

C. Chaillé-Long Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by C. L. Craig



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms010128>

Latest revision: 2011 April

Collection Summary

Title: C. Chaillé-Long Papers

Span Dates: 1809-1918

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1863-1918)

ID No.: MSS15479

Creator: Chaillé-Long, C. (Charles), 1842-1917

Extent: 1,800 items; 3 containers; 1.2 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English and French, with Italian, Arabic, Turkish, Japanese, and other languages

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Soldier, explorer, and diplomat. Personal and official correspondence, articles, speeches, news clippings, scrapbook, awards, commissions, maps, and photographs concerning Chaillé-Long's career as an explorer and public servant.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Ardouin, D. F.--Correspondence.

Baratieri, Oreste--Correspondence.

Beresford, Charles William de la Poer Beresford, Baron, 1846-1919--Correspondence.

Blair, Montgomery, 1813-1883--Correspondence.

Field, Sue Virginia--Correspondence.

Gavillot, J. C. Aristide (Jean Claude Aristide), b. 1837--Correspondence.

Giraud, Paul--Correspondence.

Gordon, Charles George, 1833-1885.

Ismail, Khedive of Egypt, 1830-1895--Correspondence.

Jusserand, J. J. (Jean Jules), 1855-1932--Correspondence.

Le Myre de Vilers, Charles Marie, 1833-1918--Correspondence.

Orillat, Paul H.--Correspondence.

Proctor, Edward Dean--Correspondence.

Taillet, Paul--Correspondence.

Vignaud, Henry, 1830-1922--Correspondence.

Subjects

Geography--Africa.

Geography--Korea.

Places

Africa--Discovery and exploration.

Alexandria (Egypt)--History--Bombardment, 1882.

Egypt--History--British occupation, 1882-1936.

Nile River--Discovery and exploration.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Explorers.

Soldiers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of C. Chaillé-Long, soldier, explorer, and diplomat, were given to the Library of Congress by his niece, Mrs. C. A. Swann Sinclair, in 1919.

Processing History

The papers of C. Chaillé-Long were processed and microfilmed in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2009 and 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of C. Chaillé-Long is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of C. Chaillé-Long are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on two reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, C. Chaillé-Long Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1842, July 2	Born, Princess Anne, Md.
1860	Educated, Washington Academy, Maryland
1861-1865	Civil War service, private to captain
1869-1870	Commissioned lieutenant colonel, Egyptian Army; professor of French, military school, Cairo, Egypt
1871-1873	Served Alexandria infantry, General Staff, Cairo, Egypt
1874-1877	Chief of staff to Charles George Gordon
1874	Executed treaty annexing Uganda to Egypt; discovered Lake Ibrahim, Nile Valley; promoted to colonel
1877	Published <i>Central Africa: Naked Truths of Naked People</i> . New York: Harper & Brothers

1880	Graduated, Columbia University Law School, New York, N.Y.
1881	Served international tribunals, Alexandria, Egypt
1882	United States consul, Alexandria, Egypt, during bombardment of the city by the British Mediterranean Fleet; decorated Cross of Commander of the Osmanieh
1883	Practiced international law, Paris, France
1884	Published <i>The Three Prophets</i> . New York: D. Appleton and Co.
1887-1889	United States consul general to Korea; explored Qualepart Island and Han River
1890	Married Marie Amelie Hammond
1891	Published <i>Les Sources du Nil</i> . Rouen: Impr. de E. Cagniard
1897-1900	Served U.S. special commissions, Paris, France
1901	Decorated, Légion d'Honneur
1908-1916?	Editorial staff member, Washington <i>Sunday Star</i>
1917, Mar. 24	Died, buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

Charles Chaillé-Long (1842-1907) was perhaps best known as a soldier, explorer, and discoverer of Lake Ibrahim in the Nile Valley in 1874, and his papers document his African experiences as well as some of his activities as writer, lecturer, practitioner of international law, and diplomat. The majority of the papers are related to the period in the 1870s and 1880s when Chaillé-Long was in Egypt, although the collection as a whole covers the period from 1863 to 1918, with the exception of two letters from Winfield Scott (1786-1866) to A. Porter in 1809-1910. The Scott letters may have come from the Chaillé-Long family or may have been used by Chaillé-Long in his historical studies.

