William Harrison Standley 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.
2009
Revised 2010 April

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Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson and Paul A. Robinson

Collection Summary

Title: William Harrison Standley Papers
Span Dates: 1895-1963
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1940-1960)
ID No.: MSS41178
Creator: Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963
Extent: 2,500 items ; 14 containers ; 5.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval officer and United States ambassador to the Soviet Union. Correspondence, writings, military papers, and miscellaneous material dealing primarily with Standley's career in the navy and as ambassador.

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
Belknap, Reginald Rowan, 1871-1959--Correspondence.
Buchman, Frank Nathan Daniel, 1878-1961--Correspondence.
Crommelin, John G.--Correspondence.
Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986--Correspondence.
Howard, Roy Wilson, 1883-1964--Correspondence.
Jenner, William E. (William Ezra), 1908- --Correspondence.
Knowland, William F. (William Fife), 1908-1974--Correspondence.
Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963.
Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963. Admiral Ambassador to Russia (1955)
Standley, William Harrison, 1872-1963. Admiral Standley, Early Life and Naval Career.
Stanley, William--Correspondence.
Walsh, David I. (David Ignatius), 1872-1947--Correspondence.
Willson, Russell, 1883-1948--Correspondence.

Subjects
Anti-communist movements.
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union.

Places
Germany--Foreign relations--United States.
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--Germany.
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union.

Occupations
Diplomats.
Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of William Harrison Standley, naval officer and U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1969 and 1973 by the Naval Historical Foundation and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The Standley Papers were processed in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

In 1973 the Library published *William Harrison Standley, a Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Transfers

Phonograph albums have been transferred to the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Other Repositories

The USC Library at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif., also holds a collection of Standley papers.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The William Harrison Standley 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 Harrison Standley Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	***Event***
1872, Dec. 18	Born, Ukiah, Calif.
1895	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty on *Olympia* (cruiser), Asiatic Station
1898	Married Evelyn Curtis
1911-1914	Aide to the commandant, U.S. Navy Yard, Mare Island, Calif.
1915-1916	Commanded *Yorktown* (gunboat)
1916-1919	Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1924	Senior member, Joint Planning Committee, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
1928-1930	Assistant chief, Naval Operations
1931-1933	Commander of cruisers, U.S. Fleet and Scouting Force
1933	Promoted to admiral

1933-1937	Chief, Naval Operations
1935	Delegate, London Disarmament Conference, London, England
1937	Retired from U.S. Navy
1937-1939	Director and consultant, Electric Boat Co., New London, Conn.
1942-1943	Ambassador to the Soviet Union
1944	Recalled to active duty, U.S. Navy
1945	Retired from U.S. Navy
1955	Published with Arthur A. Ageton *Admiral Ambassador to Russia.* Chicago: H. Regnery Co.
1963, Oct. 25	Died, San Diego, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Harrison Standley (1872-1963) span the period 1895-1963, with the bulk of the material concentrated in 1940-1960. The papers include correspondence, speeches, articles, drafts of Standley's books, naval orders, news releases, reports, printed matter, and miscellaneous material. The collection is organized in General Correspondence; Speech, Article, and Book File; and Miscellany series.

The majority of the correspondence deals with the anti-Communist causes to which Standley allied himself in the 1950s. Also included are letters of congratulation concerning his appointment as ambassador to the Soviet Union and letters concerning his role as director of foreign participation in the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Speeches in the Speech, Article, and Book file reflect Standley's interests and concerns during the period 1933-1955. Speaking in the 1930s, he stressed the need for an effective sea power founded upon an expanding shipbuilding program, and in 1940 he called for war with Germany. After his return from the Soviet Union in 1943, Standley concentrated his speechmaking efforts on American relations with the Soviet Union.

Included in the book file are drafts of Standley's published book, *Admiral Ambassador to Russia*, and an unpublished autobiography, “Admiral Standley, Early Life and Naval Career.” The latter covers the period from 1895 to 1937 and is useful in its portrayal of a segment of Standley's life that is absent in the correspondence.

The Miscellany series consists chiefly of newspaper clippings, news releases, printed matter, and reports that relate to the anti-Communist organizations that Standley supported. Biographical information is also contained in naval orders dated from 1895 to 1948.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in three series:

- General Correspondence, 1931-1963
- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1933-1958
- Miscellany, 1895-1962

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-5	**General Correspondence, 1931-1963** Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person, company, or organization and therein chronologically.
BOX 5-10	**Speech, Article, and Book File, 1933-1958** Typed, near-print, and handwritten copies of speeches, typed and printed copies of articles, typescripts of books by Standley and related correspondence. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 11-14	**Miscellany, 1895-1962** Articles and speeches by others, correspondence, biographical material, lists, invitations, memoranda, naval orders, news releases, newspaper clippings, plans and proposals, programs, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by type of material with printed matter and photographs at the end of the series.

Container List

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	American Bureau of Medical Aid to China, 1954-1955
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	American Jewish League Against Communism, 1955, 1962
	American Magazine, 1945
	Atlantic Council, 1961
	Atlantic Union Committee, 1950, 1956
	Badger, Oscar C., 1949, 1958
	Bailey, Banks & Biddle Co., 1937-1938
	Baker, Wilder, 1949
	Baylor, Arthur C., 1950
	Becker, Mrs. William A., 1937, undated
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	Bujkovsky, Gustav J., 1955
	Bullitt, William C. 1954
	Burnham, Donald C., 1942
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	Davis, Russell H., Jr., 1954, undated
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	Articles and speeches by others, correspondence, biographical material, lists, invitations, memoranda, naval orders, news releases, newspaper clippings, plans and proposals, programs, and reports.

Container	*Contents*
	Arranged alphabetically by type of material with printed matter and photographs at the end of the series.
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