

Mary Edith Powel Naval Historical Collection

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052845>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011198>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011
Revised 2022 October

Collection Summary

Title: Mary Edith Powell Naval Historical Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1747-1922

Bulk Dates: 1890-1899

ID No.: MSS52845

Creator: Powell, Mary Edith, 1846-1931

Extent: 32,000 items

Extent: 63 containers

Extent: 21 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052845>

Summary: Collector of naval history. Correspondence, biographical data on American and foreign naval officers, newspaper and magazine clippings, illustrations, photographs, commissions, autographs, pamphlets, and notes collected by Powel about naval history.

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

Benjamin, Walter Romeyn, 1854-1943--Correspondence.

Bruckner, M.--Correspondence.

Luce, Stephen Bleecker, 1827-1917--Correspondence.

Powel family--Correspondence.

Powel, Mary Edith, 1846-1931.

Powel, Samuel, 1818-1885--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Navy--History.

United States. Navy--Officers.

World's Columbian Exposition (1893 : Chicago, Ill.)

Subjects

Armor.

Exhibitions--Illinois--Chicago.

Marine accidents.

Marine biology.

Merchant marine.

Naval education.

Navies--Officers--Autographs.

Navies--Officers--Correspondence.

Navies--Officers.

Navies.

Ordnance.

Ships.

Sino-Japanese War, 1894-1895.

Spanish-American War, 1898.

Places

Arctic regions--Discovery and exploration.

United States--History, Naval.

Occupations

Collectors.

Acquisition Information

The naval historical collection of Mary Edith Powel, collector of naval history, was deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1963 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1971 by Ruth S. Nicholson. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1971 the Library published *Dudley Wright Knox, a Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress, and a Register of the Collection of Mary Edith Powel*.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Mary Edith Powel is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Mary Edith Powel Collection is 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, Mary Edith Powel Naval Historical Collection, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1846, Dec. 13	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1913	Published "Election in Newport," <i>Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society</i> (no. 8)
1915	Published "Some of Our Founders," <i>Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society</i> (no. 16)
1928	Published "The Old Easton Farm," <i>Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society</i> (no. 64)
1931, Feb. 15	Died, Newport, R.I.

Scope and Content Note

The Mary Edith Powel (1846-1931) Naval Historical Collection spans the years 1747-1922, but is concentrated in 1890-1899, the period when the collection was formed. Powel collected newspaper and magazine clippings, illustrations, photographs, commissions, autographs, letters, and pamphlets relating to naval matters.

The collection's arrangement is based on Powel's organization of the material, and her headings and captions are used throughout. Biographical data on British and United States naval officers are termed “navy portraits” and form a large part of the collection. In many cases there are also autographs or autograph letters of the officers concerned.

In addition to navy portraits, the collection contains information on ships, the navies of many countries, and naval history. Subjects include disasters at sea, arms and armor, marine natural history, and such topical matters as the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, the war between China and Japan in 1894, and the Spanish-American War.

