Overview of the Collection

The Maginnis Incoming Correspondence Transcriptions consist of typed transcripts prepared by, or under the supervision of, Merrill G. Burlingame. The letters are a selection of incoming correspondence at Maginnis' Washington D. C. office from 1874 to 1878. The letters are from a wide variety of Montana territorial residents and locations, dealing with topics such as Indian affairs, territorial and national politics, government contracts and contractors, Yellowstone National Park, patronage requests, railroads, and land surveys. The transcriptions were taken from original letters presently held by the Montana Historical Society in their collection number 50. This set should not be considered a complete representation of those found in the Maginnis collection at the Montana Historical Society.

Repository
Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections
Montana State University-Bozeman Library
Merrill G Burlingame Special Collections
P.O. Box 173320
Bozeman, MT
59717-3320
Telephone: 406-994-4242
Fax: 406-994-2851
spcoll@www.lib.montana.edu

Access Restrictions
This collection is open for research.

Languages
English

Sponsor
Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities

Biographical Note

Martin Maginnis was born near Pultneyville, New York on October 27, 1841 to Patrick and Winifred Devine Maginnis. He moved to Minnesota with his parents in 1852 where he eventually became a newspaper editor. During the Civil War, Maginnis enlisted as a private in the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, eventually reaching the rank of major in the 11th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He moved to Montana Territory with his brothers in 1866 where he tried his hand at mining and returned to newspaper work in Helena. In the election of 1872, Maginnis won the position of
territorial representative to the United States House of Representatives where he served until 1885. He also served as the Montana State Commissioner of Mineral Land from 1890 to 1893. Maginnis eventually moved to Los Angeles, California where he died on March 27, 1919.

**Content Description**

The Maginnis incoming correspondence file consists of typed transcripts prepared by, or under the supervision of, Merrill G. Burlingame, a history professor at Montana State University. The transcriptions were taken from original letters presently held by the Montana Historical Society in their collection number 50. There was no written criteria for the letters selected for transcription, no apparent accuracy check, and as a result this set should not be considered a complete representation of those found in the Maginnis collection at the Montana Historical Society. Some of these transcriptions were used by Burlingame in the composition of his own historical publications while others were simply kept as notes.

The letters are a selection of incoming correspondence at Maginnis' Washington D. C. office from 1874 to 1878. The letters are from a wide variety of Montana territorial residents and locations, dealing with topics such as Indian affairs, territorial and national politics, government contracts and contractors, Yellowstone National Park, patronage requests, railroads, and land surveys. Correspondents include Samuel T. Hauser, Nathaniel P. Langford, P. W. McAdow, and George W. Frost. The letters have been chronologically arranged in folders labeled 1874 through 1878. One transcription of a newspaper article dated 1884 has been placed at the end of folder 5.

**Administrative Information**

**Acquisition Information**

Typed transcriptions of original letters received by Martin Maginnis were prepared from originals held by the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana, by Merrill G. Burlingame in 1964 and donated by him to Special Collections.

**Processing Note**

This collection was processed 2009 October 21.

**Detailed Description of the Collection**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box/Folder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container(s)</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/5</td>
<td></td>
<td>1878, 1884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
- Government contractors-Montana
- Indians of North America-Government relations-1869-1934
- Indians of North America-Montana
- Patronage, Political-Montana
- Public contracts-Montana
- Public lands-Montana
- Railroads-Montana
- Representatives, U.S. Congress-Montana-Correspondence

**Personal Names:**
- Frost, George W.,-Indian agent- Correspondence
- Hauser, Samuel Thomas,-1833-1914- Correspondence
- Langford, Nathaniel Pitt,-1832-1911- Correspondence
- Maginnis, Martin,-1841-1919- Correspondence
- McAdow, Perry W.,-1838-1918- Correspondence

**Corporate Names:**
- United States.-Congress.-House

**Geographical Names:**
- Montana-Politics and government-19th century
- United States-Politics and government-1865-1883
- Yellowstone National Park

**Other Creators:**
- **Personal Names:**
  - Burlingame, Merrill G.-(Merrill Gildea),-1901-1994
    (creator)

Kim Allen Scott, 2009