

Cyrus Robinson Miller 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.
2008**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70053801>

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Collection Summary

Title: Cyrus Robinson Miller Papers

Span Dates: 1897-1940

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1897-1918)

ID No.: MSS53801

Creator: Miller, Cyrus Robinson, 1874-1947

Extent: 5 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: .4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70053801>

Summary: Naval officer. Midshipman's logs documenting activities of the United States Battleship *Oregon* during the Spanish-American War and the armored cruiser *Buffalo*, radio logs of the protected cruiser *Cleveland* which led merchant convoys in the Atlantic Ocean during World War I, and a ditty about life aboard the troop ship *Von Steuben*.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Miller, Cyrus Robinson, 1874-1947.

Organizations

Buffalo (Armored cruiser)

Cleveland (Protected cruiser)

Oregon (Battleship)

United States. Navy--Sea life.

Von Steuben (Troop ship)

Subjects

Merchant marine.

Naval convoys--Atlantic Ocean.

Sea songs.

Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations, American.

World War, 1914-1918--Naval operations, American.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Cyrus Robinson Miller, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1964. The Naval Historical Foundation converted the deposit to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Cyrus Robinson Miller were arranged and described in 1997. The register was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Cyrus Robinson Miller is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Cyrus Robinson Miller 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, Cyrus Robinson Miller Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1874, Oct. 12	Born, Sacramento, Calif.
circa 1893-1895	Student, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.
circa 1895-1897	Student, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1897-1899	Midshipman aboard battleship <i>Oregon</i> and armored cruiser <i>Buffalo</i>
circa 1900	Aboard warship <i>Albatross</i> during scientific expedition with naturalist Alexander Agassiz to Marquesas Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Fiji, and other South Sea islands
1902	Assigned to cruiser <i>Cincinnati</i> ; assisted victims of Mont Pelée eruption, St. Pierre, Martinique
circa 1902-1903	Assigned to cruiser <i>Baltimore</i> ; patrolled China coast and performed peacekeeping duties in Shanghai
circa 1904	Naval aide to President Theodore Roosevelt
circa 1905-1907	Commanded gunboats <i>Samar</i> and <i>Pampanga</i> , Philippine Islands; assisted in suppressing insurgency, Mindanao Island
circa 1908-1909	Assigned to battleship <i>Illinois</i> ; sailed with Great White Fleet Led rescue party, Messina, Sicily, following earthquake
circa 1910-1912	Assigned to battleship <i>Georgia</i>
circa 1912-1914	Superintendent of compasses, United States Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.
1914	Executive officer, battleship <i>Wyoming</i> , during its participation in American seizure of Veracruz, Mexico
1918	Married Lois McGinley Commanded cruiser <i>Cleveland</i> ; guided merchant convoys in North Atlantic Ocean Commanded troop transport ship <i>Von Steuben</i> ; ferried troops to and from France
circa 1918-1921	Student officer, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
circa 1921-1922	Chief of staff, Destroyer Squadrons, United States Fleet
circa 1922-1923	Assistant director of naval intelligence, Washington, D.C.
1923	Retired from United States Navy
1947, May 29	Died, Palm Beach, Fla

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Cyrus Robinson Miller (1874-1947) span the dates 1897-1940, with the bulk of the material concentrated during the period from 1897 to 1918. Miller was a naval cadet aboard the battleship *Oregon* and armored cruiser *Buffalo* and kept midshipman logs chronicling daily life aboard ship, including ports of call, visits by dignitaries, and crew activities. When war with Spain appeared imminent in 1898, the *Oregon* was ordered from the Pacific to the Caribbean. Miller recorded the ship's fourteen-thousand mile, two-month transit around Cape Horn, a voyage which demonstrated the usefulness of establishing a trans-isthmian canal. After arriving at Cuba, the *Oregon* participated in the Battle of Santiago, which Miller detailed in his logs and in a narrative inserted later, in landing troops at Guanica, and in lesser battle actions. He included photographs of the wrecks of the American warship *Merrimac* and Spanish warships *Reina Mercedes* and *Cristóbal Colón*, the harbor, channel, and Morro of Santiago; and the crews and ships of both fleets during battle.

Miller served as captain of the warship *Cleveland* during World War I. Included in his papers is the radio log of the *Cleveland* during its assignment to patrol the American coast from Cape Hatteras to Charleston, South Carolina, and later during its assignment to lead merchant convoys to mid-Atlantic rendezvous points. The log's entries concern maintaining silent running and nighttime blackout, convoy formation, crew health, maritime war alerts, and enemy submarine sightings.

Also included is a ditty regarding life aboard another ship under Miller's command, the troop transport ship *Von Steuben*, during the time it ferried soldiers to and from France during World War I.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Anecdote re shipboard life, undated
BOX 1	Spanish-American War
BOX 1	<i>Oregon</i> (battleship), midshipman's log, 1897-1899 (2 folders)
BOX 1	<i>Oregon</i> (battleship) and <i>Buffalo</i> (armored cruiser)
BOX 1	Midshipman's log, 1899
BOX 1	Related material, 1898-1899, 1940
BOX 1	World War I
BOX 1	<i>Cleveland</i> (protected cruiser), radio log, 1918
BOX 1	<i>Von Steuben</i> (troop transport ship), 1918