A small collection of correspondence rounds out the papers, including letters to Powel's father, Samuel Powel, and other members of the Powel family, 1836-1894; letters to Powel from M. Bruckner and Walter Romeyn Benjamin, book and autograph dealers from whom she purchased material for the collection, 1891-1893; letters between Powel and Stephen Beecker Luce; and letters to Powel from various naval officers, their wives, and other friends.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [General Correspondence, 1836-1922](#)
- [Foreign Navies, 1747-1901](#)
- [U.S. Navy Portraits, 1784-1905](#)
- [U.S. Navy Fleets and Squadrons, 1889-1896](#)
- [U.S. Navy Ships, 1890-1902](#)
- [Miscellany, undated](#)
- [Subject File, 1759-1913](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1836-1922</u> Chiefly letters received by Mary Edith Powel and other members of the Powel family. Chronologically arranged.</p>
BOX 2-15	<p><u>Foreign Navies, 1747-1901</u> Autographs, commissions, letters, illustrations, photographs, magazine and newspaper clippings, and printed matter. * Indicates presence of autograph material. Alphabetically arranged.</p>
BOX 16-22	<p><u>U.S. Navy Portraits, 1784-1905</u> Autographs, commissions, letters, notes, illustrations, photographs, magazine and newspaper clippings, and printed matter. * Indicates presence of autograph material. Alphabetically arranged.</p>
BOX 23-24	<p><u>U.S. Navy Fleets and Squadrons, 1889-1896</u> Magazine and newspaper clippings, illustrations, and printed matter. No arrangement.</p>
BOX 25-30	<p><u>U.S. Navy Ships, 1890-1902</u> Notes, magazines and newspaper clippings, illustrations, photographs, and printed matter. Alphabetically arranged.</p>
BOX 31	<p><u>Miscellany, undated</u> Bibliography, holograph notes, and lists of British and U.S. naval officers. Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 32-63	<p><u>Subject File, 1759-1913</u> Letters, notes, magazine and newspaper clippings, photographs, illustrations, and printed matter. * Indicates presence of autograph material. Alphabetically arranged.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General Correspondence, 1836-1922 Chiefly letters received by Mary Edith Powel and other members of the Powel family. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 1	1836-1922, undated (8 folders)
BOX 2-15	Foreign Navies, 1747-1901 Autographs, commissions, letters, illustrations, photographs, magazine and newspaper clippings, and printed matter. * Indicates presence of autograph material. Alphabetically arranged.
BOX 2	Argentina Austria British navy portraits Admirals Allen, William* Arbuthnot, Maryott "B" miscellaneous Back, George* Blackwood, Henry* Bowditch, Nathaniel* Broke, Philip* "C" miscellaneous Cabot, John Caricatures Clerk, John Cochrane, Thomas* Coffin, Isaac Cook, James Cotton, Charles* BOX 3 Dacres, James R. Defoe, Daniel "E-F" miscellaneous (2 folders) Franklin, John Froude, James A. "G-H" miscellaneous (2 folders) Hamilton, William* "J-K" miscellaneous (2 folders) Keppel, Augustus*

Foreign Navies, 1747-1901

Container

Contents

	King, Philip*
	“L-M” miscellaneous
	Laforey, Francis*
	Livingstone, David
	“M” miscellaneous
	Manby, George W.*
	Marryat, Frederick
BOX 4	“N” miscellaneous
	Napier, Charles *
	Nelson, Horatio
	Nelson, Horatio, and Lady Hamilton
	Nelson's funeral
	Nelson's relics
	Battle of Copenhagen
	Battle of the Nile
	Battle of St. Vincent
	Battle of Trafalgar
BOX 5	HMS <i>Foudroyant</i>
	HMS <i>Victory</i>
	Miscellany
BOX 6	“O-P” miscellaneous
	Parker family
	Parry, Edward*
	Pellew, Edward*
	Pepys, Samuel
	Pitcairn, Island
	Pye, Thomas*
	“R” miscellaneous
	Raleigh, Walter
	Roddam, Robert*
	Rodney, George B.
	Ross, James C. and John*
	“S” miscellaneous
	Saumarez family*
	Seymour, Michael*
	Smith, John
	Smith, W. Sidney*
	Stevenson, Robert Louis
BOX 7	“T-V” miscellaneous
	Victoria, Queen
	“W” miscellaneous
	Warren, John B.*
	Warren, Peter*
	Wellesley, Arthur, Duke of Wellington
	Wolfe, James
	“X-Z” miscellaneous

Foreign Navies, 1747-1901

Container

Contents

	York, Duke of (George V)
	British navy miscellany
	British possessions in North America
	British possessions in the Pacific
BOX 8	British flag
	British ships
	Suppressing the slave trade
	HMS <i>Victoria</i> and HMS <i>Camperdown</i>
BOX 9	Miscellany
BOX 10	British topography
	British Islands, general
	Cinque ports
	Coast of Kent and Sussex
	East coast of England
	Ireland
	Port of London
	Scotland
	South coast of England
	West coast of England
BOX 11	Chile
	Cuba
	Denmark
	Ecuador
	France
	Destouches, Charles René*
	Dreyfus, Alfred
	Latouche-Tréville, Louis-René de*
	Le ministre de la marine et des colonies*
	Napoleon
BOX 12	Navy portraits
	Ships
BOX 13	Guatemala
	Honduras
	Germany
	Italy
BOX 14	Morocco
	Netherlands
	Nicaragua
	Norway and Sweden
	Peru
	Portugal
	Russia
	San Salvador
	Siam
	Spain

