Collection Summary

Title: John Forsyth Meigs Papers
Span Dates: 1914-1940
ID No.: MSS52886
Creator: Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924
Extent: 1,500 items ; 6 containers ; 2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence and research notes for Meigs's book The Story of the Seaman, together with research notes of Meigs's cousin, William Ledyard Rodgers, who wrote the preface to the book.

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
Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924.
Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924. Story of the seaman; being an account of the ways and appliances of seafarers and of ships from the earliest time until now. 1924.
Rodgers, William Ledyard, 1860-1944.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of John Forsyth Meigs, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1953 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The papers of John Forsyth Meigs were arranged and described in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Forsyth Meigs is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of John Forsyth Meigs 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, John Forsyth Meigs 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>
</table>
1867 Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

1868-1869 Duty in USS Picataque, Asiatic Squadron

1871 Duty in USS Guerrière


1874-1876 Duty in USS Omaha

1877 Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.


1881 Married Jane Perry Rodgers
   Duty at Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.

1882 Duty in USF Constellation

1886 Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

1887 Published with R. R. Ingersoll Text-Book of Ordnance and Gunnery, [Baltimore: Press of I. Friedenwald], second edition

1887-1889 Duty in USS Richmond, North Atlantic Fleet

1890 Duty in Bureau of Navigation

1891 Resigned from the U.S. Navy

1892-1910 Employed by Bethlehem Steel Works

1924, Apr. 16 Died, New York, N.Y.

1924 Posthumous publication of The Story of the Seaman, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs (1848-1924) span the years 1914-1940, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1918-1924. The collection consists of correspondence and research notes for Meigs’s posthumously published book, The Story of the Seaman. It also includes research notes of his cousin, William Ledyard Rodgers, who wrote the preface to the book.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1     | Correspondence  
|           | George R. Wood to Admiral Rodgers, 1917, Jan. 10  
|           | John A. Rodgers to William Ledyard Rodgers, 1924, Jan. 4, [1925]  
|           | Alexander Macomb to Freda Rodgers Giles, 1926, Jan. 22  
|           | Writings, 1914-1919, undated  
|           | Notebooks containing research notes, 1919-1922  
|           | (5 vols.) |
| BOX 2     | *The Story of the Seaman*  
| BOX 2     | Carbon copy draft of chapter 1, 1920  
| BOX 2     | Holograph draft  
| BOX 2     | Pages 1-692  
|           | (10 folders) |
| BOX 3     | Pages 693-827  
|           | (2 folders) |
| BOX 3     | Pencil holograph draft of chapter 6  
| BOX 3     | “Extracts from Arrian’s History of Alexander the Great”  
| BOX 3     | “Extracts from Diodorus the Sicilian”  
| BOX 3     | “Extracts from Herodotus”  
| BOX 3     | “Hesiod”  
| BOX 3     | “Extracts from the Histories of Polybius”  
| BOX 3     | “Facts Drawn from the Iliad and Odyssey”  
| BOX 3     | “Extracts from Thucydides”  
| BOX 3     | “Extracts from Xenophon”  
| BOX 4     | Research notes  
| BOX 4     | Pages 1-500  
|           | (23 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Pages 501-1398  
|           | (22 folders) |
| BOX 5     | Miscellaneous research notes, 1914, undated |
| BOX 6     | Miscellany, William Ledyard Rodgers’s note cards containing research notes for speeches, articles, and books, 1928-1940 |