

OLD MSS COLONIAL SECRETARY RECORDS

The records listed below are Colonial Secretary records¹ that were catalogued under a system used by the BC Archives between the mid-1930s and early 1970s (known as the “Old MSS” system) and are only described in detail in the “Old MSS” card catalogue. The descriptions have mostly been taken from the cards and the list is in call number order. The notation “BOOK” after a call number means that the record is a bound volume; “MS”, that it consists of loose pages. There may be duplicate numbers, one for a BOOK and one for an MS – these are distinct and different records.

While most of the records listed below are from the colonial era (ca. 1849-1871), there are some later records as well. Also, a number of colonial era records (a number of which originally had “old MSS” numbers) are to be found as GR and MS records, and are searchable on our collections database (<http://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/>).

Call Number	Name	Description
A/C/30/T63.1	Torrens, Robert William.	Reports to Colonial Secretary. Report relative to gold diggings at Bear River a failure, 21 Aug 1865. ² Report of explorations and proceedings at Clayoquot Sound, 19 Sep 1865. “R122/2060”
C/AA/10.1/1 Book ³	Vancouver Island. Governor (Blanshard)	Despatches to Secretary of State, London. 26 Dec 1849-30 Aug 1851. Copies received by Governor James Douglas, 9 May 1854 from Colonial Office, London and pasted into book with chronological list of despatches. Typed transcript from copy of published version (from Academy of Pacific Coast History, University of California) in C/AA/10.1/1 MS. ⁴
C/AA/10.1/2 Book ⁵ Mfm B02644(1)	Vancouver Island. Governor (Douglas)	Despatches to Secretary of State, London. 31 Oct 1851-24 Nov 1855. Official letter-book. Also in C/AA/10.1/7 Book.
C/AA/30.1/1 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Record of marriage licences. 1 Jun 1859-22 Jan 1867. See C/AA/30.1A/1 for transcript.
CAA/30.1/M58 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Papers pertaining to various militia groups in Vancouver Island. 20 Feb-17 Jan 1867. Photocopies of originals in Colonial Secretary correspondence. Consists of correspondence, memos and memorials of the Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps, the Victoria Volunteer Rifle Corps and the Pioneer Rifle Corps (Company) to the Colonial Secretary. ⁶
C/AA/30.1/N81	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Papers, correspondence relating to North Pacific Coal Mining Company. 1864-1868.
C/AA/30.1/T63	Torrens, Robert William.	To W.A.G. Young [Colonial Secretary] re: mining lease for George Weaver and partners, 27 Oct 1863.

Call Number	Name	Description
C/AA/30.1J MS	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Report on reconveyance of Vancouver Island to the Crown by H.B. Coy, 8 Oct 1866. "R167/359" Signed by W.A.G. Young, Colonial Secretary; Thos. L. Wood, Acting Attorney General; B.W. Pearse, Acting Surveyor General; E. Graham Alston, Registrar General of Titles; and Real Estate.
C/AA/30.1J/1 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 14 Sep 1859-21 Sep 1860. Official letter-book copies. Index to 12 Mar 1860 at front. Cover title: "No. 3 Miscellaneous Vancouver's Island" Letters signed by James Douglas, W. A. G. Young, J. Porter, A. T. Bushby, Charles Good, P. H. Nind, J. Connell and Roderick Finlayson. See C/AA/10.4/1 and 2 Book for earlier letters; see C/AA/30.1J/1A Book for photocopy of original.
C/AA/30.1J/2 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 28 Sep 1860-13 Aug 1861. Official letter-book copies. Index at front. Cover title: "No. 4 Miscellaneous V.I." Letters signed by James Douglas and W.A.G. Young. Also Charles Good, 17 Jul-10 Aug 1861 (23 letters) and John Work, 21 May-6 Jul 1861. See C/AA/30.1J/2A Book (2 v.) for photocopy.
C/AA/30.1J/3 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 15 Aug 1861-27 Mar 1863. Official letter-book copies. Index at front. Cover title: "No. 5 Vancouver Island Miscellaneous Letters". Letters signed by James Douglas and W.A.G. Young. Also by E. J. Nesbitt, 31 Jan-16 Mar 1863. See C/AA/30.1J/3 Book (2 v.) for photocopy.
C/AA/30.1J/4 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 24 Mar 1863-20 Sep 1864. Official letter-book copies. Loose index pages (1-30). Cover title: "No. 6 Vancouver Island Miscellaneous Letters". Letters signed by James Douglas, A.E. Kennedy; also by W. A. G. Young, 24 Mar 1863-11 May 1864; E. J. Nesbitt, 4 Apr 1863-20 May 1864; and Henry Wakeford, 20 May-20 Sep 1864.
C/AA/30.1J/5 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 20 Sep 1864-11 Sep 1865. Official letter-book copies. Index at front. A few letters signed by A.E. Kennedy, others by Henry Wakeford and W. A. G. Young.
C/AA/30.1J/6 Book	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 11 Sep 1865-29 Nov 1866. Official letter-book copies. Index at on loose pages at front. Letters signed by A.E. Kennedy, W. A. G. Young and E. J. Nesbitt.

