

Reginald Rowan Belknap 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.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052704>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010051>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010
Revised 2023 November

Collection Summary

Title: Reginald Rowan Belknap Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1784-1929

Bulk Dates: 1900-1929

ID No.: MSS52704

Creator: Belknap, Reginald Rowan, 1871-1959

Extent: 7,100 items

Extent: 23 containers

Extent: 9 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70052704>

Summary: Naval officer. Family and personal correspondence, financial and legal material, printed matter, photographs, and other papers relating to Belknap's naval career and his family.

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 family.

Belknap, Julia P. Averill--Correspondence.

Belknap, Julia P. Averill.

Belknap, Reginald Rowan, 1871-1959.

Subjects

Americans--East Asia.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Reginald Rowan Belknap, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1959 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Reginald Rowan Belknap were arranged and described in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 2009 by Ruth S. Nicholson. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Additional Guides

In 1969 the Library published *George Eugene Belknap, Reginald Rowan Belknap, a Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Reginald Rowan Belknap is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Reginald Rowan Belknap 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 or reel number, Reginald Rowan Belknap Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1871, June 26	Born, Malden, Mass.
1891	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1891-1893	Duty in <i>Chicago</i> (protected cruiser), North and South Atlantic Stations
1893-1894	Duty in <i>Baltimore</i> (cruiser), Asiatic Squadron
1894-1895	Duty in <i>Monocacy</i> (sidewheel gunboat), Asiatic Squadron
1895-1896	Duty in <i>Yorktown</i> (gunboat), Asiatic Squadron
1896-1897	Student, United States Naval War College
1897-1898	Duty in <i>Newport</i> (patrol gunboat)
1898-1899	Duty in <i>Helena</i> (gunboat) and <i>Indiana</i> (battleship)
1899	Duty in <i>Badger</i> (screw steamer)
1899-1900	Duty in <i>Ranger</i> (screw steamer)
1900	Married Julia Pomeroy Averill
1900-1901	Duty in <i>Brooklyn</i> (armored cruiser), Asiatic Squadron
1902-1904	Duty in Bureau of Navigation
1905-1906	Duty in <i>Kearsarge</i> (battleship)
1908	Director of American earthquake relief aid to Messina, Italy
1907-1910	Duty as naval attache, Berlin, Germany; Rome, Italy; and Vienna, Austria
1910	Aide to Theodore Roosevelt at the funeral of King Edward VII
1910	Published <i>American House Building in Messina and Reggio</i> . New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1912-1913	Assistant chief, Bureau of Navigation
1913-1914	Student, United States Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1915-1917	Commander, Mine Force Division, Atlantic Fleet
1917-1918	Duty in Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
1918	Commanded North Sea Mine Barrage Squadron
1919-1923	Duty at United States Naval War College
1920	Published <i>The Yankee Mining Squadron</i> . Annapolis, Md.: United States Naval Institute
1925-1927	Commanded Naval Training Station, Hampton Roads, Va.
1927	Retired Promoted to rear admiral by special act of Congress

1927-1928	Executive chairman, Massachusetts Bay Centenary
1929-1938	Treasurer, bursar, and registrar, General Theological Seminary, New York, N.Y.
1932-1938	Commander general, Naval Order of the United State
1936-1938	Commander-in-chief, Military Order of the World War
1940	Published <i>Introduction to the Life and Letters of Rear Admiral George Collier Remey, U.S.N., 1841-1928</i> . Washington, D.C.
1941-1953	Trustee, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, N.Y.
1943	President, Naval Academy Graduates Association
1947-1951	Commander, Military Order of the Loyal Legions of the United States
1959, Mar. 30	Died, West Haven, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Reginald Rowan Belknap (1871-1959) span the years 1784-1929, with the bulk concentrated in the period 1900-1929. The collection consists chiefly of correspondence, but includes financial and legal records, photographs, printed matter, and other papers organized in two series: [Correspondence](#) and [Miscellany](#).

Most of the [Correspondence](#) is with family members reflecting the personal life of a twentieth-century naval officer. There are letters to and from Belknap's mother, his wife, his brother, and other members of his immediate family. Subjects include social, family, and service matters, with little mention of the important incidents and events in which Belknap was involved from the 1890s until after World War I. The letters of his wife, Julia P. Averill Belknap, are especially voluminous.

The [Miscellany](#) includes financial and legal records, which in part document Belknap's financial standing for 1904-1915. There is no material concerning Belknap's published books, nor is there documentation for the period 1930-1959 when Belknap became involved in patriotic and civic affairs. Two writings in the series describe Julia Belknap's experiences as a bride in the East Asia at the turn of the twentieth century.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Correspondence, 1882-1929](#)
- [Miscellany, 1784-1928](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-21

Correspondence, 1882-1929

Letters received and a few copies of letters sent.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 22-23

Miscellany, 1784-1928

Calling cards, invitations, financial papers, engravings, genealogical material, notes, printed matter, newspaper clippings, photographs, reminiscences of Belknap's wife, Julia P. Averill Belknap, and miscellaneous items
Arranged by topic or type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-21	Correspondence, 1882-1929 Letters received and a few copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1882-1889
BOX 2	Jan.-Mar. 1900
BOX 3	Mar.-May 1900
BOX 4	June-July 1900
BOX 5	Aug.-Sept. 1900
BOX 6	Oct. 1900-1901
BOX 7	1902-1906
BOX 8	1911-1912
BOX 9	1913-Feb. 1915
BOX 10	Mar.-Dec. 1915
BOX 11	Jan.-June 1916
BOX 12	July-Dec. 1916
BOX 13	Jan.-Apr. 1917
BOX 14	May-Dec. 1917
BOX 15	Jan.-Aug. 1918
BOX 16	Sept. 1918-July 1919
BOX 17	Aug. 1919-Sept. 1920
BOX 18	Feb. 1921-Mar. 1924
BOX 19	Apr. 1924-Apr. 1925
BOX 20	May 1925-1927
BOX 21	1928-1929
BOX 22-23	Miscellany, 1784-1928 Calling cards, invitations, financial papers, engravings, genealogical material, notes, printed matter, newspaper clippings, photographs, reminiscences of Belknap's wife, Julia P. Averill Belknap, and miscellaneous items Arranged by topic or type of material.
BOX 22	Belknap family genealogy, undated
BOX 22	Calling cards and invitations, 1885-1900, undated
BOX 22	Drawings and sketches, undated
BOX 22	Engravings, undated
BOX 22	Financial papers
BOX 22	Bills and receipts, 1923-1926
BOX 22	Correspondence, 1904-1915
BOX 23	General memoranda, lists, statistics, and other miscellany, 1891-1926, undated
BOX 23	"The History of the United States Air Corps," student's theme paper, circa 1927
BOX 23	<i>Independent Chronicle</i> , 1784, 1 Jan.

Miscellany, 1784-1928

Container	Contents
BOX 23	Newspaper clippings, 1919-1925, undated
BOX 23	Notes, undated
BOX 23	Photographs, undated
BOX 23	Poetry, undated
BOX 23	Printed matter, 1900-1928, undated