Collection Summary
Title: Mary Edith Powell Naval Historical Collection
Span Dates: 1747-1922
Bulk Dates: (bulk 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://lccn.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
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.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Mary Edith Powel is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Published “Election in Newport,” Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society (no. 8)</td>
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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

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<th>Container</th>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1836-1922</strong></td>
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<td>Chiefly letters received by Mary Edith Powel and other members of the Powel family. Chronologically arranged.</td>
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<td>BOX 2-15</td>
<td><strong>Foreign Navies, 1747-1901</strong></td>
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<td><strong>U.S. Navy Portraits, 1784-1905</strong></td>
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<td>BOX 23-24</td>
<td><strong>U.S. Navy Fleets and Squadrons, 1889-1896</strong></td>
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<td>Magazine and newspaper clippings, illustrations, and printed matter. No arrangement.</td>
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<td>BOX 25-30</td>
<td><strong>U.S. Navy Ships, 1890-1902</strong></td>
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<td>BOX 31</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, undated</strong></td>
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<td>Bibliography, holograph notes, and lists of British and U.S. naval officers. Arranged by type of material.</td>
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<td><strong>Subject File, 1759-1913</strong></td>
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## Container List

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            | 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)  
<pre><code>        | Keppel, Augustus* |
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<td>“L-M” miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Laforey, Francis*</td>
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<td>Livingstone, David</td>
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<td>Manby, George W.*</td>
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<td>Nelson, Horatio</td>
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<td>Nelson, Horatio, and Lady Hamilton</td>
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<td>Nelson's funeral</td>
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<td>Nelson's relics</td>
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<td>Battle of St. Vincent</td>
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<td>HMS <em>Foudroyant</em></td>
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<td>HMS <em>Victory</em></td>
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<td>Miscellany</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
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<td>Parker family</td>
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<td>Pellew, Edward*</td>
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<td>Pepys, Samuel</td>
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<td>Pitcairn, Island</td>
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<td>Pye, Thomas*</td>
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<td>Raleigh, Walter</td>
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<td>Rodney, George B.</td>
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<td>Ross, James C. and John*</td>
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<td>Smith, W. Sidney*</td>
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<td>Victoria, Queen</td>
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<td>“W” miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Warren, John B.*</td>
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<td>Warren, Peter*</td>
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<td>Wellesley, Arthur, Duke of Wellington</td>
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<td>Wolfe, James</td>
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<td>“X-Z” miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 15</td>
<td>Foreign navies miscellany</td>
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| 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*  
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“C” miscellaneous  
Caricatures  
Case, A. Ludlow*  
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Champlin, Stephen*  
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Colvocoresses, George M.*  
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Elliott, Jesse D.*  
Engle, Frederick*  
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“F” miscellaneous  
Fairfax, Donald M.*  
Farragut, David Glasgow  
Fox, Gustavus*  
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“G” miscellaneous  
Gallagher, John*  
Gardner, William H.*  
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|           | Tingey, Thomas*  
|           | “V-W” miscellaneous  
|           | (2 folders)  
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| BOX 22    | 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    | Albatros  
|           | Alert  
|           | Alliance  
|           | Amphitrite  
|           | Atlanta  
|           | Baltimore  
|           | Bancroft  
|           | Bennington  
|           | Boston  
|           | Brooklyn  
|           | Castine  
|           | Charleston  
|           | Chicago  
|           | Cincinnati  
|           | Columbia  
|           | Concord  
|           | Constellation  
| BOX 26    | Constitution  
|           | Cushing  
|           | Detroit  
|           | Dolphin  
|           | Ericsson  
|           | Illinois  
|           | Indiana  
|           | Iowa  
|           | Katahdin  

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| BOX 27    | *Kearsarge*  
|           | *Kearsarge and CSS Alabama*  
|           | Report of the last cruise of the CSS Alabama  
|           | Loss of the Kearsarge |
| BOX 28    | *Machias*  
|           | *Marblehead*  
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|           | *Marion*  
|           | *Massachusetts*  
|           | *Miantonomoh*  
|           | *Michigan*  
|           | *Minneapolis*  
|           | *Mohican*  
|           | *Monadnock*  
|           | *Monocacy*  
|           | *Monterey*  
|           | *Montgomery*  
|           | *Nantucket*  
|           | *Nashville*  
|           | *New York*  
|           | *Newark*  
|           | *Newport*  
|           | *Olympia*  
|           | *Oregon*  
| BOX 29    | *Petrel*  
|           | *Philadelphia*  
|           | *Puritan*  
|           | *Raleigh*  
|           | *San Francisco*  
|           | *Terror*  
|           | *Texas*  
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|           | Ships of today  
|           | Miscellany |
| BOX 30    | Miscellany  
|           | Torpedo boats  
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| 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 |
List of British and U.S. naval officers

**Subject File, 1759-1913**

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

Alphabetically arranged.

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Antarctica
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**BOX 34**

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**BOX 36**

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China and Japan

**BOX 40**

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**BOX 45**

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* SS Great Eastern
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| BOX 48    | Marine natural history  
            | Albatross  
            | Seals in the Bering Sea  
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            | Miscellany |
| BOX 49    | Miscellany |
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            | Brigs and brigantines  
            | Coast liners  
            | The “49ers”  
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| BOX 52    | Naval courts-martial  
            | Naval instruments  
            | Navigation  
            | Newspapers  
            | *Boston and Country*, 1759, Oct. 8  
            | *Boston Post-Boy & Advertiser*, 1762, June 14 and May 2, and 1763, June 13  
            | *Salem Mercury*, 1789, Sept. 22  
            | *Massachusetts Mercury*, 1793, Apr. 10  
            | *The Mercury*, 1796, Nov. 18  
            | *Salem Register*, 1803, July 4  
            | *Salem Gazette*, 1805, July 2; 1807, Dec. 1; 1813, Jan. 15; 1822, July 30  
            | *Essex Register*, 1808, Jan. 27  
            | *Boston Gazette*, 1813, Apr. 5  
            | *Columbian Centinel*, 1815, Aug. 9  
<pre><code>        | Northern American topography |
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<p>| BOX 53    | “The Old Navy” |</p>
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<td>Venezuela and the Monroe Doctrine</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 62-63</td>
<td>World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yachts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>