Call Number	Name	Description
C/AA/30.1J/7 BOOK	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence with The Municipal Council of Victoria. 9 Sep 1862-25 Apr 1864. Official letter-book copies. Index on loose pages at front. Signed by W. A. G. Young.
C/AA/30.1J/8A BOOK MISPLACED?	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 4 Jan 1867-24 Dec 1870. Official letter-book copies.
C/AA/30.1J/9 BOOK B04716	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Treasury. 9 Mar 1859-7 May 1864. Cover title: "Vancouver Island Treasury". Letters signed by W. A. G. Young.
C/AA/30.1JI/1 BOOK MISPLACED?	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence outwards. Sep 1864-Nov 1866.
C/AA/30.1K/So6	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Sooke Copper Mining Company papers. 1863-1866. Includes photostat and transcript of report.
C/AA/30.1KI/1 BOOK	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence inwards. 1857-1864. On spine: "Vancouver Island In Letters 1859-1864". Letters can be found in GR-1372 or catalogued separately elsewhere (e.g. C/AA/30.71/C42.1). ⁷
C/AA/30.1K1/2 BOOK	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence inwards. 1864-1866. On spine: "Vancouver Island Register of Letters".
C/AB/30.1/1	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Agreement for direct steam navigation with San Francisco, 4 Aug 1866. ⁸
C/AB/30.1J MS	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	William A.G. Young to [J.D.] Pemberton, 28 Nov 1868. Marked "Confidential". ⁹
C/AB/30.1J/1 BOOK B02651	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. Jan 1859-Sep 1860. "Colonel Moody's letter Book". Index at front of volume.
C/AB/30.1J/2 BOOK B02651	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. May 1859-Jul 1860. Letter-book. "British Columbia Miscellaneous from July 1859 to 1869". Index at back of volume.
C/AB/30.1J/3 BOOK B02651	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 25 Jul 1860-18 Sep 1861. Letter-book. "Miscellaneous Letters British Columbia No. 3."
C/AB/30.1J/4 BOOK B02651	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 18 Sep 1861-19 Nov 1862. Letter-book. Index at front of volume. "No. 4 Miscellaneous British Columbia."
C/AB/30.1J/5 BOOK B02652	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 19 Nov 1862-20 Nov 1863. Letter-book. "No. 5 British Columbia Miscellaneous Letters." Index at front of volume.
C/AB/30.1J/6 BOOK B02652	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 22 Nov 1863-7 Sep 1864. Letter-book. "No. 6 Miscellaneous British Columbia." Index at front of volume.

Call Number	Name	Description
C/AB/30.1J/7 Book	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 7 Sep 1864-16 Dec 1866. Letter-book. "No. 7 Official Letter Book." Index at front of volume.
C/AB/30.1J/8 Book	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 7 Sep 1864-29 Dec 1866. Letter-book. "Miscellaneous Letter Book."
C/AB/30.1J/8A Book	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 4 Jan 1867-30 Dec 1870. 2 vol. Vol. 1: Official letter Book, 4 Jan 1867-30 Dec 1870. ¹⁰ Index. Vol. 2: Miscellaneous Letter Book. Index. Signed by A.N. Birch, Charles Good, W.A.G. Young, P.J. Hankin.
C/AB/30.1J/9 Book B04718	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Lands and Works Dept. Sep 1860-Sep 1863. Letter-book.
C/AB/30.1J/10 Book B04718	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Lands and Works Dept. 17 Sep 1863-May 1872. Letter-book. Index. "British Columbia The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works."
C/AB/30.1J/11 Book B04718	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 4 Jan 1871-26 Dec 1872. Letter-book. "BC Miscellaneous Letters." Index at front of volume. From 26 Apr 1872 onward, letters are signed by the Provincial Secretary. ¹¹
C/AB/30.1J/11A Book B04718	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward. 3 Jan 1872-30 Dec 1873. Letter-book. "British Columbia Official." From 3 Jan-15 Jul 1871, letters signed by P.J. Hankin; from 2 Aug 1871-10 Apr 1872, by P.J. Hankin, Charles Good and A. R. Robertson. From 17 Apr-20 Dec 1872, letters signed by A.R. Robertson as Provincial Secretary. ¹²
C/AB/30.1J/12 Book B04718	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Treasury. Jan 1859-May 1861. Letter-book. Cover title: "Treasurer British Columbia". Spine title: "Letters sent to Treasury by W.A.G. Young".
C/AB/30.1J/13 Book B04718 & B04719	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Treasury. May 1861-Nov 1864. Letter-book. Index at front of volume. Cover title: "Treasurer British Columbia". Letters signed by W.A.G. Young, A.N. Birch, C. Good. Typed transcript on loose pages of letters to Capt. Gossett, R.E., Treasurer, Apr-Dec 1860 and Apr 1861, with note re Chartres Brew as Acting Treasurer to June 1864.
C/AB/30.1J/14 Book B04719	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Treasury. 28 Nov 1864-Apr 1872. Letter-book. Index at front of volume. Cover title: "The Treasurer". From 28 Nov 1864-Jul 1871, letters signed by A.N. Birch, C. Good, H.M. Ball, P.J. Hankin; from Jul 1871-[10] Apr 1872, by C. Good and A.R. Robertson.

