

Howard-von Recum Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

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Revised by Melinda K. Friend



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Howard-von Recum Family Papers

Span Dates: 1869-1972

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1881-1955)

ID No.: MSS49395

Creator: Howard, Henry, Sir, 1843-1921

Extent: 14,000 items; 51 containers; 20.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, German, and French

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

Abstract: British diplomat. Diaries and correspondence relating primarily to the diplomatic career of Sir Henry Howard and documenting his postings at Hague, Netherlands, the Vatican during World War I, and in China, Denmark, France, Greece, Guatemala, Russia, and the United States, also including the diaries and correspondence of his daughter, Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum, and the correspondence of his other family members and relatives.

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

Howard family.

Howard, Alice Lawrason, 1876-1942--Correspondence.

Howard, Cecilia Riggs, Lady, 1844-1907--Correspondence.

Howard, George, 1869-1919--Correspondence.

Howard, Henry Mowbray, 1873-1953--Correspondence.

Howard, Henry, Sir, 1843-1921.

Howard, Janet Madeleine Cecilia, 1871-1960--Correspondence.

Riggs family.

Riggs, Alice L., 1840-1927--Correspondence.

Riggs, Jane Agnes, 1854-1930--Correspondence.

Von Recum family.

Von Recum, Franz, 1906-1974--Correspondence.

Von Recum, Marie Ernestine Howard, Baroness, 1868-1954. Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum correspondence and diaries.

Von Recum, Rudolf Heinrich, Baron, 1861-1944.

Subjects

Aristocracy (Social class)--France.

Aristocracy (Social class)--Germany.

Aristocracy (Social class)--Great Britain.

Diplomatic and consular service, British.

World War, 1914-1918.

World War, 1939-1945.

Places

Catholic Church--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

China--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

Denmark--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

France--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

France--Social life and customs--19th century.

Germany--Social life and customs--19th century.

Great Britain--Foreign relations--Catholic Church.

Great Britain--Foreign relations--China.
 Great Britain--Foreign relations--Denmark.
 Great Britain--Foreign relations--France.
 Great Britain--Foreign relations--Greece.
 Great Britain--Foreign relations--Guatemala.
 Great Britain--Foreign relations--Netherlands--Hague.
 Great Britain--Foreign relations--Russia.
 Great Britain--Foreign relations--United States.
 Great Britain--Social life and customs--19th century.
 Great Britain--Social life and customs--20th century.
 Greece--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
 Guatemala--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
 Hague (Netherlands)--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
 Russia--Foreign relations--Great Britain.
 United States--Foreign relations--Great Britain.

Occupations
 Diplomats.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of the Howard-von Recum family were given to the Library of Congress by Franz von Recum in 1974.

Processing History

The papers of the Howard-von Recum family were arranged and described in 1974. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the Howard-von Recum family in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Howard-von Recum family 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Howard-von Recum Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1843, Aug. 11	Born, Berlin, Prussia
1866-1883	Posted intermittently by British foreign service to Washington, D.C.
1867	Married Cecilia Riggs (died 1907)

1871-1875	Aided in preparation of Treaty of Washington to settle Anglo-American claims Oversaw distribution of payments to United States
1874	Reposted to Hague, Netherlands
circa 1875	Served as secretary, Royal Commission on Fugitive Slaves
1883	Posted to Guatemala
1885	Posted to Greece
1886	Posted to Copenhagen, Denmark
1887-1890	Posted to Peking, China
1890	Secretary and then minister plenipotentiary, St. Petersburg, Russia
1894	Posted to Paris, France
circa 1896-circa 1908	Served at Hague, Netherlands
1899	Member British delegation, Peace Conference, Hague, Netherlands
1907	Received Order of the Bath
1914-1916	Served as first British minister to the Vatican since 1687
1921, May 4	Died, Rome, Italy

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Howard-von Recum family span the years 1869-1972, with the bulk of the material dating from 1881 to 1955. The papers document the lives of a British diplomat and his family from the late nineteenth century, through two world wars, and into the 1950s. The papers are in English, German, and French and are organized into the following series: [Diaries](#), [Correspondence](#), and [Addition](#).

