

William H. Schuetze Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2016

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2016086115>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016071>

Prepared by Chad Conrady

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Collection Summary

Title: William H. Schuetze Papers

Span Dates: 1881-1903

ID No.: MSS016071

Creator: Schuetze, William H. (William Henry), 1853-1902

Extent: 50 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 2 oversize

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, Russian, and German

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2016086115>

Summary: United States naval officer. Correspondence, certificates, diaries, printed materials, scrapbooks, ledgers, and other papers related to his Navy experience primarily regarding his involvement in search and rescue operations for *Jeannette* (ship) arctic expedition.

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

Schuetze, William H. (William Henry), 1853-1902.

Organizations

Jeannette (Ship)

Jeannette Expedition (1879-1881)

Subjects

Shipwreck survival--Arctic Ocean.

Shipwrecks--Arctic Ocean.

Places

Arctic regions--Discovery and exploration--American.

North Pole--Discovery and exploration--American.

Titles

William Henry Schuetze papers

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of William H. Schuetze, commander in the United States Navy, were given to the Library of Congress by Gabrielle T. Hill in 2016.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William H. Schuetze is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of William H. Schuetze Papers 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, William H. Schuetze Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1853, July 18	Born, St. Louis, Mo
1873	Graduated from United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md
1874	Promoted to Ensign
1878	Promoted to Master
1882	Ordered to special duty to search for survivors of the USS <i>Jeanette</i> (ship) arctic expedition and transport to the United States the remains of those who perished
1885	Appointed Midshipman
1885	Promoted to Lieutenant
1885-1886	Mission in Siberia to distribute gifts to individuals who aided survivors in the USS <i>Jeanette</i> (ship) expedition.
1886	Ordered to duty in the Bureau of Navigation
1892	Became Inspector of the Naval Militia
1898	Ordered to the USS <i>Iowa</i> (battleship) during the Spanish-American War
1901	Became superintendent in the Department of Navy Compasses
1902, April 4	Died in Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William H. Schuetze (1853-1902) span the years 1881-1903 and relate primarily to his experience as a member of the mission searching for survivors and remains of the USS *Jeanette* (ship) arctic expedition, an ill-fated attempt in 1879-1881 to reach the North Pole by ship via a theorized warm-water route from the Pacific Ocean. In addition to activities associated with the rescue mission, the collection also documents acknowledgements of sympathy and gratitude of the United States government to survivors of deceased crew members and to Russian officials. Included in the papers are correspondence, diaries which contain mission stores information and a daily events log, ledgers, maps of the areas traveled by Schuetze, scrapbooks, printed materials, and oversize.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1885, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Certificates, 1882-1886 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 1	Diaries, 1884-1886 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Ledgers, 1882-1883 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellany, undated
BOX 2	Printed materials, 1884-1888, 1895 (5 folders)
BOX 3	Scrapbooks, 1881-1886, 1902-1903 (2 folders)
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1881-1882, undated (2 folders)
BOX OV 1	Certificates, maps, weather records, and a passport, 1882-1883, undated
BOX OV 2	Russian certificates, 1882-1886