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John Payne Todd Correspondence, 1792-1824 (bulk 1810-1824): Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number:	C1224
Location:	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Manuscripts Division. One Washington Road Princeton, New Jersey 08544 USA
Size:	0.20 linear feet (1 half-size archival box)
Language(s) of material:	English.
Abstract:	Consists of selected correspondence of John Payne Todd, stepson of President James Madison.

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Biography of John Payne Todd

John Payne Todd was the son of Dolley Payne and her first husband John Todd. After Todd's death, Dolley Payne married President James Madison, making John Payne Todd Madison's stepson. Todd had a weakness for gambling, and was unsuccessful in an assignment seeking Russia's help to end the War of 1812. After the death of President Madison, Dolley Madison was forced to sell the family plantation, Montpelier, to pay her son's debts.

Description

The collection consists of thirty-five letters sent to John Payne Todd from various correspondents. Subjects of the letters include official business, dinner invitations, his appointment in Ghent (Belgium) as secretary to the U.S. legation, and his mother, Dolley Madison. Among the correspondents are James Baker, John S. Cogdell, Dennis L. Cottineau, J. Erky, George W. Ewing, John Goulding, John Graham, P. Irving, J. J. Kane, Thomas Law, Gilbert Russell, Gabriel Shaw, H. Sommerville, D. B. Warden, and John Wilkes, Jr. Several letters are addressed to Payne at "the President's house," and there are also two letters addressed to Todd's father, John Todd, dated 1792.

Arrangement

Folders are arranged in chronological order.

Access and Use

Access

Collection is open for research use.

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.

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition

The letters were purchased on June 14, 1966.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); John Payne Todd Correspondence, Box and Folder Number; Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Dina Britain on October 12, 2007. Finding aid written by Lauren Kustner on November 9, 2007.

Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Lauren Kustner on November 9, 2007.

Descriptive Rules Used

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

Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Madison, Dolley, 1768-1849 -- Family.
- Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Family.
- Todd, John, 1763-1793 -- Correspondence.
- Todd family.
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1809-1817.
- Correspondence -- 19th century.
- American history/Early national