

Leonard F. Cushing Papers

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



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Washington, D.C.
2010

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Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

Collection Summary

Title: Leonard F. Cushing Papers

Span Dates: 1794-1959

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1926-1954)

ID No.: MSS52852

Creator: Cushing, Leonard F., 1901-1962

Extent: 3,600 items ; 13 containers ; 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Naval architect. Correspondence, blueprints, newspaper clippings, and photographs relating to the restoration of the *Constitution* (frigate) and the *Constellation* (frigate).

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

Burgess, Robert H.--Correspondence.

Cushing, Leonard F., 1901-1962.

Eskew, Garnett Laidlaw, 1894- --Correspondence.

Friedel, Samuel N. (Samuel Nathaniel), 1898-1979--Correspondence.

Howard, W. E. Jr.--Correspondence.

Kilguss, Fred C.--Correspondence.

Parks, Burton M.--Correspondence.

Saltonstall, Leverett, 1892-1979--Correspondence.

Scarlett, Charles--Correspondence.

Stephens, Russell M.--Correspondence.

Stewart, Donald--Correspondence.

Whittemore, J. R.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Constellation (Frigate)

Constitution (Frigate)

United States. Navy.

Subjects

Naval architecture.

Shipbuilding.

Warships.

Occupations

Naval architects.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Leonard F. Cushing, naval architect, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1963 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Leonard F. Cushing were arranged and described in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides

The Naval Historical Collection of Leonard F. Cushing is described in *Elliot Snow, Leonard F. Cushing: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*. Washington: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, 1969.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Leonard F. Cushing is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Leonard F. Cushing 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, Leonard F. Cushing Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|---------------|---|
| 1901, Oct. 27 | Born, Weymouth, Mass. |
| 1922 | Graduated, Fore River's Shipyard Training System, Quincy, Mass. |
| 1926 | Commended by United States Navy for assisting in salvaging Submarine S-57 near Block Island, N.Y. |
| 1948 | Supervisor of hull architecture, Boston Navy Yard, Boston, Mass. |
| 1952-1957 | Supervisor of preserving and restoring the <i>Constitution</i> (frigate) |
| 1955 | Made an honorary citizen of Baltimore, Md. |
| 1959 | Retired from the United States Navy |
| 1962, Feb. 8 | Died, East Braintree, Mass. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Leonard F. Cushing (1901-1962) span the years 1794-1959, with the bulk of the material from 1926 to 1954. The papers consist of correspondence, blueprints, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and photographs. Most of the material relates to the restoration of the frigates *Constitution* and *Constellation*.

Much of the correspondence in the collection concerns Cushing's attempts to arouse public and congressional interest in restoring the frigates and his attempts to prove the authenticity of the *Constellation*. His testimony for its restoration before the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives on March 1, 1954, and his participation in the panel discussion on its authenticity on March 16, 1959, are documented. Correspondents include Robert H. Burgess, Garnett Laidlaw Eskew, Samuel N. Friedel, W. E. Howard, Jr., Fred C. Kilguss, Burton M. Parks, Leverett Saltonstall, Charles Scarlett, Russell M. Stephens, Donald Stewart, and J. R. Whittemore.

The blueprints in the collection include reproductions of the original full plans of the *Constellation* by Joshua Humphreys made in 1794 and the original drawing of the *Constitution* by Charles Ware made in 1817. Blueprints for the restoration of

the *Constitution* are dated 1926-1931. For the *Constellation*, there are blueprints for restoration dated 1853, 1860, 1888, and 1948. There are also photographs showing the decaying condition of the frigates and photographs of the restored frigates. Newspaper clippings document the histories of the frigates, the controversy over the authenticity of the *Constellation*, and Cushing's transfer of the ship from Boston to Baltimore.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1 | Biographical file |
| BOX 1 | General correspondence, 1929-1948 |
| BOX 1 | Notes |
| BOX 2 | Blueprints and specifications |
| BOX 2 | <i>Constitution</i> (frigate) |
| BOX 2 | Assemblage of materials for restoration; lines, inboard, deck, and spar plans, 1926-1931 |
| BOX 3 | Sail plans and sail details, 1817-1831 |
| BOX 4 | Gun deck arrangement and deck and gun battery, 1907-1931 |
| BOX 5 | Fittings, 1926-1929 |
| BOX 5 | Model, 1/16th scale |
| BOX 6 | <i>Constellation</i> |
| BOX 6 | Dimensions and sizes of materials; lines, inboard, and body plans, 1794-1888 |
| BOX 7 | Midship section, deck, outboard, and sail plans, undated |
| BOX 8 | Spar plans and details, 1948 |
| BOX 8 | Fittings, undated |
| BOX 9 | Miscellany |
| BOX 9 | <i>Hoe</i> (submarine) (SS 258), general plan, 1943 |
| BOX 9 | Nine-foot dingy, lines and offset, 1944 |
| BOX 9 | Ship salvage gear, 1951, undated |
| BOX 9 | Plan for Bethlehem Steel Co., Shipbuilding Division, 1957-1959 |
| BOX 10 | Photographs |
| BOX 10 | 1947-1950 |
| BOX 11 | 1951-1954 |
| BOX 12 | Newspaper clippings |
| BOX 12 | 1928-1958 |
| BOX 13 | 1907-1959 |