Call Number	Name	Description
C/AB/30.1J/15 BOOK B04719	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Assay Office. 24 Jul 1860-Sep 1861. Letter-book. Index, p. 122. Cover title: "Assay Office Letters ~ Treasurers Book". Letters signed by C. Good and W.A.G. Young. Letters at front and back of volume.
C/AB/30.1J/16 BOOK B04719	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward to Collector of Customs, B.C. Apr 1859-Nov 1870. Letter-book. Index at front of volume. Letters signed by W.A.G. young, C. Good, P.J. Hankin, A.N. Birch, H.M. Ball.
C/AB/30.1J/17 BOOK B04719	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence outward on Vancouver Island affairs. 19 Nov 1866-19 Jan 1867. Letter-book. Cover title: "Vancouver Island Letter Book".
C/AB/30.1JI/1 BOOK	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence outward to Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. 28 Dec 1858-29 Dec 1860. "Index to ltrs rec'd from H.E. the Gov'."
C/AB/30.1JI/2 BOOK	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence outward. 1858-1863. "British Columbia Miscellaneous Letters From Governor Douglas ... Index."
C/AB/30.1JI/2A BOOK	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence outward. Jan 1859-Dec 1870.
C/AB/30.1KI/1 BOOK	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Index to miscellaneous correspondence inward. 1858-1863. On spine: "General index. In letters. 1859-1864" Some of the early letters are addressed to the Governor [James Douglas]. Cover title: "British Columbia Miscellaneous Letters to Governor Douglas".
C/AB/30.1KI/2 BOOK	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence inwards from officials. Arp 1864-Dec 1865. On spine: "British Columbia Register of In Letters".
C/AB/30.1KI/3 BOOK	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence inwards from private persons. Apr 1864-Dec 1865.
C/AB/30.1KI/4 BOOK	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Index to correspondence inwards from officials and private persons. ¹³ Jan 1866-Dec 1869. On spine: "British Columbia Register of In Letters"
C/AB/30.1K/Y	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Yale correspondence connected with Hudson [sic] Bay Co. 1859-1862. Includes sketch maps of Yale townsite and HBC claim.
C/B/30.1/H75	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence re payment owed to Robert Homfray for survey and planning work on Leech River ditch (to supply water to miners), 1867-1869. ¹⁴
G/V/27/V27	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary	Correspondence with John Buttle re: exploring expedition. 1865. See G/V27/V27A for transcripts.

¹ Note that the office of Colonial Secretary, which was changed 11 April 1872, to Provincial Secretary, was closely

² Includes names and place of origin of miners accompanying him to Nootka Sound to explore for gold there.

³ Together with C/AA/10.4/2 pre official Colonial Secretary letter-book.

⁴ *Vancouver Island. Despatches. Governor Blanshard to the Secretary of State. 26th December, 1849, to 30th August, 1851. New Westminster: Government Printing Office. See NW 971K V223 (CIHM 17222) for BC Archives library copy .*

⁵ Together with C/AA/10.4/1 pre official Colonial Secretary letter-book.

⁶ Use Old MSS finding aid no. 22 for list of contents.

⁷ Note that not all correspondence has survived.

⁸ See also J/G/C81.

⁹ Reference to "Fenians" in letter.

¹⁰ End date on spine is 29 Sep 1870.

¹¹ The name of the portfolio was officially changed from Colonial Secretary to Provincial Secretary 11 April 1872 (SBC 1872 no. 15)

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Inside front cover reference to "Index to official letters".

¹⁴ Includes letter of 26 Sep 1867 to Colonial Secretary (ex-GR-1372, F785/1); letter of 8 Dec 1868 to Governor with enclosure (ex-GR-1372, F785/2); and Report of Select Committee on the Petition of Robert Homfrey with letter of transmittal to Governor, 5 Feb 1869, and draft letter to Homfrey re decision to pay.