

*The Papers of*  
HENRY CLAY

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HENRY CLAY

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VOLUME I

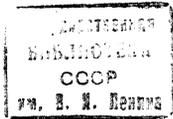
THE RISING STATESMAN

1797-1814

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*“My ambition is that we may enter a new  
and larger era of service to humanity.”*

Dedicated to the memory of

JOSIAH KIRBY LILLY

1861-1948

President of Eli Lilly and Company

Founder of Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Whose wisdom and foresight were  
devoted to the service of  
education, religion, and  
public welfare

## INTRODUCTION

*The Papers of Henry Clay* covers a period beginning near the close of the eighteenth century, when a fledgling lawyer ventured westward from Virginia to seek his fortune, and ending more than fifty years later with the death of an elder statesman in Washington, near the legislative halls where he had long been a powerful figure. Recognized by the United States Senate in 1957 as one of its five most outstanding members to date, Speaker of the House of Representatives longer than any other individual save one, Secretary of State under President John Quincy Adams, and thrice himself a candidate for the presidency, Clay was at the center of the American political stage for nearly half a century. In addition to giving a detailed view of his political life, Clay's papers reveal his progress in the legal profession, his role as a gentleman farmer, his participation in manufacturing and commerce, his relationship with his family, his service to his community, and his friendship with men and women in all walks of life. The editors hope that their work will contribute to a better understanding of both Clay and the exciting times in which he lived, when locally, regionally, and nationally his environment was rapidly maturing; they believe that it may also reveal something of the great personal charm that endeared "Harry of the West" to many of his contemporaries.

The present volume, the first of a set of ten in which the papers are to be published, covers the great Kentuckian's career through the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in December, 1814. The arrangement of materials throughout the series is to be chronological, with one exception. Realizing that additional documents may be discovered too late for inclusion in proper order, and hoping that such manuscripts will come to light, we plan to publish them in the last volume, together with undated items which cannot be inserted even with approximation at an earlier point. Each volume will include an index of names of people, organizations, blooded livestock, estates, taverns, and watering places. A general index will be published at the conclusion of the work.

The compilation is designed to present both the incoming and outgoing correspondence; personal business papers, accounts, and receipts; legislative proposals, including committee reports for which Clay bore identifiable responsibility; diplomatic papers which represent a personal contribution; and reported speeches and manuscript