Foreign Navies, 1747-1901

Container	Contents
BOX 15	Foreign navies miscellany
BOX 16-22	U.S. Navy Portraits, 1784-1905 Autographs, commissions, letters, notes, illustrations, photographs, magazine and newspaper clippings, and printed matter. * Indicates presence of autograph material. Alphabetically arranged.
BOX 16	“A” miscellaneous Ammen, Daniel* “B” miscellaneous Bainbridge, William* Ballard, Henry E.* Barron, James* Bell, Henry H.* Biddle, James* Blunt, Edmund M.* Bolton, William C.* Breese, K. Randolph* Breese, S. Livingston* “C” miscellaneous Caricatures Case, A. Ludlow* Cassin, John* Champlin, Stephen* Collins, Napoleon* Colvocoresses, George M.* Crane, William M.* Creighton, John O.* Crowninshield, George W.* “D” miscellaneous Decatur, Stephen Decatur, Susan* Dueling in the navy “E” miscellaneous Elliott, Jesse D.* Engle, Frederick* Ericsson, John Evans, Robley D.* “F” miscellaneous Fairfax, Donald M.* Farragut, David Glasgow Fox, Gustavus* Franklin, Benjamin “G” miscellaneous Gallagher, John* Gardner, William H.* Geisinger, David*
BOX 17	

U.S. Navy Portraits, 1784-1905

Container

Contents

	Gregory, Francis H.*
	“H” miscellaneous
	Hamilton, Paul*
	Hoffman, B. V.*
	Hudson, William L.*
BOX 18	Hull, Isaac*
	“J” miscellaneous
	Jones, Jacob*
	Jones, John Paul
	Jones, Thomas A. C.*
	“K” miscellaneous
	Kearney, Lawrence*
	Kennon, Beverly*
	Kindale, Joseph*
	“L” miscellaneous
	Lee, Samuel P.*
	Long, John*
BOX 19	Lynch, William F.*
	“M” miscellaneous
	Macomb, William H.*
	Mahan, A. T.
	Melville, George W.*
	Monroe, James*
	Morgan, Charles W.*
	“N” miscellaneous
	Nicholson, James*
	“O” miscellaneous
	“P” miscellaneous
BOX 20	Perry, Matthew Calbraith.
	Perry, Oliver Hazard
	Perry family
	Porter, David and David D.
	Preble family
BOX 21	“R” miscellaneous
	Read, George C.*
	Ringgold, Cadwalader*
	“S” miscellaneous
	Sampson, W. T., and W. S. Schley
	Sawyer, Horace B.*
	Skinner, Charles W.*
	Smith, Robert*
	Somers mutiny
	Stembel, Roger N.*
	“T” miscellaneous
	Taylor, Henry C.
	Thompson, Smith*

U.S. Navy Portraits, 1784-1905

Container

Contents

	Tingey, Thomas*
	“V-W” miscellaneous (2 folders)
BOX 22	Woodbury, Levi* Miscellany Autographs Calling cards Insurance and inventory Trial record Newspaper clippings
BOX 23-24	U.S. Navy Fleets and Squadrons, 1889-1896 Magazine and newspaper clippings, illustrations, and printed matter. No arrangement.
BOX 23-24	Magazine and newspaper clippings, illustrations, and printed matter.
BOX 25-30	U.S. Navy Ships, 1890-1902 Notes, magazines and newspaper clippings, illustrations, photographs, and printed matter. Alphabetically arranged.
BOX 25	<i>Albatros</i> <i>Alert</i> <i>Alliance</i> <i>Amphitrite</i> <i>Atlanta</i> <i>Baltimore</i> <i>Bancroft</i> <i>Bennington</i> <i>Boston</i> <i>Brooklyn</i> <i>Castine</i> <i>Charleston</i> <i>Chicago</i> <i>Cincinnati</i> <i>Columbia</i> <i>Concord</i> <i>Constellation</i>
BOX 26	<i>Constitution</i> <i>Cushing</i> <i>Detroit</i> <i>Dolphin</i> <i>Ericsson</i> <i>Illinois</i> <i>Indiana</i> <i>Iowa</i> <i>Katahdin</i>