The [Diaries](#) were kept by Sir Henry Howard (1843-1921) and his daughter Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum (1868-1954), with a few diary pages kept during 1914 by Lizzie Walker, a household maid. The diaries of Sir Henry Howard cover his diplomatic career from 1881 until his death. Some of the diaries sustained damage while others were lost completely during a warehouse fire in 1919. His diaries, also containing reminiscences, clippings, postcards, and ephemera, are complete for the two peace conferences he attended at Hague, Netherlands, his Peking, China, appointment from 1887-1890, and his posting to the Vatican during World War I. Events before 1881 are covered in letters to his parents especially since his father had also been a diplomat.

The diaries of Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum cover her years as a teenager posted with her family to various countries, her marriage to the German aristocrat Baron Rudolf von Recum, and the beginning of World War I. Her diaries, interleaved with photographs, clippings, and ephemera, document her family life and social and world events. The diaries may cease in 1914

because the baroness was held in protective custody by the German government during World War I.

The [Correspondence](#) documents the diplomatic life of both Sir Henry Howard and his family, the separation of family members on different sides during the world wars, and provides a glimpse into the lives of interrelated British, German, and French aristocrats. Correspondents include Sir Henry Howard, his wife Lady Cecilia Riggs Howard (1844-1907), and their children Alice Lawrason Howard (1876-1942), George Howard (1869-1919), Henry Mowbray Howard (1873-1953) known as "Pompey," Janet Madeleine Cecilia Howard (1871-1960) known as "Jessie," and Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum known as "Da." Other family members with correspondence in the papers include Franz von Recum (1906-1974), Alice L. Riggs (1840-1927), Jane Agnes Riggs (1854-1930), and other members of the Riggs family. The correspondence is arranged as it was received in three-ring binders. Although the binders are labeled as to the person and dates of correspondence enclosed, the labels do not always reflect all the persons or dates contained in a binder. At the end of the correspondence is a volume on Howard genealogy.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Diaries, 1881-1921](#)
- [Correspondence, 1869-1972](#)
- [Addition, 1873-1934](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-16	<u>Diaries, 1881-1921</u> Diaries kept by Sir Henry Howard and Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum with a small diary kept by Lizzie Walker. Includes Sir Henry Howard's address and account books. Arranged by name of person and therein chronologically.
BOX 17-51	<u>Correspondence, 1869-1972</u> Letters of the Howard, von-Recum, and Riggs families, and a genealogical publication. Arranged as received.
BOX 51	<u>Addition, 1873-1934</u> Sermon and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-16	Diaries, 1881-1921 Diaries kept by Sir Henry Howard and Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum with a small diary kept by Lizzie Walker. Includes Sir Henry Howard's address and account books. Arranged by name of person and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Howard, Henry, Sir, diaries
BOX 1	1881-1887 (5 vols.)
BOX 2	1887-1890 (4 vols.)
BOX 3	1890-1899 (4 vols.)
BOX 4	1900-1902 (3 vols.)
BOX 5	1903-1904 (2 vols.)
BOX 6	1905-1906 (2 vols.)
BOX 7	1907-1908 (2 vols.)
BOX 8	1909-1910 (4 vols.)
BOX 9	1911-1913 (4 vols.)
BOX 10	1913-1914 (3 vols.)
BOX 11	1914-1917 (8 vols.)
BOX 12	1917-1921 (6 vols.)
BOX 13	Recum, Marie Ernestine Howard, Baroness von ("Da"), diaries
BOX 13	1883-1890 (5 vols.)
BOX 14	1890-1898 (5 vols.)
BOX 15	1898-1914 (4 vols.)
BOX 16	Howard, Henry, Sir, address and account books, undated (2 vols.)

