Collection Summary
Title: Leonard F. Cushing Papers
Span Dates: 1794-1959
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1926-1954)
ID No.: MSS52852
Creator: Cushing, Leonard F., 1901-1962
Extent: 3,600 items ; 13 containers ; 5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval architect. Correspondence, blueprints, newspaper clippings, and photographs relating to the restoration of the Constitution (frigate) and the Constellation (frigate).

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Burgess, Robert H.--Correspondence.
Cushing, Leonard F., 1901-1962.
Eskew, Garnett Laidlaw, 1894- --Correspondence.
Friedel, Samuel N. (Samuel Nathaniel), 1898-1979--Correspondence.
Howard, W. E. Jr.--Correspondence.
Kilguss, Fred C.--Correspondence.
Parks, Burton M.--Correspondence.
Saltonstall, Leverett, 1892-1979--Correspondence.
Scarlett, Charles--Correspondence.
Stephens, Russell M.--Correspondence.
Stewart, Donald--Correspondence.
Whittemore, J. R.--Correspondence.

Organizations
Constellation (Frigate)
Constitution (Frigate)
United States. Navy.

Subjects
Naval architecture.
Shipbuilding.
Warships.

Occupations
Naval architects.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Leonard F. Cushing, naval architect, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1963 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The papers of Leonard F. Cushing were arranged and described in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 2010.
Additional Guides


Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Leonard F. Cushing is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Leonard F. Cushing are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Leonard F. Cushing Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date          Event
1922          Graduated, Fore River's Shipyard Training System, Quincy, Mass.
1926          Commended by United States Navy for assisting in salvaging Submarine S-57 near Block Island, N.Y.
1952-1957     Supervisor of preserving and restoring the Constitution (frigate)
1955          Made an honorary citizen of Baltimore, Md.
1959          Retired from the United States Navy

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Leonard F. Cushing (1901-1962) span the years 1794-1959, with the bulk of the material from 1926 to 1954. The papers consist of correspondence, blueprints, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Most of the material relates to the restoration of the frigates Constitution and Constellation.

Much of the correspondence in the collection concerns Cushing’s attempts to arouse public and congressional interest in restoring the frigates and his attempts to prove the authenticity of the Constellation. His testimony for its restoration before the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives on March 1, 1954, and his participation in the panel discussion on its authenticity on March 16, 1959, are documented. Correspondents include Robert H. Burgess, Garnett Laidlaw Eskew, Samuel N. Friedel, W. E. Howard, Jr., Fred C. Kilguss, Burton M. Parks, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles Scarlett, Russell M. Stephens, Donald Stewart, and J. R. Whitemore.

The blueprints in the collection include reproductions of the original full plans of the Constellation by Joshua Humphreys made in 1794 and the original drawing of the Constitution by Charles Ware made in 1817. Blueprints for the restoration of
the *Constitution* are dated 1926-1931. For the *Constellation*, there are blueprints for restoration dated 1853, 1860, 1888, and 1948. There are also photographs showing the decaying condition of the frigates and photographs of the restored frigates. Newspaper clippings document the histories of the frigates, the controversy over the authenticity of the *Constellation*, and Cushing’s transfer of the ship from Boston to Baltimore.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material.
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