

Edward John Dorn 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.
2010

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70022186>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010016>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Edward John Dorn Papers

Span Dates: 1868-1936

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1875-1922)

ID No.: MSS22186

Creator: Dorn, Edward John, 1854-1937

Extent: 1000 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70022186>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, diaries, orders to duty, speeches, notes, photographs, and printed materials pertaining to Dorn's naval cruises to Brazil, South Africa, Samoan Islands, Guam, and Japan, and to his experiences as governor of American Samoa and Guam, especially in regard to missionaries, schools, water supply, and immigrants.

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

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948.

Dorn, Edward John, 1854-1937.

Dyer, George L., 1849-1914.

Shapley, Lloyd S.

Tilley, Benjamin Franklin, 1848-1907.

Winthrop, Beekman, 1874-1940.

Subjects

American Samoa--Politics and government.

Missions--American Samoa.

Missions--Guam.

Schools--American Samoa.

Schools--Guam.

Water-supply--American Samoa.

Water-supply--Guam.

Places

Brazil--Description and travel.

Guam--Description and travel.

Guam--Politics and government.

Japan--Description and travel.

Samoan Islands--Description and travel.

South Africa--Description and travel.

United States--History, Naval.

Occupations

Governors--American Samoa.

Governors--Guam.

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Edward John Dorn, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1969 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Edward John Dorn were processed in 1970. Revisions were made to the collection in 1979 and the finding aid was revised in 2010.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward John Dorn is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edward John Dorn 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, Edward John Dorn Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1854, Jan. 12	Born, Potosi, Wis.
1874	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty in <i>Pensacola</i> (screw steamer), North Pacific Station
1877	Duty in <i>Guard</i> (ship), Special Service
1880	Married Syble Halpine
1883	Duty in <i>Nipsic</i> (gunboat)
1886	Duty at United States Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.
1892	Duty in Naval Intelligence
1894	Ordnance instruction, Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.
1897	Duty in <i>Machias</i> (gunboat), Bangkok, Siam
1898	Duty in <i>Lancaster</i> (screw sloop of war), Spanish-American War
1899	Commandant of cadets, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1900	Acting commandant and governor, Pago Pago, Samoa
1902	Duty in United States Navy Yard, Havana, Cuba
1904	Commanded <i>Castine</i> (gunboat)
1905	Commandant, United States Naval Station, and governor, Guam Placed on retired list with rank of captain
1917	Corresponding secretary, Navy Relief Society
1922	Relieved from duty
1937, Dec. 10	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward John Dorn (1854-1937) span the years 1868-1936, with the bulk of the material dating from 1875 to 1922. The collection consists of personal diaries, extracts from diaries, letterbooks, orders to duty, general correspondence, addresses and lectures, notes on Guam and Samoa, newspaper clippings, photographs, printed matter, and memorabilia.

In his personal diaries Dorn writes on his overseas duties and on naval cruises to Brazil, South Africa, Samoa, Guam, and Japan. He also describes those events in letters to his mother, Carolina Dorn, to his sisters, Olga and Clara Dorn, to his wife, Syble Halpine Dorn, and to his nephew, Thomas E. Mayhew. Much of the material is concerned with his governorships of Samoa and Guam. The correspondence relates to such problems as missionaries, schools, water supply, and immigrants. Among the correspondents are Josephus Daniels, George Leland Dyer, Lloyd S. Shapley, Benjamin Franklin Tilley, and Beekman Winthrop.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries and orders to duty
BOX 1	Personal diaries, 1877-1878, 1890-1892, 1904-1911, 1932 (12 folders)
BOX 2	Extracts from diaries, 1879-1914
BOX 2	Orders to duty, 1876-1910
BOX 3	Letterbooks, 1874-1890, 1907-1910 (2 folders)
BOX 3	General correspondence, 1868-1933
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Governor's address, undated
BOX 4	Farewell address, 1910
BOX 4	Lectures, "Guam, Samoa and the Fiji Islands," 1921
BOX 4	Remarks on the Navy Relief Society, 1921
BOX 4	Notes on Guam, undated
BOX 4	Notes on the Philippine Islands, undated
BOX 4	Notes on Samoa, undated
BOX 4	Miscellaneous notes, undated
BOX 4	Music score, 1910
BOX 4	Magazine clippings on Guam, 1903-1928
BOX 4	Newspaper clippings, 1871-1936
BOX 5	Photographs, undated
BOX 5	Printed matter, 1895-1923
BOX 5	Scrapbook, <i>Castine</i> (gunboat), 1904-1905
BOX 5	General miscellany, including certificate, envelopes, invitation, menus, and verse, 1897-1935