

MS-0014

Amor De Cosmos

Originals 1880-1882 6 cm

Microfilm (neg.) 1880-1882 206 exp. 35 mm [A00792(1)]

Amor De Cosmos, British Columbia newspaperman and politician, was born in Nova Scotia as William Alexander Smith in 1825 and migrated to Victoria, via the California gold fields, in 1858. As editor of *The Colonist*, and elected representative in Vancouver Island's colonial government, De Cosmos was active in public affairs. Upon Confederation De Cosmos represented British Columbia (Victoria District) in the House of Commons at Ottawa from 1871 to 1882. During that time he was appointed a Special Agent on 14 October 1880 by George Anthony Walkem's provincial government to present the views of the provincial government to Sir John A. Macdonald's federal administration on the subject of the Vancouver Island section of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Unable to achieve positive results in Ottawa, De Cosmos proceeded to London in May 1881 to present the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Kimberley, with a petition to the Queen on the subject of Canada's railway obligations to British Columbia. He returned to Ottawa in November 1881 to pursue discussions with the various officials concerned. The provincial government relieved De Cosmos of his special duties in May 1882 whereupon De Cosmos returned to Victoria to contest unsuccessfully the June 1882 general election.

The papers consist chiefly of manuscript copies of telegrams, notes and letters between De Cosmos and others while he was acting as Special Agent of the government of British Columbia at Ottawa and London from 1880 to 1882. Some of the correspondence has been published in the *1881 B.C. Sessional Papers*, pp. 490-494; see also "Papers relating to the mission of the Hon. Amor De Cosmos to London in 1881 . . ." (NW 971B/B862pa); and 'Island railway papers compiled by Amor De Cosmos' (NW971B/D296).

One plan showing a proposed railway ferry between Nanaimo Harbour and English Bay, Burrard Inlet also between Gabriola Pass and Pont Grey has been transferred to the map collection as CM/A984.

For related records, see GR-1306, Lieutenant Governor's correspondence.

File	File	Pages	Contents	Date
Ottawa correspondence				
A00792(1)	1	1	Amor De Cosmos to T.B. Humphreys: transmitting copies of all correspondence while Special Agent at Ottawa	3 Sep 1881
A00792(1)	1	2-5	Table of contents of correspondence	

A00792(1)	1	6	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: telegram appointing De Cosmos a Special Agent of the British Columbia government to urge construction of Island railway	14 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	7-9	R.G. Tatlow to Amor De Cosmos: enclosing copies of two minutes of the Executive Council dated 14 Oct 1860	16 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	10	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: telegram accepting appointment	18 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	11	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: requesting summary of land pre-emptions leased in Railway Belt	21 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	12	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: requesting quantity of land alienated in Railway Belt	21 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	13	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: requesting <i>Journals</i> and <i>Sessional Papers</i>	23 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	14-15	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: supplying information requested	27 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	16-19	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: enclosing a statement of lands available for railway purposes within the Mainland and Island Railway Belts	29 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	20	Amor De Cosmos to G. A. Walkem: telegram noting non-receipt of authority to act as Special Agent	30 Oct 1880
A00792(1)	1	21	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: reply to #20, also re J.H. Gray	2 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	22	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: requesting all correspondence re Island and Mainland railway	5 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	23	Amor De Cosmos to R.G. Tatlow: acknowledging receipt of his of 16 October 1880	6 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	24	Amor De Cosmos to Mr. Aikins: informing Aikins of his appointment	6 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	25-26	Amor De Cosmos to T.B. Humphreys: enclosing copy of a letter to R.G. Tatlow	6 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	27	Amor De Cosmos to T.B. Humphreys: noting non-receipt of authority to act as Special Agent	6 Nov 1880

