

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787473403321
Titolo	The papers of Henry Clay . Volume 8 Candidate, compromiser, whig : March 5, 1829 - December 31, 1836 / / Robert Seage II, editor ; Melba Porter Hay, associate editor
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lexington, Kentucky : , : The University Press of Kentucky, , 1984 ©1984
ISBN	0-8131-5672-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (964 pages)
Disciplina	973.5/092/4
Soggetti	Statesmen - United States United States Politics and government 1815-1861 Sources United States Politics and government 1829-1837
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes indexes.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Contents; Preface; Symbols & Abbreviations; THE PAPERS OF HENRY CLAY; To MARGARET BAYARD; From THOMAS I. WHARTON; SPEECH AT FAREWELL DINNER; From LAFAYETTE; To FRANCIS T. BROOKE; SPEECH AT HAGERSTOWN, MD.; From PHILIP R. FENDALL; From HENRY CLAY, JR.; To ELIZA & JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON; From JOHN F. HENRY; To JAMES ERWIN; From GEORGE F. WARFIELD; From DAVID LEE CHILD; To JOHN Q. ADAMS; To JOHN F. HENRY; From ABDUHL RAHAHMAN; From MARK HARDIN; HENRY CLAY, JR.; To THOMAS I. WHARTON; From CHARLES S. TODD; From JOHN Q. ADAMS; From MARK HARDIN From FRANCIS T. BROOKEFrom THOMAS I. WHARTON; From JOHN Q. ADAMS; To JOHN H. EWING; FOWLER'S GARDEN SPEECH; From HENRY CLAY, JR.; To UNKNOWN RECIPIENT; From ROBERT WICKLIFFE; From THOMAS SPEED; To CHARLES HAMMOND; To THOMAS LAW; To JOHN L. LAWRENCE; To JOHN SLOANE; To SAMUEL STUART GRIFFIN; To ADAM BEATTY; To JESSE B. HARRISON; To ADAM BEATTY; From THOMAS PATTERSON; From ROBERT R. RICHARDSON; From RICHARD A. BUCKNER; To SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD; To GEORGE W. DAWSON; From JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON; To ADAM BEATTY; From FRANCIS T. BROOKE; To JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON; To GEORGE WATTERSON; To ELISHA

WHITTLESEY

To SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD To CHARLES HAMMOND; From HENRY CLAY, JR.; To HENRY CLAY, JR.; To WILLIS FIELD; To FRANCIS T. BROOKE; To CHARLES HAMMOND; From JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON; From SAMUEL L. SOUTHARD; From PETER B. PORTER; To JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON; To CHARLES HAMMOND; To JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON; To THOMAS SPEED; To JOSEPH VANCE; To ELISHA WHITTLESEY; To R. GIST; From HENRY CLAY, JR.; From JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON; From Thomas Patterson,; To ALLEN TRIMBLE; To JOHN HARE POWEL; To ANDREW M. JANUARY; WILLIAM HUSTON, JR.; From WILLIAM L. BRENT; To THOMAS SPEED; To JOHN W. TAYLOR; From JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON
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To JOSIAH S. JOHNSTON

Sommario/riassunto

Returning to Kentucky in the spring of 1829 after four years as secretary of state in the administration of John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay quickly regained the political dominance at home that would carry him to the U.S. Senate in 1831. Assuming leadership of the anti-Jackson forces, Senator Clay in 1832 mounted a spirited campaign for the presidency, advocating recharter of the national bank, high protective tariffs, and internal improvements, and alleging the administrative incompetence of Jackson and his cronies. Clay's defeat by the popular military hero was probably foreordained, but he emerged with sufficient national prestige to play the leading role in mediation of the nullification crisis of December 1832-March 1833. The battle over the constitutionality of the protective tariff, during which the words secession, invasion, and civil war were freely used, pitted Jackson and the power of the federal government against the states' rights politicians of South Carolina. Clay's masterful legislative compromise of 1833 defused a tense situation and brought him national applause as savior of the Union. Continuing his efforts to form a political coalition strong enough to defeat the Jacksonians, Clay was successful in a Senate resolution to censure the president for unconstitutional exercise of power in removing government deposits from the Bank of the United States. But as the election of 1836 drew near it became evident that the emerging coalition could not defeat Democrat Martin Van Buren, Jackson's hand-picked candidate; as the Reign of Jackson drew to a close, Clay could only view the national scene with dismay.

