


2015

## Finding Aid to the Collection of Richard Cutts Shannon Materials.

Colby College Special Collections

Richard Cutts Shannon

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### Recommended Citation

Collection of Richard Cutts Shannon Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

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# **Finding Aid to the Collection of Richard Cutts Shannon Materials SHAN.1**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on March 12, 2015.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Colby College Special Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Richard Cutts Shannon, b. 1839
<b>Title:</b>	Collection of Richard Cutts Shannon Materials.
<b>ID:</b>	SHAN.1
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	January 1862 - September 1920
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.5 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Location:</b>	Located in Colbiana Sequence Box 41; Colbiana Oversized; Shannon Shelf, Chapman Room (diaries only); artifacts in Stack 4.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English, French, Spanish.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection comprises diaries, correspondence, printed materials, photographs, artifacts, and clippings about Richard Cutts Shannon (Colby College Class of 1862), who served in the Civil War in the 5th Maine volunteer infantry regiment and as an aide-de-camp to General Slocum. Shannon was also appointed as a secretary to the US legation in Brazil; a diplomatic minister to Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Costa Rica; and was also a lawyer in New York, having received a degree in law from Columbia University.

### Preferred Citation

Collection of Richard Cutts Shannon Materials, Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Richard Cutts Shannon, Colby 1862, had a rich and interesting life. He served in the Civil War, traveled to Brazil and China, attended law school at age 44, served in the diplomatic core, and was a congressman

from New York's 13th District. His war experiences and later life were recorded in a series of diaries, as well as summarized in unpublished reminiscences written in 1920.

Shortly after President Champlin closed the college in the ensuing excitement after the news of the firing on Fort Sumter in 1861, Shannon enlisted in Company "H" of the 5th Maine Regiment , Volunteer Infantry. He was made an aide-de-camp for General Slocum in March 1862, and was taken prisoner at Chancellorsville in May 1863. Shannon spent 18 days in Libby Prison in Richmond and recorded his diary entries on blank leaves of a book that he purchased while a prisoner. He was honorably discharged in 1866 and received the brevets of Major and Lieutenant Colonel in 1867.

Shannon funded the Shannon Physical Laboratory building on the old campus and was a generous donor to the Centennial Fund. He received an honorary degree from Colby in 1892. His diaries and papers were donated to the college by his nephew Richard C. Shannon, a member of Colby 's Class of 1899.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Richard Cutts Shannon collection contains materials by and about Richard Cutts Shannon, Colby Class of 1862. Of note are many diaries Shannon kept throughout his life between 1862-1920, including his time as an aide-de-camp in the Civil War, a prisoner in Libby Prison, his voyage to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, his service as Secretary of the U.S. Legation in Brazil, as a U.S. Congressman, and an account of his tour around the world. This collection also contains photographs, artifacts (Shannon's riding gloves and saddlebag from the Civil War era), Shannon's accounts of college life prior to the Civil War and also of his time in military service, as well as a typescript by Colby College President Arthur Roberts at a special memorial service commemorating Shannon's life, held in 1921.

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## Arrangement

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Materials arranged in 8 series: Manuscripts, Correspondence, Photographs, Personal Documents, Biographical Materials, Printed Materials, Clippings, and Artifacts.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Colby College Special Collections

### Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Materials to be used on site during regular Special Collections hours or by appointment. Photocopying or scanning may be possible at discretion of staff for nominal fee. Materials may be protected by copyright.

### Custodial History

Materials acquired via gift from Richard Cutts Shannon II, Colby Class of 1899 (Shannon's nephew).

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Military and War
- Diaries
- Alumnae and alumni
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
- Government, Politics, Law
- Colbiana
- Brazil
- Photographs
- Maine
- Clippings
- Costa Rica
- El Salvador
- Correspondence
- Nicaragua
- Colby College -- History
- Henry Warner Slocum, 1826-1894

- Richard Cutts Shannon, b. 1839
- Edwin Carey Whittemore, 1858-1932
- James H. Shannon

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series A: Manuscripts., 1862-1920.

Title/Description	Instances
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Diary, Volume 1., January 10, 1862 - September 13, 1862

Existence and Location of Copies:

**Existence and Location of Copies**

This diary has been digitized.

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Diary, Volume 2., September 14, 1862 - September 27, 1862.

Existence and Location of Copies:

**Existence and Location of Copies**

This diary has been digitized.

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Diary, Volume 2A. , May 1863.

Related Materials:

**Related Materials**

See Series B: Correspondence, for more information on how Shannon recovered this diary after it had been lost for twenty years.

