largely of correspondents in the papers) will be prepared and published in book form. Announcements concerning the availability of the indexes as well as of microfilms of other groups of Presidential papers will be made from time to time. Inquiry may be made of the Chief of the Manuscript Division concerning future publication plans.

L. QUINCY MUMFORD,
Librarian of Congress.

December 29, 1958