

William Harrison Standley 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.
2009**

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

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Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009310>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson and Paul A. Robinson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: William Harrison Standley Papers

Span Dates: 1895-1963

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1960)

ID No.: MSS41178

Creator: Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 14 containers

Extent: 5.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70041178>

Summary: Naval officer and United States ambassador to the Soviet Union. Correspondence, writings, military papers, and miscellaneous material dealing primarily with Standley's career in the navy and as ambassador.

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

Belknap, Reginald Rowan, 1871-1959--Correspondence.

Buchman, Frank, 1878-1961--Correspondence.

Crommelin, John G.--Correspondence.

Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986--Correspondence.

Howard, Roy Wilson, 1883-1964--Correspondence.

Jenner, William E. (William Ezra), 1908-1985--Correspondence.

Knowland, William F. (William Fife), 1908-1974--Correspondence.

Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963.

Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963. Admiral Ambassador to Russia. 1955.

Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963. Admiral Standley, Early Life and Naval Career.

Stanley, William, active 1942--Correspondence.

Walsh, David I. (David Ignatius), 1872-1947--Correspondence.

Willson, Russell, 1883-1948--Correspondence.

Subjects

Anti-communist movements.

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.

Places

Germany--Foreign relations--United States.

Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--Germany.

United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations

Diplomats.

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of William Harrison Standley, naval officer and U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1969 and 1973 by the Naval Historical Foundation and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The Standley Papers were processed in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

In 1973 the Library published *William Harrison Standley, a Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Transfers

Phonograph albums have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Other Repositories

The USC Library at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., also holds a collection of Standley papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The William Harrison Standley Papers 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, William Harrison Standley Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1872, Dec. 18	Born, Ukiah, Calif.
1895	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty on <i>Olympia</i> (cruiser), Asiatic Station
1898	Married Evelyn Curtis
1911-1914	Aide to the commandant, U.S. Navy Yard, Mare Island, Calif.
1915-1916	Commanded <i>Yorktown</i> (gunboat)
1916-1919	Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1924	Senior member, Joint Planning Committee, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
1928-1930	Assistant chief, Naval Operations
1931-1933	Commander of cruisers, U.S. Fleet and Scouting Force
1933	Promoted to admiral
1933-1937	Chief, Naval Operations

1935	Delegate, London Disarmament Conference, London, England
1937	Retired from U.S. Navy
1937-1939	Director and consultant, Electric Boat Co., New London, Conn.
1942-1943	Ambassador to the Soviet Union
1944	Recalled to active duty, U.S. Navy
1945	Retired from U.S. Navy
1955	Published with Arthur A. Ageton <i>Admiral Ambassador to Russia</i> . Chicago: H. Regnery Co.
1963, Oct. 25	Died, San Diego, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Harrison Standley (1872-1963) span the period 1895-1963, with the bulk of the material concentrated in 1940-1960. The papers include correspondence, speeches, articles, drafts of Standley's books, naval orders, news releases, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material. The collection is organized in [General Correspondence](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File](#); and [Miscellany](#) series.

The majority of the [correspondence](#) deals with the anti-Communist causes to which Standley allied himself in the 1950s. Also included are letters of congratulation concerning his appointment as ambassador to the Soviet Union and letters concerning his role as director of foreign participation in the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Speeches in the [Speech, Article, and Book file](#) reflect Standley's interests and concerns during the period 1933-1955. Speaking in the 1930s, he stressed the need for an effective sea power founded upon an expanding shipbuilding program, and in 1940 he called for war with Germany. After his return from the Soviet Union in 1943, Standley concentrated his speechmaking efforts on American relations with the Soviet Union.

Included in the book file are drafts of Standley's published book, *Admiral Ambassador to Russia*, and an unpublished autobiography, "Admiral Standley, Early Life and Naval Career." The latter covers the period from 1895 to 1937 and is useful in its portrayal of a segment of Standley's life that is absent in the correspondence.

The [Miscellany](#) series consists chiefly of newspaper clippings, news releases, printed matter, and reports that relate to the anti-Communist organizations that Standley supported. Biographical information is also contained in naval orders dated from 1895 to 1948.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [General Correspondence, 1931-1963](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1933-1958](#)
- [Miscellany, 1895-1962](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-5	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1931-1963</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, company, or organization and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 5-10	<p><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1933-1958</u></p> <p>Typed, near-print, and handwritten copies of speeches, typed and printed copies of articles, typescripts of books by Standley and related correspondence. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 11-14	<p><u>Miscellany, 1895-1962</u></p> <p>Articles and speeches by others, correspondence, biographical material, lists, invitations, memoranda, naval orders, news releases, newspaper clippings, plans and proposals, programs, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by type of material with printed matter and photographs at the end of the series.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-5	General Correspondence, 1931-1963 Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, company, or organization and therein chronologically.
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BOX 5-10

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Arranged by type of material.

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BOX 11-14

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Miscellany, 1895-1962

Container

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Arranged alphabetically by type of material with printed matter and photographs at the end of the series.

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