Existence and Location of Copies:

**Existence and Location of Copies**

This diary has been digitized.

**General**

Diary when a prisoner of war in Libby, May 1863, penciled on blank pages and spaces of "Bojeson's History of Grecian and Roman Antiquities."

---

Diary, Volume 2B., September 28, 1863 - January 3, 1865

Existence and Location of Copies:

**Existence and Location of Copies**

This diary has been digitized.

## General

Kept while on duty at Riker's Island and Hart's Island.  
Contains in inverted form Volume 7.

---

Diary, Volume 3., January 16, 1865 - April 4, 1866.

### Existence and Location of Copies:

## Existence and Location of Copies

This diary has been digitized.

## General

Covering service before Richmond, and including voyage to Texas and journey across that State to Marshall, Texas.

---

Diary, Volume 4., April 12, 1866 - March 24, 1867.

## General

Including voyage to Brazil on the fore-and-aft schooner "Julia A. Hallock," 200 tons burthen, Crowell, Master.

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Diary, Volume 5., March 26, 1867 - August 13, 1868.

## General

While in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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Diary, Volume 6., January 1, 1869 - May 1870.

## General

Including Shannon's return to United States on learning of fatal sickness of his mother.

---

Diary, Volume 7., August 1, 1870 - November 30, 1870.

## General

Preparing and delivering lecture on Brazil in Biddeford, Kittery, North Berwick, Kennebunk, Lewiston, and Bangor.  
Is inverted in same book as Volume 2B.

---

Diary, Volume 8., March 1871 - August 9, 1875.

## General

Covering service as Secretary of the U.S. Legation in Brazil, and departure on leave of absence to France, where Shannon resigned from the Diplomatic Service, and began a careful study of the tramway concessions and authorized for the chief of cities of that Country at the request of his friend, Mr. Charles B. Greenough; and while in Paris, attending lectures at the Ecole de Droit.



Diary, Volume 9., August 19, 1875 - June 14, 1876

**General**

Residence in France studying tramway concessions and attending lectures at Ecole de Droit, the Sorbonne, and Aux Arts et Metiers, until return to Rio de Janeiro.

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Diary, Volume 10., June 16, 1876 - September 22, 1876.

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Diary, Volume 11., October 2, 1876 - February 12, 1877.

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Diary, Volume 12., February 15, 1877 - October 8, 1877.

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Diary, Volume 12A., July 28, 1877 - September 10, 1877.

**General**

Trip into Province of Minas Geraes in company with Joseph Partridge, Esq.

Existence and Location of Copies:

**Existence and Location of Copies**

Copy 2 is Typescript.

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Diary, Volume 13., November 19, 1877 - November 4, 1878.

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Diary, Volume 14., November 5, 1878 - October 4, 1879.

---

Diary, Volume 15., October 7, 1879 - September 30, 1881

**General**

Return to the United States and back to Brazil as Vice President and General Manager of the Botanical Garden R.R. Co.

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Diary, Volume 16., October 2, 1881 - July 20, 1882.

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Diary, Volume 17., August 7, 1882 - June 24, 1883

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Diary, Volume 18., June 25, 1883 - September 23, 1883

**General**

Return to England and the United States.

---

Diary, Volume 19., September 28, 1883 - October 8, 1884

---

Diary, Volume 19A., July 1884.

**General**

Diary of a ride with Dr. J.H. Shannon from New York City to Saco, Maine, July 1884.

---

Diary, Volume 19B., August 1884.

## General

Trip into New Hampshire during August, 1884, in company with George E. Hodgdon.

---

Diary, Volume 19C., October 10, 1884 - October 23, 1886

## General

Visit with Dr. J.H. Shannon and my Aunt Abbie to San Francisco, when I sailed for Japan.

### Existence and Location of Copies:

## Existence and Location of Copies

Duplicate copy of latter half of Volume 19C, Folder A4, Stack 2.

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Diary, Volume 20., October 23, 1886 - February 21, 1887.

## General

Continuing account of tour around the world.

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Diary, Volume 21., February 22, 1887 - July 16, 1887.

Diary, Volume 22., July 29, 1887 - May 3, 1889.

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Diary, Volume 23., 1887, 1888, 1889

## General

German and Italian diaries for 1887, 1888, 1889.

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Diary, Volume 24., 1889.

Diary, Volume 25., 1890.

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Diary, Volume 26., 1891-1893.

## General

Covering Central American Mission.

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Diary, Volume 27. [Missing?], 1894.

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Diary, Volume 28., March 4, 1895 - August 19, 1895.

