

Elliot Snow 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/mm70052795>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011183>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: Elliot Snow Papers

Span Dates: 1790-1942

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1930)

ID No.: MSS52795

Creator: Snow, Elliot, 1866-1939

Extent: 9,450 items

Extent: 28 containers

Extent: 12 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70052795>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, logbooks, speech, article, and book file, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and scrapbooks relating to the history and restoration of the *Constitution*. Includes papers of Horatio D. Smith (1845-1918), officer in the Revenue-Cutter Service, and a small group of papers of Josiah Fox (1763-1847), naval constructor.

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

Alcott, William--Correspondence.
Andrews, Philip, 1866-1945--Correspondence.
Bahn, George A.--Correspondence.
Barnes, James, 1866-1936--Correspondence.
Cannon, Jouett Taylor, 1865-1949--Correspondence.
Cassin, John, 1758-1822--Correspondence.
Claus, Henry T.--Correspondence.
Foster, William E. (William Eaton), 1851-1930--Correspondence.
Fox, Josiah, 1763-1847. Josiah Fox papers.
Humphreys, Letitia A.--Correspondence.
Lathrop, Constance--Correspondence.
Nicholson, Paul C. (Paul Coe), 1888-1956--Correspondence.
Platt, Haviland Hull, 1889-1982--Correspondence.
Preble, George Henry, 1816-1885--Correspondence.
Smith, Horatio Davis, 1845-1918. Horatio Davis Smith papers.
Snow, Albert Sydney, 1845-1932--Correspondence.
Snow, Elliot, 1866-1939.
Spicer, William F.--Correspondence.
Vogel, Karl--Correspondence.
Wilbur, Curtis Dwight, 1867-1954--Correspondence.

Organizations

Constitution (Frigate)
United States. Navy.
United States. Revenue-Cutter Service.

Subjects

Shipbuilding--United States.
Warships.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Elliot Snow, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1949. An addition was deposited in 1963 and the collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Elliot Snow were arranged and described in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1969 the Library published *Elliot Snow [and] Leonard F. Cushing: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elliot Snow 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, Elliot Snow Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1866, June 27	Born, Salt Lake City, Utah
1883	Appointed to U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1887	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1887	Duty in USS <i>Adams</i>
1890-1893	Student at l'École d'application du génie maritime, Paris, France
1891	Transferred to Construction Corps in navy
1893	Duty in Mare Island Navy Yard, Calif.
1902	Duty in Hong Kong
1917	Duty with the Emergency Fleet Corp., Washington, D.C.
1917-1919	Superintending constructor, New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N.J.
1925	Published <i>Recent and Early Information about Ancient and Medieval Ships</i> . Washington, D. C.: National Capital Press
1925	Senior member, Army and Navy Munitions Board
1926	Promoted to rear admiral
	Retired from U.S. Navy
1932	Published <i>On the Decks of "Old Ironsides."</i> New York: Macmillan Co.

1939, Nov. 27

Died, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elliot Snow (1866-1939) span the years 1790-1942, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1920-1930. The papers relate primarily to the restoration of the USF *Constitution* in 1906 and 1926 and to the history of the USF *Constitution*. Included are a logbook and journal, correspondence, writings, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and scrapbooks. Also included are papers of Horatio Davis Smith (1845-1918), an officer in the United States Revenue Cutter Service, and a small group of papers of Josiah Fox (1763-1847), a naval constructor.

An authority on the USF *Constitution*, Snow was designated as a consultant for the film *Old Ironsides*, which Paramount Motion Pictures released in 1926. Topics of research include the frigate's steering wheel, figureheads, bell, battery, guns, sails, and rigging.

Prominent correspondents include William Alcott, Philip Andrews, George A. Bahn, James Barnes, Jouett Taylor Cannon, Henry T. Claus, William E. Foster, Letitia A. Humphreys, Constance Lathrop, Paul C. Nicholson, Haviland Hull Platt, Albert Sydney Snow, William F. Spicer, Karl Vogel, and Curtis Dwight Wilbur.

The miscellany in the collection contains the papers of Horatio Davis Smith and Josiah Fox. Smith's papers include notebooks, correspondence, and four scrapbooks. Correspondents include Francis Martin, John McGowan, George Henry Preble, and Sidney D. Shattuck. In the papers of Josiah Fox are correspondence, receipts, estimates and description of timber, estimates of materials to be used in the construction of frigates and gun boats, and contracts. Fox's correspondents include John Cassin, John Cock, Peter Gardner, William Hall, Jonathan Hopkins, and Henry L. Langdon

