

Y8. MESSAGE AND DOCUMENTS

[The set known as "Message and documents" is not listed in this Checklist. The set had no value, because it was merely a duplication (except for binding) of some of the volumes which appeared in the Congressional set; yet it was published for nearly half a century, beginning about 1842-43, or possibly a little earlier, and ending with the Message and documents communicated to Congress at the beginning of the 2d session of the 54th Congress, being the issues for 1896-97. The double dates are those of the beginning and ending of the session of Congress to which the documents were transmitted. The annual reports contained are for the year corresponding to the first of the double dates. There seems to have been no definite provision of law which justified the existence or the termination of the set.]

The series consisted in the early days of the Message of the President and the annual reports, with their accompanying papers, of such of the Executive Departments as were required by law to present their reports to Congress through the President; but beginning with the Message to the 1st session of the 48th Congress, for 1883-84, the "Message" no longer appeared in the set, and the name "Message and documents," by which it was still known to the end of its existence, became a misnomer.

The annual reports of Executive Departments contained in the set have varied considerably; but the annual reports of the Treasury Department and its subordinate bureaus, which were submitted directly to Congress and not through the President, were never included in the Message and documents series. It seems absurd that an "Abridgment" should contain important matter not found in the volumes abridged; still it is true that the Abridgments of message and documents (a series which began in 1858 and is still in 1911 compiled by law under the direction of the Printing Joint Committee; see Y4.P931:2) contained the Treasury reports not found in the Message and documents set, and contained also the Message of the President, which as noted above was omitted from the Message and documents set beginning with the 1883-84 issue.

The number of books for each year in the Message and documents series varied from 1 to 19. For several of the early years the individual books carried a general part number for the year, but later the general part number no longer was used and thereafter the individual books carried either no part or volume number at all or else only the volume or part number of the particular annual report itself. This fact makes the set difficult to arrange on library shelves.

The Public Documents Library classifies its Message and documents set under Y8., followed between the period and the colon by the number of the Congress and session, the number of the session appearing as a superior figure; for example, Y8.53². Two styles of book numbers are required after the colon, but of course only one style is necessary in the same year. First, for those early years which have a general part number, this becomes the book number. Second, for the later issues where there is no general part or volume number covering all the books for any individual year, the Public Documents Library uses as book number a capital letter indicating the initial of the Executive Department concerned (or 2 or more initials separated by commas, in case a book contains reports from 2 or more Executive Departments); in cases where the report of one Department fills several volumes, these are distinguished by adding superior numbers after the initial of the Department. Following are examples:

Y8.37²:5= Message and documents, 37th Congress, 3d session, 1862-63, pt. 5

Y8.38¹:P,A= Message and documents, 38th Congress, 1st session, 1863-64, Post-Office Dept., Commissioner of Agriculture, etc.

Y8.38¹:S= Message and documents, 38th Congress, 1st session, 1863-64, State Dept., pt. 1

Y8.38¹:W= Message and documents, 38th Congress, 1st session, 1863-64, War Dept.

Y8.54²:I⁴= Message and documents, 54th Congress, 2d session, 1896-97, Interior Dept., v. 4, pt. 1

Y8.54²:I⁵= Message and documents, 54th Congress, 2d session, 1896-97, Interior Dept., v. 4, pt. 2.]

Y9. SPEECHES

[Sec. 37 of the general printing act of Jan. 12, 1895 (Stat. L. v. 28, p. 606), provides that "it shall be lawful for the Public Printer to print and deliver, upon the order of any Senator, Representative, or Delegate, extracts from the Congressional record, the person ordering the same paying the cost thereof." This section is merely a reenactment, with slightly different wording, of a provision in the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation act approved Mar. 3, 1875 (Stat. L. v. 18, pt. 3, p. 347).]

Although the printing of speeches of Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in separate pamphlets is therefore paid for out of private funds, the Public Printer is authorized to furnish without cost to Senators, Members, and Delegates franked envelopes in which these speeches may be franked through the mails like other public documents.

Speeches are classed in the Public Documents Library under Y9., but they are not listed in this Checklist.

The Public Documents Library arranges its file alphabetically by the names of the speakers, assigning book numbers from the Cutter order table. Different speeches by the same man are distinguished by using a superior figure following the Cutter number. Included in the same alphabet are a few other extracts from the Congressional record containing debates in Congress; these debates are Cutterized under the subject word.]

Z. PAPERS OF REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD AND FIRST 14 CONGRESSES

Z1. COLONIAL DOCUMENTS (compilations)

Classification
no.

Z1.1: American archives

[By act of Mar. 2, 1833, the Secretary of State was authorized to contract with Matthew St. Clair Clarke and Peter Force for the publication of a work entitled "Documentary history of American Revolution." This work is known as American archives, and as originally projected was to comprise 6 series, consisting of a collection of authentic records, state papers, debates, and letters, and other notices of public affairs, the whole forming a documentary history of the origin and progress of the North American colonies, of the causes and accomplishment of the American Revolution, and of the Constitution of Government for the United States to the final ratification thereof, covering the period from the discovery and settlement of North America to the ratification