Charles B. McVay Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011179

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053173

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson
Collection Summary
Title: Charles B. McVay Papers
Span Dates: 1896-1950
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1927-1930)
ID No.: MSS53173
Creator: McVay, Charles B. (Charles Butler), 1868-1949
Extent: 900 items ; 3 containers plus 1 oversize ; 1.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval officer. Official and general correspondence, printed matter, and other material relating to McVay's duties as commander-in-chief of the Asiatic Fleet.

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
Adams, Charles Francis, 1866-1954--Correspondence.
Castle, William R. (William Richards), 1878-1963--Correspondence.
Cunningham, Edwin Sheddan, 1868-1953--Correspondence.
Davis, Dwight Filley, 1879-1945--Correspondence.
Franklin, Lynn Winterdale, 1888-1952--Correspondence.
Kelly, Howard Charles, 1887-1952--Correspondence.

Organizations

Occupations
Naval officers.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Charles B. McVay, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1964 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The papers of Charles B. McVay were arranged and described in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles B. McVay is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Charles B. McVay 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, Charles B. McVay Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Duty in USS <em>Amphitrite</em>, Spanish-American War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Duty in USS <em>Hartford</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905-1907</td>
<td>Duty, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Duty in USS <em>Alabama</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908-1910</td>
<td>Commanded USS <em>Yankton</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910-1912</td>
<td>Duty, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912-1914</td>
<td>Chief of staff, Asiatic Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-1916</td>
<td>Assistant to Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Duty, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Commanded USS <em>New Jersey</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Commanded USS <em>Oklahoma</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-1925</td>
<td>Commanded Yangtze Patrol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925-1929</td>
<td>Member, General Board and Budget Office, Navy Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Promoted to admiral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Commander-in-chief, Asiatic Fleet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Retired from navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949, Oct. 28</td>
<td>Died, Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Butler McVay (1868-1949) span the years 1896-1950, with the bulk of the material falling between the years 1927 and 1930. The papers consist chiefly of general and official correspondence concerning McVay’s duty as commander-in-chief of the Asiatic Fleet in 1929-1930.
Correspondents include Charles Francis Adams, William R. Castle, Edwin Sheddan Cunningham, Dwight Filley Davis, W. Roderick Dorsey, Lynn Winterdale Franklin, Nelson T. Johnson, and Howard Charles Kelly. Also in the collection are unpublished writings, including McVay’s autobiography, a draft of a speech, “The Navy in China,” and an essay on the Old Testament, as well as printed matter, commissions, and photographs.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

The collection is organized by type of material with oversize items filed at the end.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1     | Orders to duty, 1897-1930  
            | Correspondence  
            | 1896-1930, May |
| BOX 2     | 1930, June-1950 |
| BOX 3     | Miscellany  
            | “The Navy in China,” draft of speech, 1927  
            | Autobiography, undated  
            | Holograph manuscript  
            | Typed copy.  
            | “New Proofs of Old Testament History,” undated  
            | Newspaper clippings, 1929  
            | Photographs  
            | Printed matter, 1929-1930 |
| BOX OV 1  | Oversize commissions, 1892-1923 |