Edmund Ross Colhoun 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.
2011

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70021303

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011092

Prepared by John P. Butler
Revised by Joseph K. Brooks

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2021 April
Collection Summary

Title: Edmund Ross Colhoun Papers
Span Dates: 1821-1918
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1839-1874)
ID No.: MSS21303
Creator: Colhoun, Edmund Ross, 1821-1897
Extent: 1,200 items
Extent: 9 containers
Extent: 3.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70021303

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, journals, notebooks, official records, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Colhoun's service with the Mediterranean and Brazil squadrons before the Civil War, his command of ships of blockade squadrons during the Civil War, and his command of the Asiatic Squadron.

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
Colhoun, Edmund Ross, 1821-1897.

Organizations
Albany (Sloop of war)
Congress (Frigate : 1841-1862)
Hartford (Ship)
Ladona (Steamer)
St. Lawrence (Frigate)
United States. Navy--Foreign service--Mediterranean Region.

Places
East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1950 and converted to a gift in 1998.
Processing History

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun were arranged and described in 1967. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides


Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edmund Ross Colhoun is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun 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, Edmund Ross Colhoun, 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1821, May 6</td>
<td>Born, Chambersburg, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Appointed midshipman, United States Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839-1941</td>
<td>Duty aboard the <em>Marion</em> (sloop), Brazil Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842-1844</td>
<td>Duty aboard <em>Congress</em> (frigate), Mediterranean and Brazil Squadrons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>Attended Naval School, Philadelphia, Pa. and promoted to passed midshipman; Married Mary Ann Hays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846-1847</td>
<td>Served aboard <em>Cumberland</em> (frigate), Home Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847-1848</td>
<td>Served in Mexican War aboard the <em>Albany</em> (sloop of war)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851-1853</td>
<td>Served on <em>St. Lawrence</em> (frigate), Pacific Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853</td>
<td>Resigned from the navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Rejoined the navy as an acting lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1862</td>
<td>Commanded <em>Shawsheen</em> (steam tugboat), and <em>Hunchback</em> (steam gunboat), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In command of <em>Hunchback</em> took part in the battle of Roanoke Island, N. C., and engagements on the Blackwater River in Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Promoted to commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Commanded <em>Ladona</em> (steamer), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron; and <em>Weehawken</em> (monitor), South Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864-1865</td>
<td>Commanded <em>Saugus</em> (monitor), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron, and participated in operations on the James River in Virginia and in operations against Fort Fisher in North Carolina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866-1867</td>
<td>Fleet captain, South Pacific Squadron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1869 Promoted to captain
1869-1870 Commanded *Dictator* (monitor), North Atlantic Fleet
1874 Commanded *Hartford* (sloop of war), flagship of Asiatic Squadron
1874-1875 Commanded *Richmond* (sloop of war), flagship of South Pacific Squadron
1876 Promoted to commodore
1877-1881 Commander, Mare Island Navy Yard, Calif.
1882 Promoted to rear admiral
1883 Retired from the navy
1897, Feb. 17 Died, Washington, D. C.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun (1821-1897), spanning the years from his appointment as a midshipman in 1839 to 1888, are organized into four series: Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks; Correspondence; Asiatic Station Official Records; and Miscellany.

The bulk of the Journals series relates to when Colhoun was stationed in the Pacific as commander of the Asiatic Squadron. Journals, notebooks, and letterpress books from his flagship *Hartford* account for most of the material from this period. Also part of the series are journals, logbooks, and rosters relating to Colhoun's service on the *Congress*, *Albany*, and *St. Lawrence* before the Civil War and his command of the *Ladona* and *Saugus* during the war.

The Correspondence is almost all official and includes Colhoun's orders to duty and reports on battles and operations during the Civil War. Letters in the Correspondence and in the Asiatic Station Official Records document Colhoun's interest in maintaining American prestige in China and Japan. The fleet records of the Asiatic Station Official Records also provide insight into the everyday needs, requirements, and activities of the Asiatic Squadron. With the Correspondence, they document diplomatic and consular activities reflecting the interest of the American navy in the territorial and diplomatic affairs of the American community in the Far East.

