Nathan Sargent Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

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Collection Summary

Title: Nathan Sargent Papers
Span Dates: 1866-1957
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1880-1905)
ID No.: MSS52936
Creator: Sargent, Nathan, 1849-1907
Extent: 2,700 items ; 8 containers plus 1 oversize ; 3 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Naval officer. Correspondence, diaries, journals, writings photographs, memorabilia, scrapbooks, and printed matter relating to Sargent's naval duties.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Burns, John, fl. 1898--Correspondence.
Cooley, Mortimer E. (Mortimer Elwyn), 1855-1944--Correspondence.
Dewey, George, 1837-1917--Correspondence.
Dewey, Mildred McLean Hazen, 1850-1931--Correspondence.
Emory, William H. (William Hemsley), 1811-1887--Correspondence.
Hill, David Jayne, 1850-1932--Correspondence.
Lothrop, Cyrus E., 1861-1913--Correspondence.
Sargent, Nathan, 1849-1907.
Staunton, Sidney Augustus--Correspondence.
Walker, John Grimes, 1835-1907--Correspondence.

Organizations
Alaska (Screw gunboat)
Baltimore (Cruiser)
Lancaster (Sloop of war)
Machias (Gunboat)
Scorpion (Gunboat)
United States Naval Academy.
United States. Navy. General Board.

Subjects
Spanish-American War, 1898.

Places
Panama, Isthmus of (Panama)
United States--History, Naval.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Nathan Sargent, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1950. The foundation deposited additional material in 1960 and 1964, and the collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Nathan Sargent were arranged and described in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1979 the Library published *Nathan Sargent, John Shaw, Montgomery Sicard, and Roger Wells: Registers of Papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.*

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

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

Biographical Note

Date	*Event*
1849, Oct. 29	Born, New York, N.Y.
1870	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md
1873	Duty in USS *Alaska*
1879	Married Isabel Hill
1881	Published *Gunnery Question Book*. New York: D. Van Nostrand
1882	Duty in USS *Portsmouth*, Training Squadron
1883	Duty at U.S. Naval Observatory
1884	Duty in USS *Lancaster*
1887	Duty in USS *Pensacola*

1889-1893	Naval attaché, Rome, Italy, Berlin, Germany, and Vienna, Austria
1894	Duty in USS *Petrel*
1898	Executive officer, USS *Yosemite*, Spanish-American War
1899-1901	Commanded USS *Scorpion* and USS *Machias*, Atlantic Fleet
1902	Duty in USS *Mayflower*
1903	Delegate, conference on revising the Geneva Convention of 1864
1904	Commanded USS *Baltimore*, Asiatic Fleet
1906	Promoted to captain Member, General Board
1907, Dec. 5	Died, Washington, D.C.
1947	Published *Admiral Dewey and the Manila Campaign*. Washington, D.C.: Naval Historical Foundation

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Nathan Sargent (1849-1907) span the years 1866-1957, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1880-1905. The collection includes journals, private diaries, orders to duty, correspondence, printed matter, scrapbooks, photographs, and memorabilia. The papers are organized by type of material.

The collection relates to Sargent's career at the United States Naval Academy; early cruises in the USS *Alaska* and USS *Lancaster*; service as a naval attaché in Europe; duty in the USS *Petrel*; service in the Spanish-American War; command of the USS *Scorpion* and USS *Machias* for the purpose of transporting an expedition to the coast of the Isthmus of Darien; command of the USS *Baltimore*; and duty as a member of the General Board.

Prominent correspondents include John Burns, Mortimer E. Cooley, George Dewey, Mildred McLean Hazen Dewey, William H. Emory, David Jayne Hill, Cyrus E. Lothrop, Sidney Augustus Staunton, and John Grimes Walker.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1	Journals, orders, and diaries
BOX 1	Journals
BOX 1	USS *Alaska*, 1873
BOX 1	USS *Lancaster*, 1884
BOX 1	Scrapbook of orders to duty, 1866-1907 (includes some clippings)
BOX 2	Private diaries, 1889-1907 (19 vols.)
BOX 3	General correspondence, 1881-1957 (10 folders)
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Commissions, *See Oversize* 1875-1902
BOX 4	Miscellaneous notebooks, 1867-1906 (12 vols.)
BOX 5	Manuscript of unpublished book, "Donihle; or, An American Baronet," 1885
BOX 5	Notes
BOX 5	Reports
BOX 5	Biographical file
BOX 6	Scrapbook, 1889-1993
BOX 7	Printed matter, 1896-1919 (7 folders)
BOX 8	Programs and calling cards
BOX 8	Receipts
BOX 8	Manuscript, "Rome and Royalty"
BOX 8	Memorabilia
BOX 8	Flags and signals
BOX 8	Spithead, Southeast-England, map, review of the fleet, 1902
BOX 8	Newspaper clippings, 1881-1908 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Photographs (3 folders)
BOX 8	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Commissions, 1875-1902 (Container 4)