

William Speiden Journals

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.**

2015

Revised 2015 September

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms014092>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm95083045>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Collection Summary

Title: William Speiden Journals

Span Dates: 1852-1946

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1852-1855)

ID No.: MSS83045

Creator: Speiden, William, Jr. (1835-1920)

Extent: 20 items ; 3 containers ; 0.8 linear feet ; 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Journals kept by Speiden, purser's clerk on the USS *Mississippi* (sidewheel steamer), a flagship during the U.S. naval expedition to Japan led by Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, 1852-1854. Speiden provided a detailed account of the reception given to Perry and his party and of deliberations between Perry and representatives of the emperor of Japan held in Yokohama-shi, Japan. Speiden also described life at sea, calls at ports on the East Coast of the United States, investigation of fishing rights in Canadian waters, and international stops made during the expedition to Japan. Journals include illustrations.

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

McCauley, Edward Yorke, 1827-1894--Illustrations.

Perry, Matthew Calbraith, 1794-1858.

Peters, William T.,--Illustrations.

Portman, Anton,--Illustrations.

Speiden, William, Jr., 1835-1920--Illustrations.

Speiden, William, Jr., 1835-1920.

Organizations

Mississippi (Side-wheel steamer)

United States Naval Expedition to Japan (1852-1854)

United States. Navy--Sea life.

Subjects

Coasts--China--Description and travel.

Fisheries--Canada.

Places

Atlantic Coast (U.S.)--Description and travel.

Cape of Good Hope (South Africa)--Description and travel.

Guangzhou (China)--Description and travel.

Hakodate-shi (Japan)--Description and travel.

Hawaii--Description and travel.

Hong Kong (China)--Description and travel.

Japan--Description and travel.

Japan--Foreign relations--United States.

Macau (China : Special Administrative Region)--Description and travel.

Madeira Islands--Description and travel.

Malacca (Malaysia : State)--Description and travel.

Mauritius--Description and travel.

Ryukyu Islands--Description and travel.

Saint Helena--Description and travel.

Shanghai (China)--Description and travel.

Shimoda-shi (Japan)--Description and travel.
Singapore--Description and travel.
Sri Lanka--Description and travel.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
Valparaíso (Chile)--Description and travel.
Yokohama-shi (Japan)--Description and travel.

Titles

William Speiden papers

Occupations

Purser's clerks.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The journals of William Speiden, purser's clerk, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1994 and converted to a gift in 1997.

Processing History

The journals of William Speiden were processed in 1998. The volumes received conservation treatment, and the Chinese pith paintings were removed from the journals and rehoused separately between 1998-2000. Facsimile illustrations replaced the removed originals in the journals. The finding aid was created in 2015.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The William Speiden Journals 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Online Content

The William Speiden Journals are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000032>.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, William Speiden Journals, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1835, Sept. 26	Born, Washington, D.C.
1852	Appointed purser's clerk, USS <i>Mississippi</i>

1852-1855	Part of American squadron expedition to China Seas and Japan
1856-1864	U. S. naval storekeeper, Hong Kong, China; on leave of absence in the United States, 1860-1861
1860	Married Marion McKeever, in New York
1870-1910	Employed, U. S. Customs Service, port of New York
1920, Aug. 20	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Speiden (1835-1920) consist of journals that Speiden kept while serving as the purser's clerk on the USS *Mississippi* (side-wheel steamer), a flagship during the American naval expedition to Japan led by Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry from 1852 to 1854. The journals span the years 1852-1855, with inserts in the first volume of newspaper clippings dating from 1901 and 1946.