The Miscellany series includes copies of the general orders originated and issued by Colhoun as commander of the Asiatic fleet, his commissions and appointments, mathematical problems on which he worked, and a few items of printed matter mainly concerned with the Civil War years.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks, 1842-1874
- Correspondence, 1839-1888
- Asiatic Station Official Records, 1873-1874
- Miscellany, 1845-1918
**Description of Series**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-3   | **Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks, 1842-1874** | Copies of letters sent, journals, log abstracts, navigational data, crew listings, and miscellaneous items.  
          |   Arranged chronologically.                                         |
| BOX 4-7   | **Correspondence, 1839-1888**                                        | Letters, orders to duty, official correspondence received, and a few copies of letters sent.  
          |   Arranged chronologically.                                         |
| BOX 8     | **Asiatic Station Official Records, 1873-1874**                       | Reports, requisitions, punishment lists, appropriations, inventories, and miscellaneous papers.  
          |   Arranged by subject.                                               |
| BOX 9     | **Miscellany, 1845-1918**                                             | Printed matter, general orders, memoranda, mathematical calculations, commissions and awards, photographs, and newspaper clippings.  
          |   Arranged by type of material.                                      |
## Container List

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| BOX 1-3   | **Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks, 1842-1874**  
  Copies of letters sent, journals, log abstracts, navigational data, crew listings, and miscellaneous items.  
  Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | *Congress* (frigate), Mediterranean Station, journal, 1842-1844 |
| BOX 1     | Chronometer rate book, *Albany* (sloop of war), South Atlantic Squadron, 1849-1850 |
| BOX 1     | Journal, *Albany* (sloop of war), South Atlantic Squadron and *St. Lawrence* (frigate), Pacific Squadron, 1849-1852 |
| BOX 1     | Celestial navigation book, *St. Lawrence* (frigate), Pacific Squadron, 1851-1853 |
| BOX 1     | Notebook and logbook, *Ladona* (steamer), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron, 1863-1864 |
| BOX 1     | Roster book, *Saugus* (monitor), North Atlantic blockade Squadron, 1865 |
| BOX 1     | Notebooks, 1866-1874  
  (2 vols.) |
| BOX 2     | *Hartford*, flagship of the Asiatic Squadron, letterpress books  
  To commanding officers, 1873-1874  
  To Navy Department bureaus, 1873-1874  
  To George M. Robeson, secretary of the navy, 1873-1874  
  Orders to the fleet, 1873-1874 |
| BOX 2     | *Hartford*, flagship of the Asiatic Squadron, letter record book, to the secretary of the navy and Navy Department bureaus, 1873-1874 |
| BOX 3     | Letterbook, *Hartford*, Asiatic Station, and *Richmond*, Pacific Station, 1873-1875 |
| BOX 3     | Journal, *Hartford*, Asiatic Station, and *Richmond*, Pacific Station, 1873-1875 |
| BOX 4-7   | **Correspondence, 1839-1888**  
  Letters, orders to duty, official correspondence received, and a few copies of letters sent.  
  Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 4     | 1839-1863  
  (12 folders) |
| BOX 5     | 1864-1869  
  (10 folders) |
| BOX 6     | 1870-1873  
  (9 folders) |
| BOX 7     | 1874-1888  
  (10 folders) |
| BOX 8     | **Asiatic Station Official Records, 1873-1874**  
  Reports, requisitions, punishment lists, appropriations, inventories, and miscellaneous papers.  
  Arranged by subject. |
<p>| BOX 8     | Inventories |
| BOX 8     | Punishment records |</p>
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<td>Requisitions</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Miscellany</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BOX 9     | **Miscellany, 1845-1918**  
Printed matter, general orders, memoranda, mathematical calculations, commissions and awards, photographs, and newspaper clippings.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 9     | Commissions, 1845-1869 |
| BOX 9     | Memoranda and notes, 1845-1863 |
| BOX 9     | Printed matter, 1860-1881 |
| BOX 9     | Newspaper clippings, 1862-1882 |
| BOX 9     | Photographs, 1883, 1918 |