Diaries, 1881-1921

Container

Contents

BOX 16	Walker, Lizzie, diary, 1914
BOX 17-51	Correspondence, 1869-1972 Letters of the Howard, von-Recum, and Riggs families, and a genealogical publication. Arranged as received.
BOX 17	Howard, Henry, Sir
BOX 17	To Henry Francis Howard and Marie Ernestine von der Schulenburg Howard (parents)
BOX 17	1878-1880 (2 vols.)
BOX 18	1880-1883 (2 vols.)
BOX 19	1883-1885 (2 vols.)
BOX 20	1893-1896 (2 vols.)
BOX 21	To Lady Cecilia Riggs Howard (wife)
BOX 21	General
BOX 21	1869, 1876-1877, 1890-1894 (3 vols.)
BOX 22	1905-1907 (2 vols.)
BOX 22	From Athens, Greece
BOX 22	1885 (1 vol.)
BOX 23	(1 vol.)
BOX 23	1886
BOX 23	To Janet Madeleine Cecilia Howard ("Jessie") (daughter), 1914-1915
BOX 24	To Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum (daughter), 1880-1921 (2 vols.)
BOX 24	Howard, Cecilia Riggs, Lady
BOX 24	To Sir Henry Howard
BOX 24	1883
BOX 25	1883-1884, 1895-1897 (2 vols.)
BOX 25	To Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum and Riggs uncles, 1881, 1894-1896, 1902-1907
BOX 26	Letters of condolence on deaths of Lady Cecilia Riggs Howard and Sir Henry Howard, 1907, 1921
BOX 26	Letters of condolence to Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum and letters of George Howard and Henry Mowbray Howard (sons of Sir Henry Howard and Lady Cecilia Riggs Howard), 1895-1919
BOX 27	Howard, Janet Madeleine Cecilia
BOX 27	To Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum
BOX 27	1895-1915 (3 vols.)

Correspondence, 1869-1972

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 28	1916-1920 (3 vols.)
BOX 29	1920-1922, 1936-1942 (3 vols.)
BOX 30	1942-1948 (2 vols.)
BOX 31	1948-1951 (2 vols.)
BOX 32	1952-1954 (2 vols.)
BOX 33	To Franz von Recum
BOX 33	1915-1938 (2 vols.)
BOX 34	1939-1953 (2 vols.)
BOX 35	1954-1958 (3 vols.)
BOX 36	To Sir Henry Howard, 1915-1916
BOX 36	Howard, Alice Lawrason and Janet Madeleine Cecilia Howard (daughters of Sir Henry Howard and Lady Cecilia Riggs Howard), 1914-1917
BOX 37	Howard, Janet Madeleine Cecilia
BOX 37	Letters to Franz von Recum regarding her illness and death, 1958-1960 (2 vols.)
BOX 37	From Baroness Marie Ernestine Howard von Recum and letters of condolence, 1953-1954
BOX 38	Howard, Alice Lawrason, 1902-1942
BOX 38	Howard, Marie Ernestine von der Schulenburg, and Sir Henry Howard, 1857, 1876-1896
BOX 39	Recum, Marie Ernestine Howard, Baroness von
BOX 39	To Franz von Recum
BOX 39	1921-1932 (3 vols.)
BOX 40	1933-1934 (2 vols.)
BOX 41	1934-1935 (2 vols.)
BOX 42	1935-1937 (3 vols.)
BOX 43	1937-1939 (2 vols.)
BOX 44	1939-1945 (2 vols.)
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BOX 46	War years, 1914-1918, 1939-1940 (2 vols.)
BOX 47	Letters received

Correspondence, 1869-1972

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 48	1910-1942, 1950
BOX 48	Eightieth birthday and Christmas, 1948-1953
BOX 49	Riggs family, 1881, 1888
BOX 50	Riggs, Alice L. and Jane Agnes, 1890-1921 (3 vols.)
BOX 51	Recum, Franz von, <i>Ancestry and Descendance of Sir Henry Francis Howard, 1809-1898</i> , 1972 (2 vols.)
BOX 51	Addition, 1873-1934 Sermon and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 51	Printed matter
BOX 51	<i>List of Claims of British Subjects against the United States, and American Citizens against Great Britain</i> , 1873
BOX 51	<i>Royal Commission on Fugitive Slaves: Memorandum on the Treaties Concluded by Great Britain with Powers Still Owning Slaves for the Suppression of the Slave Trade, and on the Status of Slavery in Those Countries</i> , 1876
BOX 51	Sermon at consecration of Chapel of Our Lady and St. Teresa on Friday Street built by Alice Lawrason Howard, Painswick, Gloucestershire, England, photocopy, circa 1934