## General

Including two trips to Colorado.

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Diary, Volume 29., August 19, 1895 - March 31, 1897.

---

Diary, Volume 30., April 3, 1897 - November 24, 1899.

## General

Including renomination to Congress.

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Diary, Volume 31., November 28, 1898 - November 5, 1899.

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Diary, Volume 32., November 6, 1899 - October 28, 1900.

---

Diary, Volume 33., November 7, 1900 - August 3, 1901.

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Diary, Volume 34., August 4, 1901 - March 12, 1903.

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Diary, Volume 35., August 5, 1902 - March 12, 1903

---

Diary, Volume 36., March 13, 1903 - February 12, 1904.

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Diary, Volume 37., February 13, 1904 - October 2, 1904.

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Folder A1: Typescript., 1920.

Some Reminiscences of College Life, by Richard Cutts Shannon., August 6, 1920.

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Folder A2: Typescript, 1920.

An Account of Military Service in the Civil War of Richard Cutts Shannon, typescript by Richard Cutts Shannon., 1920

Existence and Location of Copies:

### **Existence and Location of Copies**

This item has been transcribed.

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Folder A3: O Ministro Americano.

O Ministro Americano., June 13, 1877.

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Folder A4: Copy of Diaries, Volumes 19C (end) - 20 (beginning), 1886.

Manuscript copy of portions of Diaries, Volumes 19C - 20., October 9-November 4, 1886.

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Folder A5: Photocopy of Diary, Volume 1., 1862.

Photocopy of Diary, Volume 1., January 10, 1862-September 13, 1862.

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Folder A6: Photocopy of Diary, Volume 2., 1862.

Photocopy of Diary, Volume 2., September 1862.

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## Series B: Correspondence., 1877-1920.

Title/Description	Instances
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Folder B1: Correspondence regarding the return of Shannon's  
Libby Prison diary., 1885-1893

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Newspaper Clipping, "Where Is Captain Shannon?"

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Letter from J. H. Shannon to Richard Cutts Shannon., November  
9, 1885

---

Letter from Milton Lytle to Richard Cutts Shannon., November  
11, 1885.

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Copy of letter from Richard Cutts Shannon to Milton Lytle.,  
November 13, 1885.

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Copy of letter from Richard Cutts Shannon to Milton Lytle.,  
November 20, 1885.

---

Letter from Milton Lytle to Richard Cutts Shannon., November  
23, 1885.

---

Letter from Milton Lytle to Richard Cutts Shannon., November  
25, 1885.

---

Letter from Milton Lytle to Richard Cutts Shannon., December  
12, 1885.

---

Letter from Milton Lytle to Richard Cutts Shannon., December  
23, 1885.

---

Letter from Milton Lytle to Richard Cutts Shannon., December  
25, 1885.

---

Letter from Milton Lytle to Richard Cutts Shannon., December  
30, 1885.

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Letter from H. E. Malin to Richard Cutts Shannon., November  
29, 1893.

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Folder B2: Correspondence from Richard Cutts Shannon to Edwin  
C. Whittemore., 1919-1920.

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Letter from Richard Cutts Shannon to Rev. Edwin C.  
Whittemore., August 20, 1919.

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Letter from Richard Cutts Shannon to Rev. Edwin C.  
Whittemore., February 19, 1920.

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Folder B3: Correspondence between Richard Cutts Shannon and  
Various Correspondents., 1877-1920.

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Letter from James R. Partridge to Richard Cutts Shannon., June  
10, 1879.

---

Letter from C. L. White to Dudley F. Bailey., February 9, 1907.

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Copy of letter from Richard Cutts Shannon to the Colby  
Alumnus., June 5, 1912.

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Letter from Richard Cutts Shannon to Arthur J. Roberts., August  
7, 1915.

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Copy of pledge from Richard Cutts Shannon., June 27, 1916.

Letter from Richard Cutts Shannon to Leslie C. Cornish., July 6, 1920.

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## Series C: Photographs., Undated.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder C1: Photographs, young.	
Family, including Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shannon, of Richard Cutts Shannon.	
Richard Cutts Shannon., 1862.	
"Libby Prison.", 1882.	
Folder C2: Photographs, formal., ca. 1912, 1916.	
Folder C3: Photographs, oversized., 1907	
Luncheon given by R.C. Shannon at his Brockport residence, February 23, 1907, in honor of His Excellency Joaquim Nabuco, the Brazilian Ambassador to the United States., February 23, 1907.	

