

John Forsyth Meigs 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://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052886>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011192>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: John Forsyth Meigs Papers

Span Dates: 1914-1940

ID No.: MSS52886

Creator: Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924

Extent: 1,500 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052886>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence and research notes for Meigs's book *The Story of the Seaman*, together with research notes of Meigs's cousin, William Ledyard Rodgers, who wrote the preface to the book.

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

Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924.

Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924. Story of the seaman; being an account of the ways and appliances of seafarers and of ships from the earliest time until now. 1924.

Rodgers, William Ledyard, 1860-1944.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1953 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs were arranged and described in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Forsyth Meigs is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

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

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1848, Oct. 3	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1867	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1868-1869	Duty in USS <i>Picataque</i> , Asiatic Squadron
1871	Duty in USS <i>Guerrière</i>
1872	Duty at U.S. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.
1874-1876	Duty in USS <i>Omaha</i>
1877	Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1878-1880	Duty at U.S. Navy Yard, Pensacola, Fla.
1881	Married Jane Perry Rodgers Duty at Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.
1882	Duty in USF <i>Constellation</i>
1886	Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1887	Published with R. R. Ingersoll <i>Text-Book of Ordnance and Gunnery</i> , [Baltimore: Press of I. Friedenwald], second edition
1887-1889	Duty in USS <i>Richmond</i> , North Atlantic Fleet
1890	Duty in Bureau of Navigation
1891	Resigned from the U.S. Navy
1892-1910	Employed by Bethlehem Steel Works
1924, Apr. 16	Died, New York, N.Y.
1924	Posthumous publication of <i>The Story of the Seaman</i> , Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs (1848-1924) span the years 1914-1940, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1918-1924. The collection consists of correspondence and research notes for Meigs's posthumously published book, *The Story of the Seaman*. It also includes research notes of his cousin, William Ledyard Rodgers, who wrote the preface to the book.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	George R. Wood to Admiral Rodgers, 1917, Jan. 10
BOX 1	John A. Rodgers to William Ledyard Rodgers, 1924, Jan. 4, [1925]
BOX 1	Alexander Macomb to Freda Rodgers Giles, 1926, Jan. 22
BOX 1	Writings, 1914-1919, undated
BOX 1	Notebooks containing research notes, 1919-1922 (5 vols.)
BOX 2	<i>The Story of the Seaman</i>
BOX 2	Carbon copy draft of chapter 1, 1920
BOX 2	Holograph draft
BOX 2	Pages 1-692 (10 folders)
BOX 3	Pages 693-827 (2 folders)
BOX 3	Pencil holograph draft of chapter 6
BOX 3	"Extracts from Arrian's History of Alexander the Great"
BOX 3	"Extracts from Diodorus the Sicilian"
BOX 3	"Extracts from Herodotus"
BOX 3	"Hesiod"
BOX 3	"Extracts from the Histories of Polybius"
BOX 3	"Facts Drawn from the Iliad and Odyssey"
BOX 3	"Extracts from Thucydides"
BOX 3	"Extracts from Xenophon"
BOX 4	Research notes
BOX 4	Pages 1-500 (23 folders)
BOX 5	Pages 501-1398 (22 folders)
BOX 5	Miscellaneous research notes, 1914, undated
BOX 6	Miscellany, William Ledyard Rodgers's note cards containing research notes for speeches, articles, and books, 1928-1940