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DESPATCHES FROM UNITED STATES
CONSULS IN SEOUL
1886 - 1906



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On the 2 rolls of this microcopy are reproduced two volumes that consist, for the most part, of despatches addressed to the Department of State by United States consular officials at Seoul between July 3, 1886, and July 5, 1906. These despatches, with very few exceptions, are arranged in chronological order; their contents are registered on Roll 1.

The despatches cover a wide range of economic, political, and social subjects. Some are covering letters for enclosures of a routine nature forwarded by the consular officials to the Department of State. Many of these enclosures were removed from their covering letters and distributed among other records of the Department of State or, if the enclosures related to fiscal affairs of the consulate, among records of the Department of the Treasury.

During the period covered by the despatches included in this microcopy Seoul was a combined diplomatic and consular post of the Department of State. The ranking United States official held the title of Minister Resident and Consul General.

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

In the same record group in the National Archives are several series of volumes containing additional material on relations between Korea and the United States. Complementary to the despatches from consular officials are instructions to these officials. Also related to this series, though less directly, are despatches from United States Ministers to Korea, 1883-1905 (Microcopy 134), instructions to these Ministers, 1883-1905 (Microcopy 77, Roll 109), notes from the Korean Legation in the United States to the Department of State, 1883-1906 (Microcopy 166), and notes from the Department of State to the Korean Legation, 1888-1905 (Microcopy 99, Roll 68).

In the State Department Decimal File, 1910-29, also in Record Group 59, are records relating to internal affairs of Korea (Microcopy 426).

In Record Group 84, Records of the Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State, in the National Archives, are records originally

kept at United States diplomatic and consular posts. Among these are the records of both the United States Legation and the United States consulate located at Seoul, Korea, 1883-1905.

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