A00792(1)	1	28	Edouard J. Langevin to Amor De Cosmos: acknowledging receipt of De Cosmos' commission	8 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	29-30	[T.] B. Humphreys to Amor De Cosmos: forwarding certified copy of Order of Council re Island railway	8 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	31	Amor De Cosmos to T.B. Humphreys: requesting one thousand dollars for expenses	12 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	32	A. Drummond to Amor De Cosmos: notification of credit of one thousand dollars	19 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	33-33a	J.J. Young to Amor De Cosmos: notification of credit of one thousand dollars	20 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	34	Amor De Cosmos to Sir Charles Tupper: seeking an interview with Sir John A. Macdonald	22 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	35	Charles Tupper to Amor De Cosmos: re interview	23 Nov 1880
A00792(1)	1	36-36(a)	Charles Tupper to Amor De Cosmos: copy of a report of a committee of the Executive Council re the Island section of the Canadian Pacific Railway	12 May 1880
A00792(1)	1	37	Robert Beaven to Amor De Cosmos: telegram requesting news re Island railway	14 Dec 1880
A00792(1)	1	38-39	T.B. Humphreys to Amor De Cosmos: authorizing reimbursement of expenses and forwarding authorization	15 Dec 1880
A00792(1)	1	40	Amor De Cosmos to Robert Beaven: conveying news re Island railway	17 Dec 1880
A00792(1)	1	41	Amor De Cosmos to Sir John A. Macdonald: re interview concerning Esquimalt-Nanaimo Section of Canadian Pacific Railway	5 Jan 1881
A00792(1)	1	42	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: requesting further information re Island railway	11 Jan 1881
A00792(1)	1	43-44	Amor De Cosmos to Robert Beaven: providing information on the progress of negotiations	15 Jan 1881
A00792(1)	1	45	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: re provision of information	18 Jan 1881

A00792(1)	1	46	Amor De Cosmos to Sir John A. Macdonald: asking for conclusions reached by the Dominion Government re the Island railway	18 Jan 1881
A00792(1)	1	47	Amor De Cosmos to Sir John A. Macdonald: drawing attention to his letter of 18 Jan 1881	24 Jan 1881
A00792(1)	1	48	Amor De Cosmos to Robert Beaven: further re Island railway negotiations	24 Jan 1881
A00792(1)	1	49	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: re Federal delay on BC claims	9 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	50	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: telegram noting arrival of Syndicate	10 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	51	Amor De Cosmos to G.A. Walkem: informing Walkem of further delay	14 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	52	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: informing Walkem of further delay	17 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	53	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: informing Walkem of further delay	21 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	54	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: re interview with Sir John A. Macdonald	22 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	55	John A. Macdonald to Amor De Cosmos: re discussions of the Council on the Island railway	28 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	56	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: informing Walkem of Macdonald's note of 28 Feb 1881	28 Feb 1881
A00792(1)	1	57	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: informing Walkem of no answer from Macdonald	4 Mar 1881
A00792(1)	1	58	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: further to Island railway question	8 Mar 1881

#### Ottawa and London correspondence

A00792(1)	2	59-66	Table of Contents of correspondence	
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A00792(1)	2	68	C. Hoffman to Amor De Cosmos: results of assay	20 Dec 1880
A00792(1)	2	69	Amor De Cosmos to A.R.C. Selwyn: re silver content in specimen rock	17 Dec 1880
A00792(1)	2	70	Amor De Cosmos to Colonel de Winton: thanking him for a letter of introduction to the Secretary of State for the Colonies	20 May 1881
A00792(1)	2	71	J.J. Southgate to Amor De Cosmos: re arrangements for a meeting with Lord G. Hamilton	15 Jun 1881
A00792(1)	2	72	Re negotiations with Lord Kimberley	14 Sep 1881
A00792(1)	2	73-74	J. Bramston to Amor De Cosmos: Lord Kimberley's view of the points under discussion	22 Sep 1881
A00792(1)	2	75	T.B. Humphreys to Amor De Cosmos: acknowledging receipt of correspondence re his mission to England	28 Sep 1881
A00792(1)	2	76	Amor De Cosmos to Robert Beaven: requesting one thousand dollars	5 Oct 1881
A00792(1)	2	77	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: arranging for request of finances	
A00792(1)	2	78	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: requesting answer	
A00792(1)	2	79	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: requesting repeat of cipher portion of previous telegram	21 Oct 1881
A00792(1)	2	80	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: noting departure for Quebec	23 Oct 1881
A00792(1)	2	81	Amor De Cosmos to Postmaster, Ottawa: requesting that his letters be kept	26 Oct 1881
A00792(1)	2	82	Amor De Cosmos and George Anthony Walkem: exchange of telegrams	7 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	83-87	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: describing state of negotiations with Sir Charles Tupper	9 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	88	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: acknowledging receipt of letter of 20 Sep 1881	10 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	89	Amor De Cosmos to John A. Macdonald: requesting an interview re the Island railway question	10 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	90	John A. Macdonald to Amor De Cosmos: re the requested interview	[9 Nov 1881?]

