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Gouverneur Morris Ogden letters4079565

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Ogden, Gouverneur M (Gouverneur Morris), 1809?-1884
Title:	Gouverneur Morris Ogden letters
ID:	4079565
ID:	MS#0944
Date [inclusive]:	1866-1877
Physical Description:	1.67 linear feet 8 volumes in 4 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Gouverneur M. Ogden letters; Box and Volume; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

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Biographical Note

Columbia College graduate of the Class of 1833, Treasurer of Columbia College from 1866 to 1874.

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Summary

The collection consists of Columbia College Treasurer Gouverneur M. Ogden's correspondence and deals chiefly with routine matters of college business and finance. The letters are tipped and mounted onto the blank pages of 7 volumes. There are three volumes of letters from F.A.P. Barnard, President of the College, 1 volume of letters from trustees and members of the

faculty, and 3 volumes of College business letters. A letterbook of outgoing correspondence was added in 1984.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF replaced with full finding aid (JR) 2022-01-05

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Columbiana Library. Method of acquisition--Transfer; Date of acquisition--1955. Accession number--M-1955. A letterbook of outgoing correspondence was added in 1984.

Ownership and Custodial History

Transferred from Columbiana, 1955.

Processing Information

Processed JCA 04/--/85.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

For additional materials related to Columbia College during period, please consult the [Frederick A.P. Barnard Papers \(MS#0073\)](#), [Hamilton Fish letters \(MS#0474\)](#), [Minutes of the Board of Trustees \(UA#0019\)](#) and the [Columbia College papers \(UA#0224\)](#).

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Controlled Access Headings

- Universities and colleges -- New York (State) -- New York -- 19th century
- Letterpress copybooks
- Administrative officers
- College administrators
- Treasurers
- Barnard, Frederick A. P (Frederick Augustus Porter), 1809-1889
- Columbia College (New York, N.Y.)

Other Finding Aids

[Legacy finding aid](#)

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Collection Inventory

Series I: Gouverneur M. Ogden letters, 1866-1877	
Title/Description	Instances
G.M. Ogden Correspondence	
Volume I: Trustees and Faculty, 1866-1874	box 1
Volume II: College Business, 1866-1867	box 1
Volume III: College Business, 1868-1870	box 2
Volume IV: College Business, 1871-1874	box 2
Letters from F.A.P. Barnard to G.M. Ogden	
Volume I, 1866 October 5-1869 June 26	box 3
Volume II, 1870 October 5-1872 June 28	box 3
Volume III, 1872 July 16-1874 September 28	box 4
Letter-copy book of G. M. Ogden, Treasurer of Columbia College, 1868 December 15-1877 May 16	box 4

Scope and Contents

This thick volume contains about 700 letters written by Gouverneur M. Ogden as Treasurer of Columbia College from December 15, 1868 to May 16, 1877. They provide a fascinating insight into the workings of this important institution. About one third of the letters are addressed to F. A. P. Barnard, President, and give a fine picture both in overview and in detail of most aspects of the college. Numerous letters are to professors like Charles F. Chandler, Henry Drisler, Thomas Egleston, Charles A. Joy, and Ogden N. Rood, with a few to Theodore W. Dwight, Asa Gray, and Jay Gould.

Scope and Contents

Subjects mentioned include financial affairs of the college, actions of college committees, suits and other legal matters, college leases, payment of expenses and taxes, repair work to the president's home, banking and insurance matters, student fees, affairs of the library and the School of Mines, plans for expansion, the observatory, office space, and departmental expenses and budgets.

Scope and Contents

Treasurer Ogden was no mere clerk, but as financial officer was (as is often the case at universities) a power center himself. Respectful to Barnard, he nevertheless played counsellor and advisor, once urging the president to "look into the merits" of a proposed expense rather than "approving it merely because the professor wants it." Ogden also moderated personality clashes, as seen in an 1871 letter to Barnard concerning Wm. Y. Peck, the astronomy professor. "He has mentioned to me with concern that his relations with you are unpleasant," Ogden writes, "but as to any hostile measure against yourself, he vouched no such idea & I am sure contemplated no such thing. I apprehend he may resign - a course which I should regret as most calamitous to the Institution - We all know the Professor's peculiarities - he is sensitive and impulsive, but of a genuine character, devoted to his work, a great ability, and as an instructor, successful & efficient in the highest degree."

Scope and Contents

Bound volume (30cm x 25cm) with partial index (letters B-Z). 876 pages on tissue sheets. Dampstaining at ft. has made several dozen letters difficult to read and ten-or-so impossible. Very acceptable condition overall, however.

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