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Despatches From United States Ministers to Great Britain 1791-1906

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DESPATCHES FROM UNITED STATES MINISTERS TO GREAT BRITAIN 1791-1906

In this microcopy are reproduced 210 volumes that consist, for the most part, of despatches addressed to the Department of State by United States diplomatic representatives to Great Britain between November 29, 1791, and August 10, 1906. On the first roll are reproduced selected pages from 18 State Department registers of correspondence, which, taken as a unit, comprise a register of despatches from Great Britain from April 7, 1790, to December 18, 1906.

Most of the communications are original despatches and many of them are accompanied by enclosures. The despatches relate to such subjects as the negotiation of Jay's Treaty; restrictions on American shipping during the Napoleonic wars; relief and protection of American seamen; discharge of American citizens from British military service; suppression of the African slave trade; disputes over the northeastern boundary of the United States, the Oregon boundary, the outfitting of Confederate privateers in British ports, the boundary between British Guiana and Venezuela, the Alaskan boundary, fishing rights in Newfoundland waters, fur sealing in the Bering Sea, and British seizure of American merchandise bound for South Africa during the Boer War; a proposed ship canal in Central America; Confederate activities in England during the Civil War; the Treaty of Washington, 1871; and the Fenian movement.

House officials, and memoranda prepared by State Department munications from private citizens, Government agencies, and White contain occasional telegrams or cables, which are not numbered, comor departure, and bills for official expenses. The volumes also al news, acknowledgments of appointments, announcements of arrival secrecy or not fully covered in the despatches or may convey personmore informal than despatches, may report official matters requiring contain many unnumbered communications, some of which are marked "Private" or "Confidential." These unnumbered communications, Apart from numbered despatches and enclosures, these volumes enclosures. Volumes 2, 4, 6, 11, and 13 of the despatches are not British foreign office, which in turn are accompanied by copies of ical by date of writing, with enclosures following the transmitting included in this microcopy as they contain duplicate despatches. letter. Many of the enclosures are copies of notes to or from the In each volume the general order of the despatches is chronolog-

The first diplomatic representative from the United States to Great Britain was John Adams, Minister Plenipotentiary from 1785 to 1788.

His despatches are in the Papers of the Continental Congress, in Record Group 11, in the National Archives. During 1790 and 1791 Gouverneur Morris, who was later Minister to France, was a special agent of President Washington in London. His communications for this period are among the Washington Papers in the Library of Congress. Three of these communications, dated at London on April 7 and 13 and May 1, 1790, are entered in the register reproduced on Roll 1 of this microcopy. Copies of them are reproduced on Roll 5 of Microcopy 34, Despatches From United States Ministers to France, 1789-1869.

On January 12, 1792, Thomas Pinckney was commissioned Minister Plenipotentiary to Great Britain and continued in this capacity during the period when John Jay as Envoy Extraordinary was negotiating a treaty with Great Britain. James Monroe, Minister Plenipotentiary from 1803 to 1807, and William Pinkney were appointed Joint Commissioners Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary in 1806 to negotiate another treaty; and when the negotiations were closed Pinkney succeeded Monroe as Minister Plenipotentiary. There is little correspondence during the period 1812-15, as diplomatic relations were interrupted by war between the two countries. After June 1815 the United States maintained a Minister at London until March 30, 1893. On that date Thomas F. Bayard was confirmed as the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Great Britain and the Legation became an Embassy.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

and consuls in the United States from the Department of State, 1793of the Embassy at Ghent, "April 14-November 10, 1814, are reproduced as Microcopy 36. Complementary to the diplomatic despatches 1834 (Microcopy 38), and notes to the British Legation in the United 1791-1906 (reproduced as Microcopy 50); notes to foreign ministers British Legation in the United States to the Department of State, 73-94 of Microcopy 77). Also related to these are notes from the States Ministers to Great Britain, 1829-1906 (reproduced as Rolls 1801-33 (reproduced as Rolls 1-8 of Microcopy 77); and to United duced as Microcopy 28); to United States Ministers to all countries, and consular representatives to all countries, 1791-1801 (reproare copies of instructions from the Department of State to diplomatic with Great Britain, August 29, 1813 - July 3, 1815, and the "Archives tween Great Britain and the United States. Despatches from the series of volumes containing additional material on relations be-American Commissioners empowered to negotiate a treaty of peace In the same record group in the National Archives are several

States from the Department of State, 1834-1906 (Rolls 35-56 of Microcopy 99); and despatches from United States consular officials at posts throughout the British Isles, 1790-1906. There are despatches from posts at Belfast, 1796-1906, Birmingham, 1869-1906, Bradford, 1865-1906, Bristol, 1791-1906, Burslem, 1905-6, Cardiff, 1861-1906, Cork, 1800-1906, Dublin, 1790-1906, Dundee, 1834-1906, Dunfermline, 1877-1906, Edinburgh, 1893-1906, Falmouth, 1790-1905, Glasgow, 1801-1906, Hull, 1879-1906, Leeds, 1797-1906, Leith, 1798-1893, Liverpool, 1790-1906, London, 1790-1906, Manchester, 1847-1906, Newcastle, 1854-1906, Nottingham, 1877-1906, Plymouth, 1793-1906, Sheffield, 1864-1906, and Southampton, 1790-1906. There are also instructions to consular officials at these posts. All these series were discontinued on August 14, 1906, when the Department of State adopted the practice of filing incoming and outgoing correspondence by subject.

There are related records in other record groups in the National Archives. Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, includes the records of the United States Legation in Great Britain, 1826-1935, as well as those of various consular posts in that country and throughout the British Empire.

have been used: MP, Minister Plenipotentiary; EE and MP, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary; and AE and P, Ambasmunications are reproduced. The following abbreviations for titles author's title, if any, inclusive dates of communications written by him, and the numbers of the rolls of microfilm on which the comsador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. This index, arranged alphabetically by name of writer, gives the

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