A00792(1)	2	91	Amor De Cosmos to John A. Macdonald: re interview	11 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	92	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: informing Walkem of decision to await Tupper's arrival before interview	11 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	93	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: acknowledging receipt of letter of 9 Nov 1861	16 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	94	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: geographical questions and reply	17 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	94	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: geographical questions and reply	21 Nov 1881
A00792(1)	2	95	Amor De Cosmos to John A. Macdonald: requesting an interview on the subject of the Island railway question	13 Dec 1881
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A00792(1)	2	99	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: re interview with Macdonald and Tupper	17 Dec 1881
A00792(1)	2	100	John A. Macdonald to Amor De Cosmos: re interview	20 Dec 1881
A00792(1)	2	100	Amor De Cosmos to John A. Macdonald: re interview	20 Dec 1881
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A00792(1)	2	101	George Anthony Walkem to Amor De Cosmos: wishing to know time of settlement of Island railway	30 Dec 1881
A00792(1)	2	102	Amor De Cosmos to T.B. Humphreys: transmitting parcels with list of contents	30 Dec 1881
A00792(1)	2	103	Amor De Cosmos to George Stephen; George Stephen to Amor De Cosmos: re arrival in Ottawa	31 Dec 1881
A00792(1)	2	104	A De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: re proposed meeting with Stephen	31 Dec 1881

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A00792(1)	2	107	A De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: re Syndicate response	12 Jan 1882
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A00792(1)	3	116	J.B. Montgomery to Amor De Cosmos: re discussions with Mr. Villard	27 Jan 1882
A00792(1)	3	117	Amor De Cosmos to George Anthony Walkem: re federal decision on Island railway	27 Jan 1882
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A00792(1)	3	132	T.D. Bradford to Amor De Cosmos: telegram concerning reply to De Cosmos' letter	14 Feb 1882
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A00792(1)	3	137- 139	T.D. Bradford to Amor De Cosmos: re the formation of Syndicates in San Francisco with a view to building the Island railway	1 Mar 1882
A00792(1)	3	140	A.P. Bradley to Amor De Cosmos: requesting a map of part of British Columbia	13 Mar. 1882
A00792(1)	3	141	Robert Beaven to Amor De Cosmos: requesting information re communications with Senator Macdonald	13 Mar 1882
A00792(1)	3	142	Amor De Cosmos to W.J. Macdonald: re his telegram to Robert Beaven	15 Mar 1882
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A00792(1)	3	148	Amor De Cosmos to Robert Beaven: re Minister of Railways views on Dunsmuir proposal	27 Mar 1882
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A00792(1)	3	153	Robert Beaven to Amor De Cosmos: re Clements and Company plan	5 May 1882
A00792(1)	3	154	T.B. Humphreys to Amor De Cosmos: re passage of Bill No. 17 by the British Columbia Legislature	8 May 1882
A00792(1)	3	155	Amor De Cosmos to Robert Beaven: informing of expected arrival at Victoria	17 May 1882
A00792(1)			Correspondence from London while Special Agent of the Province of British Columbia in London	
A00792(1)	4	156- 158	Amor De Cosmos to R.G.W. Herbert: re a steam railway ferry across the Strait of Georgia, map enclosed [transferred to Maps accession CM/A984]	4 Aug 1881
A00792(1)	4	159	Robert Beaven to Amor De Cosmos: asking about progress being made	4 Aug 1881
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A00792(1)	4	165	Robert Beaven to Amor De Cosmos: noting arrival of Charles Tupper	16 Aug 1881

A00792(1)	4	166- 167	Amor De Cosmos to Robert Beaven: describing state of negotiations with Colonial Office	22 Aug 1881
A00792(1)	4	168- 169	R.G. Tatlow to Amor De Cosmos: transmitting Minute of the Executive Council re the expiration of the time limit for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway	28 Jul. 1881
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A00792(1)	4	171- 172	R.G.W. Herbert to Amor De Cosmos: re Lord Kimberley's conclusions on the subject of the Island railway	25 Aug 1881
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A00792(1)	4	177	Amor De Cosmos to T.B. Humphreys: transmitting various correspondence	11 Sep 1881
A00792(1)	4	178	T.B. Humphreys to the Lieutenant- Governor: transmitting correspondence of Amor De Cosmos on the subject of Canada's railway obligations to British Columbia	25 Nov 1881