

Charles B. McVay Jr. 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: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70053173>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011179>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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

Collection Summary

Title: Charles B. McVay Jr. Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1896-1950

Bulk Dates: 1927-1930

ID No.: MSS53173

Creator: McVay, Charles B. (Charles Butler), Jr., 1868-1949

Extent: 900 items

Extent: 3 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053173>

Summary: Naval officer. Official and general correspondence, printed matter, and other material relating to McVay's duties as commander-in-chief of the Asiatic Fleet.

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

Adams, Charles F. (Charles Francis), 1866-1954--Correspondence.

Castle, William R. (William Richards), Jr., 1878-1963--Correspondence.

Cunningham, Edwin Sheddan, 1868-1953--Correspondence.

Davis, Dwight Filley, 1879-1945--Correspondence.

Franklin, Lynn Winterdale, 1888-1952--Correspondence.

Johnson, Nelson T. (Nelson Trusler), 1887-1954--Correspondence.

Kelly, Howard Charles, 1887-1952--Correspondence.

McVay, Charles B. (Charles Butler), Jr., 1868-1949.

Organizations

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Pacific Area.

United States. Navy. Asiatic Fleet.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Charles B. McVay Jr., naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1964 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Charles B. McVay Jr. were arranged and described by Ruth S. Nicholson in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles B. McVay Jr. is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles B. McVay Jr. 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, Charles B. McVay Jr. Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1868, Sept. 19	Born, Edgeworth, Pa.
1890	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1898	Duty in USS <i>Amphitrite</i> , Spanish-American War
1905	Duty in USS <i>Hartford</i>
1905-1907	Duty, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1908	Duty in USS <i>Alabama</i>
1908-1910	Commanded USS <i>Yankton</i>
1910-1912	Duty, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1912-1914	Chief of staff, Asiatic Fleet
1914-1916	Assistant to Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department
1917	Duty, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1917	Commanded USS <i>New Jersey</i>
1918	Commanded USS <i>Oklahoma</i>
1923-1925	Commanded Yangtze Patrol
1925-1929	Member, General Board and Budget Office, Navy Department
1929	Promoted to admiral
1929	Commander-in-chief, Asiatic Fleet
1932	Retired from navy
1949, Oct. 28	Died, Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Butler McVay Jr. (1868-1949) span the years 1896-1950, with the bulk of the material falling between the years 1927 and 1930. The papers consist chiefly of general and official correspondence concerning McVay's duty as commander-in-chief of the Asiatic Fleet in 1929-1930.

Correspondents include Charles Francis Adams, William R. Castle, Edwin Sheddan Cunningham, Dwight Filley Davis, W. Roderick Dorsey, Lynn Winterdale Franklin, Nelson T. Johnson, and Howard Charles Kelly. Also in the collection are unpublished writings, including McVay's autobiography, a draft of a speech, "The Navy in China," and an essay on the Old Testament, as well as printed matter, commissions, and photographs.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by type of material with oversize items filed at the end.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Orders to duty, 1897-1930 Correspondence 1896-1930, May
BOX 2	1930, June-1950
BOX 3	Miscellany “The Navy in China,” draft of speech, 1927 Autobiography, undated Holograph manuscript Typed copy. “New Proofs of Old Testament History,” undated Newspaper clippings, 1929 Photographs Printed matter, 1929-1930
BOX OV 1	Oversize commissions, 1892-1923