

Descriptive Summary**Repository**

Library Company of Philadelphia
1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-5698

Call Number

McA MSS 001

Creator

McAllister, John A. (John Allister), 1822-1896.

Title

John A. McAllister Papers

Inclusive Dates

1820-1885 (bulk 1860-1866)

Quantity

1.46 linear feet (4 boxes)

Language of Materials

Materials are in English.

Abstract

The collection holds correspondence and documents which are primarily the papers of the Philadelphia antiquarian collector John A. McAllister, but it includes some additional material relating to his family and their optical business. As McAllister was an active collector of autograph letters, there are items from many of the important names in nineteenth-century politics, culture, religion, and the military, including members of the Peale family and other Philadelphians. A large component of the collection relates to McAllister's acquisition methods, so there are letters from private and institutional collectors of Americana in other parts of the country as well as with working historians such as Benson J. Lossing. Much of the collection focuses on the American Civil War (1861-1865); the single literary item is a manuscript by Edgar Allan Poe.

Administrative Information**Restrictions to Access**

The collection is open to researchers. It is on deposit at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and should be accessed through the Society's reading room at 1300 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA. Visit their website, <http://www.hsp.org/>, for reading room hours.

Acquisition Information

Gift of John A. McAllister; forms part of the McAllister Collection.

Processing Information

The John A. McAllister Papers were formerly interfiled within the large and chronologically-arranged McAllister Manuscript Collection. The papers were reunited, arranged, and described as a single collection in 2006, under grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the William Penn Foundation. The