The collection consists of [General Correspondence](#), [Subject File](#), [Speeches and Writings](#), and [Miscellany](#) series, but the papers are limited in both scope and amplitude. Although Chaillé-Long family history is documented in applications to the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and in biographical articles, there are no other references to Chaillé-Long's childhood or family. There are only a few documents from his service in the Civil War, from his practice in international law, and from his tour as consul general in Korea. Many of the papers relate to his attempt to secure an appointment in the United States Foreign Service, to obtain remuneration from the Egyptian government, or to qualify for an army pension in 1907. Consequently, his activities as an officer in the army of Ismail, Khédive of Egypt (1870-1877) and as temporary United States consul during the bombardment of Alexandria in 1882 by the British are well documented. His writings about his experiences in Africa and in the Far East are incomplete but are well represented in the collection, both in manuscript and printed form.

The collection provides source material for studies in the late nineteenth-century history of the Nile Valley, including personal studies of Charles George Gordon and of the Khédive, as well as comments on Egyptian society and the explorations and explorers of the time. Some source material is also included on China in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Most of the material reflects Chaillé-Long's personal view of the times, his comments on the diplomatic service, foreign affairs, and the peoples of alien lands from the point of view of one who was outside the State Department's scope of activities.

Papers in the collection are primarily in English, but many are in French, and a few are in Italian, Arabic, Turkish, and Japanese. Turkish documents include Chaillé-Long's military promotion in the Khédive's army and his decorations by Abdul Mejid, Sultan of Turkey. Included also is a Japanese biography of Chaillé-Long that was written at the time of his diplomatic service in Korea.

Scattered throughout the collection are documents relating to awards and memberships, to the French Legion of Honor, presidential appointments from Grover Cleveland, appearances before various geographical and historical societies, the masonic order, law degrees, and qualification and appointment papers.

The [General Correspondence](#) series treats social as well as professional issues and affairs, with many letters of testimonial concerning Chaillé-Long's activities in Egypt in the 1880s. A few copies of Chaillé-Long's own letters are included in this series, as well as in other series. Among the significant correspondents in the collection are D. F. Ardouin, Oreste Baratieri, Baron Charles William de la Poer Beresford, Montgomery Blair, Sue Virginia Field, J. C. Aristide Gavillot, Paul Giraud, J. J. Jusserand, Ismail, Khédive of Egypt, Charles Marie le Myre de Vilers, Paul H. Orillat, Edward Dean Proctor, Paul Taillet, and Henry Vignaud.

The [Subject File](#) includes correspondence of a routine nature concerning the organizations with which Chaillé-Long was affiliated, certificates of memberships, awards or honors, member activities, and military records. Also in the file is biographical, bibliographical, and genealogical material.

Files in the [Speeches and Writings](#) series include Chaillé-Long's annotated writings on Gordon, the Khédive, the Nile Valley people, and impressions of China and Africa. A scrapbook in the [Miscellany](#) series contains articles from French and American journals by and about Chaillé-Long mostly relating to Egypt and the Nile Valley.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1809-1916](#)
- [Subject File, 1865-1911](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1863-1918](#)
- [Miscellany, 1876-1918](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1

General Correspondence, 1809-1916

REEL 1

Personal and professional correspondence, mostly of letters received, with some copies of letters sent. Includes two letters from Winfield Scott (1786-1866) to A. Porter.

Arranged in chronological groupings and therein by name of correspondent.

BOX 1

Subject File, 1863-1918

REEL 1

Correspondence, applications for membership, notices, awards, honors, records, and miscellaneous material relating to organizations and the military.

Arranged alphabetically by subject and therein chronologically.

BOX 1-2

Speeches and Writings, 1863-1918

REEL 1

Handwritten and printed speeches and articles, clippings, programs, notes, and fragments.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

BOX 2-3

Miscellany, 1866-1918

REEL 1-2

Printed matter, awards, photographs, clippings about Chaillé-Long, social engagements, and articles by and about Chaillé-Long in a scrapbook.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,352

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General Correspondence, 1809-1916

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	Correspondence, applications for membership, notices, awards, honors, records, and miscellaneous material relating to organizations and the military.
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BOX 2 REEL 1	Awards and certificates, including military buttons, 1881-1904
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