Speiden's father, William Speiden (1797-1861), served as the purser on the *Mississippi* during Perry's expedition to Japan. The younger Speiden provided a detailed account of the reception given to Perry and his party and of deliberations between Perry and representatives of the emperor of Japan held in Yokohama-shi, Japan. Speiden also described life at sea, calls at ports on the East Coast of the United States, investigation of fishing rights in Canadian waters, and stops made during the expedition to Japan, including Canton, China, the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, Hakodate-shi, Japan, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Macao, the Madeira Islands, Malacca, Mauritius, the Ryukyu (Loo Choo) Islands, Saint Helena, San Francisco, Calif., Shanghai, China, Shimoda-shi, Japan, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), and Valparaiso, Chile. The journals, bound in two volumes, include nearly fifty illustrations, some of which are Chinese pith paintings done in watercolor and gouache that were removed from the volumes for preservation purposes and are housed separately in Containers 2 and 3. Conservators replaced the originals in the journals with high quality facsimile reproductions. Artistic work in the journals is by Speiden, Edward McCauley, Anton Portman, William T. Peters, unknown Chinese and Japanese artists, and others.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 22,423

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Journals
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 1, Mar. 9, 1852-June 29, 1854 (includes newspaper clippings from 1901 and 1946)
	<u>Digital content available</u>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Vol. 2, July 3, 1854-Feb. 16, 1855
	<u>Digital content available</u>
BOX 2 REEL 1	Illustrations removed from volume 1
	<u>Digital content available</u>
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Victoria-Hong Kong." Pith painting, 7 April 1853. No. 15 (vol. 1, p. 70a)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Soldiers," "Freight Junk," "Soldiers." Pith paintings, 7 April 1853. Nos. 16-18 (vol. 1, p. 70b)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Actors & Slight of Hand Men & Women." Pith painting, 11 April 1853. No. 19 (vol. 1, p. 72b)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Imperial Family." Pith painting, 18 April 1853. No. 20 (vol. 1, p. 74b)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Whampoa Reach." Pith painting, 21 April 1853. No. 21 (vol. 1, p. 76a)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Chinese Beggar." Pith painting, 21 April 1853. No. 23 (vol. 1, p. 77a)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Sing Song on Flower Boat-Canton." Pith painting, 21 April 1853. No. 22 (vol. 1, p. 76b)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Canton." Pith painting, 21 April 1853. No. 24 (vol. 1, p. 77b)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"Chinese Painter," "Governor of Canton with Son and Daughter," Chinese Showman." Pith paintings, 24 April 1853. Nos. 25-27 (vol. 1, p. 79a)
BOX 2 REEL 1	Macao." Pith painting, 25 April 1853. No. 28 (vol. 1, p. 79b)
BOX 2 REEL 1	[Picture of the city-either Canton or Shanghai.] Pith painting, 4 May 1853. No. 34 (vol. 1, p. 81a)
BOX 2 REEL 1	"The Boque." Drawing, 10 August 1853. No. 39 (vol. 1, p. 115b)
BOX 3 REEL 1	Illustrations removed from volumes 1-2
	<u>Digital content available</u>
BOX 3 REEL 1	"Mt. Fugi, Saddle Hill, Entrance to Bay at Yedo" and "Island of Oko-sima opposite the entrance of Bay of Yedo." Drawings, 13 Feb 1854. Nos. 43-44 (vol. 1, [ca. pp.152-153])
BOX 3 REEL 1	"Hong Kong." Pith painting, 22 July 1854. No. 53 (vol. 2, p. 16a)
BOX 3 REEL 1	"Boque." Pith painting, 28 July 1854. No. 54 (vol. 2, p. 17a)

Container List

Container

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BOX 3 REEL 1	“Chinese Convicts.” Pith painting, 28 July 1854. No. 55 (vol. 2, p. 17b)
BOX 3 REEL 1	“Macao.” Pith painting, 2 August 1854. No. 56 (vol. 2, p. 20a)
BOX 3 REEL 1	“Macao.” Pith painting, 2 August 1854. No. 57 (vol. 2, p. 20b)
BOX 3 REEL 1	[Chinese Upper Class (Royalty?).] Pith painting, 5 August 1854. No. 58 (vol. 2, p. 21a)
BOX 3 REEL 1	[Chinese Worker.] Pith painting, 11 August 1854. No. 59 (vol. 2, p. 24a)
BOX 3 REEL 1	[Chinese Worker.] Pith painting, 11 August 1854. No. 60 (vol. 2, p. 24b)
BOX 3 REEL 1	[Fragment, partial image of Chinese worker.] Pith painting, 3 May 1853. No. 29 (vol. 1, p. 80)