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Pamphlet Accompanying  
Microcopy No. 134

DESPATCHES FROM UNITED STATES  
MINISTERS TO KOREA  
1883 - 1905



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## DESPATCHES FROM UNITED STATES MINISTERS TO KOREA, 1883-1905

On the 22 rolls of this microcopy are reproduced 22 volumes that consist, for the most part, of despatches addressed to the Department of State by United States diplomatic representatives to Korea between March 13, 1883, and December 6, 1905. The despatches reproduced in this microcopy, with few exceptions, are arranged in chronological order. On the first roll are reproduced selected pages from several State Department registers of correspondence which, taken as a unit, comprise a register of despatches from Korea from March 13, 1883 to December 6, 1905.

Most of the communications are original despatches, usually accompanied by enclosures. Some of the enclosures are original notes to the American representatives from officials of the Korean foreign ministry. Other enclosures were written by private citizens of the United States. A considerable number of enclosures are copies of communications sent by American representatives to Korean officials. Pamphlets, newspaper clippings, and other printed matter are sometimes enclosed.

Apart from numbered despatches and enclosures, these volumes also contain unnumbered letters, some of which are marked "Private" or "Confidential." Unnumbered or private letters, more informal than despatches, may report official matters requiring secrecy or not fully covered in the despatches, or they may convey personal news, acknowledgements of appointment or recall, announcements of arrival or departure, and statements of official expenses. The volumes also contain telegrams and cables which were not numbered.

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 records containing additional material on relations between Korea and the United States. Complementary to the diplomatic despatches are instructions from the Secretary of State to the diplomatic representatives of the United States accredited to Korea, 1883-1906, which have been reproduced on Roll 109 of Microcopy 77, Diplomatic Instructions of the Department of State; notes to the Korean Legation in the United States from the Department, 1888-1906 (Roll 68 of Microcopy 99); and notes from the Korean Legation in the United States to the Department, 1883-1906 (Microcopy 166). There are also despatches from United States consular officials at Seoul, 1886-1906

(Microcopy 167). All these series were discontinued on August 14, 1906, when the Department adopted the practice of filing incoming and outgoing correspondence by subject.

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 records of the United States Legation in Korea, 1884-1905, as well as those of various consular posts in that country.

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