U.S. Navy Ships, 1890-1902

Container	Contents
BOX 27	<i>Kearsarge</i> <i>Kearsarge</i> and <i>CSS Alabama</i> Report of the last cruise of the <i>CSS Alabama</i> Loss of the <i>Kearsarge</i>
BOX 28	<i>Machias</i> <i>Marblehead</i> <i>Marietta</i> <i>Marion</i> <i>Massachusetts</i> <i>Miantonomoh</i> <i>Michigan</i> <i>Minneapolis</i> <i>Mohican</i> <i>Monadnock</i> <i>Monocacy</i> <i>Monterey</i> <i>Montgomery</i> <i>Nantucket</i> <i>Nashville</i> <i>New York</i> <i>Newark</i> <i>Newport</i> <i>Olympia</i> <i>Oregon</i>
BOX 29	<i>Petrel</i> <i>Philadelphia</i> <i>Puritan</i> <i>Raleigh</i> <i>San Francisco</i> <i>Terror</i> <i>Texas</i> <i>Yantic</i> Ships of today Miscellany
BOX 30	Miscellany Torpedo boats Various ships, fights
BOX 31	Miscellany, undated Bibliography, holograph notes, and lists of British and U.S. naval officers. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 31	Miscellaneous naval data Bibliography Note cards

Miscellany, undated

Container

Contents

List of British and U.S. naval officers

BOX 32-63

Subject File, 1759-1913

Letters, notes, magazine and newspaper clippings, photographs, illustrations, and printed matter. * Indicates presence of autograph material.

Alphabetically arranged.

BOX 32

Aerial navigation

Airships

Antarctica

Arctic expeditions (1890s)

Andrée, Salomon A.

Cook, Frederick A.

Greely, A. W.

Nansen, Fridtjof

Peary, Robert E.

Wellman, Walter

BOX 33

Miscellany

BOX 34

Arms and armor

Great guns

Gun cotton

Old arms

Powder

Ship armor

Shot and shell

Small arms

Miscellany

BOX 35

Miscellany

BOX 36

Biography, U.S. Navy

A-Z

(6 folders)

Miscellany

BOX 37

Miscellany

BOX 38

Books about the sea

Book reviews

Book titles

China and Japan

BOX 39

China and Japan

BOX 40

China and Japan

Coast defense

Docks

Drydocks

Lighthouses

BOX 41-44

Disasters at sea

BOX 45

Early steam boats

SS Great Britain

SS Great Eastern

Subject File, 1759-1913

Container

Contents

	John Fitch's steamboat
	General information
BOX 46	Educational institutions
	U.S. Army Academy
	U.S. Naval Academy
	U.S. Naval Reserve
	U.S. Navy school ships
	Miscellaneous
BOX 47	Flag, American
	Horology
	Ice and icebergs
	"Jack Afloat"
BOX 48	Marine natural history
	Albatross
	Seals in the Bering Sea
	Whaling
	Miscellany
BOX 49	Miscellany
BOX 50	Mercantile marine
	Brigs and brigantines
	Coast liners
	The "49ers"
	The <i>Mayflower</i>
	Missionary ships
	Ocean liners
	Ocean races
	Packets and clippers
	Schooners
	Miscellany
BOX 51	Miscellany
BOX 52	Naval courts-martial
	Naval instruments
	Navigation
	Newspapers
	<i>Boston and Country</i> , 1759, Oct. 8
	<i>Boston Post-Boy & Advertiser</i> , 1762, June 14 and May 2, and 1763, June 13
	<i>Salem Mercury</i> , 1789, Sept. 22
	<i>Massachusetts Mercury</i> , 1793, Apr. 10
	<i>The Mercury</i> , 1796, Nov. 18
	<i>Salem Register</i> , 1803, July 4
	<i>Salem Gazette</i> , 1805, July 2; 1807, Dec. 1; 1813, Jan. 15; 1822, July 30
	<i>Essex Register</i> , 1808, Jan. 27
	<i>Boston Gazette</i> , 1813, Apr. 5
	<i>Columbian Centinel</i> , 1815, Aug. 9
	Northern American topography
BOX 53	"The Old Navy"

Subject File, 1759-1913

Container	Contents
	To 1776
	War of 1812
	From 1815 to 1861
	Figureheads
	Privateers
	Ships
	Miscellany
BOX 54	Pirates
	The Rebellion
	Seward, William H.*
	<i>Trent</i> affair
BOX 55	The Rebellion
	Revenue cutters
	The sea
	Sea fiction
	Norsemen
BOX 56	Norsemen
	Viking ships
BOX 57	Sea jokes
	Sea songs
	Sea terms
	Shipbuilding
BOX 58	Signals
	Spanish-American War
BOX 59	Spanish-American War
	Sunken treasure
	Uniforms, U.S. Navy
BOX 60	Venezuela and the Monroe Doctrine
BOX 61	Veragua, Duke of
	World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 62-63	Yachts