

# Edmund Ross Colhoun Papers

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

Prepared by John P. Butler  
Revised by Joseph K. Brooks



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  
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## Collection Summary

Title: Edmund Ross Colhoun Papers

Span Dates: 1821-1918

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1839-1874)

ID No.: MSS21303

Creator: Colhoun, Edmund Ross, 1821-1897

Extent: 1,200 items; 9 containers; 3.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer. Correspondence, journals, notebooks, official records, printed matter, and miscellaneous material relating to Colhoun's service with the Mediterranean and Brazil squadrons before the Civil War, his command of ships of blockade squadrons during the Civil War, and his command of the Asiatic Squadron.

## 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

Colhoun, Edmund Ross, 1821-1897.

### Organizations

Albany (Sloop of war)

Congress (Frigate : 1841-1862)

Hartford (Ship)

Ladona (Steamer)

St. Lawrence (Frigate)

United States. Navy--Foreign service--East Asia.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Mediterranean Sea.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--South Atlantic Ocean.

United States. Navy. Asiatic Squadron.

United States. Navy. Mediterranean Squadron.

United States. Navy. Naval Force, Asiatic Station.

United States. Navy. South Atlantic Squadron.

### Places

East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1950 and converted to a gift in 1998.

## Processing History

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun were arranged and described in 1967. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

## Additional Guides

In 1967 the Library published *Edmund Ross Colhoun, Charles O'Neil: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edmund Ross Colhoun is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun 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, Edmund Ross Colhoun, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1821, May 6	Born, Chambersburg, Pa.
1839	Appointed midshipman, United States Navy
1839-1941	Duty aboard the <i>Marion</i> (sloop), Brazil Squadron
1842-1844	Duty aboard <i>Congress</i> (frigate), Mediterranean and Brazil Squadrons
1845	Attended Naval School, Philadelphia, Pa. and promoted to passed midshipman Married Mary Ann Hays
1846-1847	Served aboard <i>Cumberland</i> (frigate), Home Squadron
1847-1848	Served in Mexican War aboard the <i>Albany</i> (sloop of war)
1851-1853	Served on <i>St. Lawrence</i> (frigate), Pacific Squadron
1853	Resigned from the navy
1861	Rejoined the navy as an acting lieutenant
1861-1862	Commanded <i>Shawsheen</i> (steam tugboat), and <i>Hunchback</i> (steam gunboat), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron In command of <i>Hunchback</i> took part in the battle of Roanoke Island, N. C., and engagements on the Blackwater River in Virginia

1862	Promoted to commander
1863	Commanded <i>Ladona</i> (steamer), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron; and <i>Weehawken</i> (monitor), South Atlantic Blockade Squadron
1864-1865	Commanded <i>Saugus</i> (monitor), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron, and participated in operations on the James River in Virginia and in operations against Fort Fisher in North Carolina.
1866-1867	Fleet captain, South Pacific Squadron
1869	Promoted to captain
1869-1870	Commanded <i>Dictator</i> (monitor), North Atlantic Fleet
1874	Commanded <i>Hartford</i> (sloop of war), flagship of Asiatic Squadron
1874-1875	Commanded <i>Richmond</i> (sloop of war), flagship of South Pacific Squadron
1876	Promoted to commodore
1877-1881	Commander, Mare Island Navy Yard, Calif.
1882	Promoted to rear admiral
1883	Retired from the navy
1897, Feb. 17	Died, Washington, D. C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edmund Ross Colhoun (1821-1897), spanning the years from his appointment as a midshipman in 1839 to 1888, are organized into four series: [Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks](#); [Correspondence](#); [Asiatic Station Official Records](#); and [Miscellany](#).

The bulk of the [Journals](#) series relates to when Colhoun was stationed in the Pacific as commander of the Asiatic Squadron. Journals, notebooks, and letterpress books from his flagship *Hartford* account for most of the material from this period. Also part of the series are journals, logbooks, and rosters relating to Colhoun's service on the *Congress*, *Albany*, and *St. Lawrence* before the Civil War and his command of the *Ladona* and *Saugus* during the war.