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## Series D: Personal Documents., 1861-1910 and undated.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder D1: Miscellaneous documents., 1861-1910 and undated.	
State of Maine Warrant to Richard Cutts Shannon., June 24, 1861.	
A Statement Made by Mrs. J. M. Haley to R. C. Shannon at San Francisco, Cal., July 7, 1886.	
Check Register., February-May 1926.	
Certificate of Membership, National Geographic Society., June 4, 1910.	
List received with Shannon Materials.	
Folder D2: Degrees, Diplomas, and Awards., 1862-1909	
Diploma, Waterville College., August 1862.	
Diploma, Waterville College., August, 1866.	

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Diploma, Bachelor of Laws, Cum Laude, Columbia College Law School., May 27, 1885.

---

Certificate of admission as an Attorney Counselor to practice in the Courts of the State of New York. Issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York., January 29, 1886.

---

Diploma, Doctorate, Colby University., June 29, 1892.

---

Certificate of Membership, Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Rochester, New York., April 28, 1904.

---

Certificate of honorary membership of The Lincoln Farm Association., February 15, 1909.

---

Certificate, Regent appointment, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow National Memorial Association., May 7, 1909.

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Folder D3: Military Awards and Certificates., 1868-1905

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

Colbiana oversized.

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State of Maine, Testimonial to patriotism, fidelity, courage, and suffering in the Common Cause, to Richard Cutts Shannon., July 4, 1868.

---

Certificate of Receipt as Companion of the First Class of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, New York., October 25, 1886.

---

Special Passport, United States of America Department of State., August 22, 1891.

---

Certificate of membership in the Sons of the Revolution., November 25, 1905.

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Folder D4: Military and Diplomatic Appointments.

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Appointment of Richard Cutts Shannon as Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers with the rank of Captain., March 13, 1863.

---

Certificate of rank of Major by Brevet, for faithful and meritorius services during the war., May 25, 1866.

---

Certificate of rank of Lieutenant Colonel by Brevet, for gallant and meritorius services at the battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia., March 23, 1867.

---

Appointment as Secretary of the Legation, of the Unites States of America, to Brazil., June 26, 1871.

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Appointment to Secretary of the Legation of the Unites States of America, to Brazil., December 12, 1871.

Appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Slavador., August 8, 1891.

Appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Slavador., December 23, 1891.

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## Series E: Biographical Materials., 1921 and undated.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder E1: Miscellaneous biographical materials.	
Photocopy of article from Colby Alumnus: Shannon Paper Presented to Library.	
Colonel Shannon Address by President Arthur Roberts, at a special memorial service, held in the College Chapel., June 19, 1921.	
Photocopy of article from the Colby Alumnus: The Death of Richard Cutts Shannon '62., 1920-1921.	
Commissions, Diplomas, Certificates & Testimonials.	
Biographical Sketches of Richard Cutts Shannon [by W. S. Knowlton?].	

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## Series F: Printed Materials., 1891 and undated.

Title/Description	Instances
Folder F1: Miscellaneous printed materials., 1891 and undated.	
Examples of Confederate Currency.	
Speech of Hon. John Dalzell of Pennsylvania in the House of Representatives., February 10, 1891.	
Dicsursos, Managua., 1891.	
Remarks of Hon. Richard C. Shannon, Renomination for Congress., September 15, 1896.	
Souvenir of Manassas, Virginia. With "Around and About the Battlefield, A Guide to Strangers," by George C. Round.	
La Fortune D'Amours.	
Two printed cards - one in German, one in Hebrew.	

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## Series G: Clippings., 1880-1892 and undated

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Folder G1: Newspaper clippings, Undated.</p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>All clippings extremely fragile.</p>	
<p>Newspaper Clipping, "War Day By Day: Fifty Years Ago."</p>	
<p>Newspaper Clipping, "The Reception."</p>	
<p>Folder G2: Newspaper clippings - primarily Brazilian illustrated papers., 1870-1892.</p> <p><b>General</b></p> <p>All clippings extremely fragile.</p>	
<p>Le Ballon Poste., November 13, 1870.</p>	
<p>Revista Ilustrada, no. 190., 1880.</p>	
<p>El Partido Constitucional, numero 194., October 21, 1891.</p>	
<p>La Gaceta, numero 254., November 1, 1891.</p>	
<p>Gaceta Oficial (fragments), num. 16., February 24, 1892.</p>	

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## Series H: Artifacts., ca. 1862.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Pair of gloves owned by Richard Cutts Shannon., ca. 1862.</p>	
<p>Saddlebag and leather strap owned by Richard Cutts Shannon., ca. 1862.</p>	

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