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Logbook, journal, and notebooks
BOX 1	Logbook of the USF <i>Constellation</i> , 1840
BOX 1	Journal, USS <i>Adams</i> , 1888
BOX 1	Notebooks of Snow's examinations from the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1883-1889
BOX 2	General correspondence
BOX 2	1790-1877
BOX 3	1897-1926, Mar.
BOX 4	1926, Apr.-1927, Aug.
BOX 5	1927, Sept.-1942
BOX 6	Writings
BOX 6	Drafts of an article, "The Algerine Crescent," 1927
BOX 6	Drafts of an article, "Battery of 'Old Ironsides,'" 1925
BOX 6	"Benjamin Franklin and the Navy"
BOX 6	Drafts of "Discussion of Vanishing Naval Tradition—the Figurehead," 1927
BOX 6	Unbound book, <i>Early History of the United States Revenue Marine Service</i> , 1789-1849, by Horatio D. Smith (Baltimore, Press of R. L. Polk Print. Co., 1932)
BOX 6	Drafts of a proposed book, <i>Famous Sea Anniversaries</i>
BOX 6	Drafts of an article, "The Ever-Faithful on 'Old Ironsides' (1807)," 1927
BOX 6	Drafts of an article, "How 'Old Ironsides' Lost and Gained a Bell," 1931
BOX 6	Drafts of an article, "Incidents in the Career of Captain John Percival"
BOX 6	Drafts of an article, "Incidents on a Cruise around the World in 'Old Ironsides'"
BOX 6	Drafts of a preface to the book <i>Life in a Man-of-War</i> by Henry J. Mercier, reprint. (Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1927)
BOX 6	Drafts of reviews of <i>Life in a Man-of-War</i> , 1927
BOX 6	"Old Ironsides" 1928, July 3
BOX 6	"'Old Ironsides' on the Air," 1927, Apr. 19
BOX 7	Drafts of a book, <i>On the Decks of "Old Ironsides,"</i> 1932
BOX 7	Radio talk, 1928, June 10
BOX 7	Drafts of an article, "Uncle Sam's Graveyard of Departed Hopes"
BOX 8	Subject file
BOX 8	Blueprints and specifications, entitled as follows:
BOX 8	Special Docking Plan, 1926
BOX 8	Sheer Half-Breadth and Body, 1794
BOX 8	Spar Deck, 1819
BOX 8	Spar and Gun Decks, 1907
BOX 8	Gun Deck, 1926
BOX 8	Battery Plan, 1907
BOX 8	32 PDR Gun and Gun Carriage, 1907
BOX 8	24 PDR Gun and Gun Carriage, 1907
BOX 8	Details of 32 and 24 Guns and Gun Carriage, 1907
BOX 8	Lower Masts and Bowsprit, 1907
BOX 8	Midship Section, 1926

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 8	Midship Section Starboard Side, 1926
BOX 8	General Arr't & Details Cock-pits & Surgeons, 1926
BOX 8	Breast Hook & Stern Knees, 1926
BOX 8	Knees Live or White Oak, 1926
BOX 8	Sketch of Hogging of Hull Structure, 1926
BOX 8	Material and Progress List, 1926
BOX 9	U.S. Patent Office specifications, 1845-1875
BOX 10	Newspaper clippings concerning the USF <i>Constitution</i> , 1834-1926
BOX 11	Printed matter
BOX 11	Magazines containing articles by Snow
BOX 11	Photostatic copy of Jesse E. Dow's "Sketches from the Log of Old Ironsides," <i>Burton's Gentleman's Magazine</i> , vol. 5, 1839
BOX 11	Benjamin F. Stevens' <i>A Cruise on the Constitution</i> (New York, 1904)
BOX 11	Magazine containing reviews of <i>Life in a Man-of-War</i>
BOX 12	Photostatic copy of James Fenimore Cooper's "Old Ironsides," <i>Putnam's Monthly</i> , May- June 1853
BOX 12	Articles about the USF <i>Constitution</i>
BOX 12	Catalogs of marine collections, 1927-1938
BOX 13	News media from U.S. ships and bases, 1925-1930
BOX 14	George Jones' <i>Sketches of Naval Life . . . in a Series of Letters from the Brandywine and Constitution Frigates</i> , by "a civilian" (New Haven, H. Howe, 1829) (2 vols)
BOX 14	Portfolios
BOX 14	Vols. 1- 2, 1811
BOX 15	Vols. 3- 4, 1813
BOX 16	Vols. 7- 8, 1819
BOX 17	Photostatic copy of Henry J. Mercier's <i>Life in a Man-of-War</i> by a fore-top-man (Philadelphia, L. R. Bailey, 1841)
BOX 18	Miscellany
BOX 19	Photographs
BOX 19	Model of USF <i>Constitution</i> , by William F. Spicer
BOX 19	Model of USF <i>Constitution</i> , by Karl Vogel
BOX 19	Model of USF <i>Constitution</i> , by Harold Wylie
BOX 19	Stills of the film "Old Ironsides"
BOX 19	Figureheads of USF <i>Constitution</i>
BOX 20	Scrapbooks
BOX 20	"The Battery and Guns and Gunnery of 'Old Ironsides,'" 1925-1929
BOX 20	"The Sails and Rigging of 'Old Ironsides,'" 1817-1826
BOX 20	"Yachting and the Coast Guard," 1925-1928
BOX 21	"Spindrift," articles and reviews by Snow, 1915-1930
BOX 21	Technical index of bulletins 1-106, 1908-1921
BOX 21	Index of circular letters, 1908-1921
BOX 22	Miscellany
BOX 22	Fox, Josiah
BOX 22	Correspondence, 1795-1817
BOX 22	Receipts, estimates, and description of materials
BOX 23	Smith, Horatio D.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 23	Logbook of the U.S. Revenue Steamer <i>Delaware</i> , 1865
BOX 23	Notebooks concerning the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service
BOX 23	Correspondence, 1831-1891
BOX 23	Examining Board, 1871
BOX 23	List of officers in the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, 1791-1872
BOX 23	Drafts of "Captain Pierre de Landais"
BOX 23	Notes on CF <i>Alliance</i>
BOX 24-28	Scrapbooks compiled by Smith, 1864-1899