The [Correspondence](#) is almost all official and includes Colhoun's orders to duty and reports on battles and operations during the Civil War. Letters in the [Correspondence](#) and in the [Asiatic Station Official Records](#) document Colhoun's interest in maintaining American prestige in China and Japan. The fleet records of the [Asiatic Station Official Records](#) also provide insight into the everyday needs, requirements, and activities of the Asiatic Squadron. With the [Correspondence](#), they document diplomatic and consular activities reflecting the interest of the American navy in the territorial and diplomatic affairs of the American community in the Far East.

The [Miscellany](#) series includes copies of the general orders originated and issued by Colhoun as commander of the Asiatic fleet, his commissions and appointments, mathematical problems on which he worked, and a few items of printed matter mainly concerned with the Civil War years.

# Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks, 1842-1874
- Correspondence, 1839-1888
- Asiatic Station Official Records, 1873-1874
- Miscellany, 1845-1918

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-3	<u>Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks, 1842-1874</u> Copies of letters sent, journals, log abstracts, navigational data, crew listings, and miscellaneous items. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4-7	<u>Correspondence, 1839-1888</u> Letters, orders to duty, official correspondence received, and a few copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 8	<u>Asiatic Station Official Records, 1873-1874</u> Reports, requisitions, punishment lists, appropriations, inventories, and miscellaneous papers. Arranged by subject.
BOX 9	<u>Miscellany, 1845-1918</u> Printed matter, general orders, memoranda, mathematical calculations, commissions and awards, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Arranged by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3	Journals, Letterbooks, Letterpress Books, and Notebooks, 1842-1874 Copies of letters sent, journals, log abstracts, navigational data, crew listings, and miscellaneous items. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	<i>Congress</i> (frigate), Mediterranean Station, journal, 1842-1844
BOX 1	Chronometer rate book, <i>Albany</i> (sloop of war), South Atlantic Squadron, 1849-1850
BOX 1	Journal, <i>Albany</i> (sloop of war), South Atlantic Squadron and <i>St. Lawrence</i> (frigate), Pacific Squadron, 1849-1852
BOX 1	Celestial navigation book, <i>St. Lawrence</i> (frigate), Pacific Squadron, 1851-1853
BOX 1	Notebook and logbook, <i>Ladona</i> (steamer), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron, 1863-1864
BOX 1	Roster book, <i>Saugus</i> (monitor), North Atlantic blockade Squadron, 1865
BOX 1	Notebooks, 1866-1874 (2 vols.)
BOX 2	<i>Hartford</i> , flagship of the Asiatic Squadron, letterpress books
BOX 2	To commanding officers, 1873-1874
BOX 2	To Navy Department bureaus, 1873-1874
BOX 2	To George M. Robeson, secretary of the navy, 1873-1874
BOX 2	Orders to the fleet, 1873-1874
BOX 2	<i>Hartford</i> , flagship of the Asiatic Squadron, letter record book, to the secretary of the navy and Navy Department bureaus, 1873-1874
BOX 3	Letterbook, <i>Hartford</i> , Asiatic Station, and <i>Richmond</i> , Pacific Station, 1873-1875
BOX 3	Journal, <i>Hartford</i> , Asiatic Station, and <i>Richmond</i> , Pacific Station, 1873-1875
BOX 4-7	Correspondence, 1839-1888 Letters, orders to duty, official correspondence received, and a few copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4	1839-1863 (12 folders)
BOX 5	1864-1869 (10 folders)
BOX 6	1870-1873 (9 folders)

## Correspondence, 1839-1888

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 7	1874-1888 (10 folders)
BOX 8	Asiatic Station Official Records, 1873-1874 Reports, requisitions, punishment lists, appropriations, inventories, and miscellaneous papers. Arranged by subject.
BOX 8	Inventories
BOX 8	Punishment records
BOX 8	Requisitions
BOX 8	Miscellany
BOX 9	Miscellany, 1845-1918 Printed matter, general orders, memoranda, mathematical calculations, commissions and awards, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 9	Commissions, 1845-1869
BOX 9	Memoranda and notes, 1845-1863
BOX 9	Printed matter, 1860-1881
BOX 9	Newspaper clippings, 1862-1882
BOX 9	Photographs, 1883, 1918