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Notes From  
the French Legation  
in the  
United States  
to the  
Department of State  
1789-1906



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**RICHARD NIXON**  
*President of the United States*

**ARTHUR F. SAMPSON**  
*Acting Administrator of General Services*

**JAMES B. RHOADS**  
*Archivist of the United States*

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Record Group 59  
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NOTES FROM THE FRENCH LEGATION IN THE  
UNITED STATES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
1789-1906

On the 32 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced 46 volumes that consist mainly of notes from the French Legation (Embassy after April 12, 1893) in the United States to the Department of State between June 7, 1789, and August 14, 1906. Volume 5 is not included because it contains duplicate notes.

At the beginning of Roll 1 are reproduced selected pages from 12 State Department registers of correspondence that constitute a register of notes from the French Legation from January 2, 1826, to August 14, 1906. The notes dated before January 2, 1826, were not registered.

The notes, with enclosures, relate to such subjects as the French Revolution, the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte, and the Napoleonic Wars; subsequent changes in the French Government; births, marriages, and deaths in the Royal Family; the quasi-war with France, 1798-1801, and the resulting spoliation claims; the Louisiana Purchase; the attitude of the French Government toward the U.S. Civil War and some of the problems that affected Franco-American diplomacy during this period; French intervention in Mexico, 1862, and withdrawal of French forces, 1866-67; the Franco-Prussian War; economic penetration of Asia; immigration problems; the rights of neutrals in wars in which France was a belligerent; projects for submarine cables between the United States and France; development of military and naval equipment and munitions; French military maneuvers; French colonial expansion; the Spanish-American War and the Paris Peace Conference, 1898; the Boxer Rebellion, 1900; the Panama Canal; and the Algeiras Conference, 1906.

Among the enclosures are copies of official orders, letters of complaint against U.S. officials, pamphlets, newspapers, and other printed material. Most of the communications are in French and many are accompanied by English translations prepared in the Department of State.

Many notes relate to such subjects as duties and tariffs, requests for exequaturs for French consular officials, consular jurisdiction, extradition, exchange of scientific and technical information, arbitration, reciprocity, international expositions, and conferences and congresses relating to the physical and social sciences, communication and transportation, cultural affairs, and social welfare.

Also included in the volumes are some communications from French consular officials in the United States, from the French

Foreign Ministry, and from White House officials; memoranda by State Department officials commenting on the notes; and drafts and texts of agreements between France and the United States.

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

In the same record group are several diplomatic correspondence series containing additional documents on relations between France and the United States. Complementary to the notes from the French Legation are notes to the French Legation in the United States from the Department of State, 1834-1906 (Rolls 21-26 of Microcopy 99). There are copies of instructions from the Department of State to diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States, 1785-90 (Microcopy 61), and 1791-1801 (Microcopy 28); to U.S. Ministers to all countries, 1801-33 (Rolls 1-8 of Microcopy 77), and to U.S. Ministers to France, 1829-1906 (Rolls 54-64 of Microcopy 77); notes to foreign ministers and consuls in the United States from the Department, 1793-1834 (Microcopy 38), and despatches from U.S. Ministers to France to the Department, 1789-1906 (Microcopy 34). Also related to matters concerning France are communications to special agents of the United States from the Department, 1823-86 (Rolls 152 and 154 of Microcopy 77).

There are also microfilm publications available on despatches from U.S. consular officials at Bayonne, 1835-65 (T-366); Bordeaux, 1783-1906 (T-164); Boulogne, 1866-74 (T-413); Calais, 1804-1906 (T-373); Cannes, 1891 (T-537); Cette (Sète), 1802-40 (T-379); Cherbourg, 1806, *see* Havre (Roll 1 of T-212); Cognac, 1883-98 (T-552); Dunkirk, 1792-95, *see* Calais; Grenoble, 1893-1906 (T-574); Havre, 1789-1906 (T-212); La Rochelle, 1794-1884, 1898-1906 (T-394), for 1883-98 *see* Cognac; Limoges, 1887-1906 (T-601); Lorient, 1803-8, *see* Calais; Lyons, 1824-1906 (T-169); Marseilles, 1790-1906 (T-220); Nantes, 1790-1906 (T-223); Napoléon-Vendée, 1800-70 (T-415); Nice, 1819-1906 (T-417); Paris, 1790-1906 (T-1); Rheims, 1867-1906 (T-424); Roubaix, 1890-1906 (T-667); Rouen, 1790, 1878-1906 (T-668); St. Etienne, 1877-1906 (T-672); and Strasbourg, 1866-72 (T-442). In addition, there are instructions to consular officials at these posts.

The method of arranging the diplomatic and consular series cited above was discontinued in 1906, when the Department of State adopted the practice of filing incoming and outgoing correspondence, memoranda, and other documents by subject in a single numerical series.

In Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, are records originally kept at U.S.

diplomatic and consular posts. Among them are records of the U.S. Legation (later Embassy) in France, 1788-1935, and of most consular posts in that country. Records of the U.S. Legation in Paris for the period 1835-42 are reproduced on Microcopy 14.

The records reproduced in this microfilm publication were prepared for filming by Ralph E. Huss, who also wrote the introductory remarks and provided the other editorial material.

CONTENTS OF MICROCOPY 53

The volumes of notes received by the Department of State from officials of the French Legation in the United States between June 7, 1789, and April 11, 1893, and of the French Embassy in the United States between April 12, 1893, and August 14, 1906, are distributed on the rolls of this microfilm publication as follows:

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