

# Elliot Snow 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

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

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<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011183>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052795>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Elliot Snow Papers

**Span Dates:** 1790-1942

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1920-1930)

**ID No.:** MSS52795

**Creator:** Snow, Elliot, 1866-1939

**Extent:** 9,450 items ; 28 containers ; 12 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Summary:** Naval officer. Correspondence, logbooks, speech, article, and book file, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and scrapbooks relating to the history and restoration of the *Constitution*. Includes papers of Horatio D. Smith (1845-1918), officer in the Revenue-Cutter Service, and a small group of papers of Josiah Fox (1763-1847), naval constructor.

## 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

Alcott, William--Correspondence.  
Andrews, Philip, 1866-1945--Correspondence.  
Bahn, George A.--Correspondence.  
Barnes, James, 1866-1936--Correspondence.  
Cannon, Jouett Taylor, 1865-1949--Correspondence.  
Cassin, John, 1758-1822--Correspondence.  
Claus, Henry T.--Correspondence.  
Foster, William E. (William Eaton), 1851-1930--Correspondence.  
Fox, Josiah, 1763-1847. Josiah Fox papers.  
Humphreys, Letitia A.--Correspondence.  
Lathrop, Constance--Correspondence.  
Nicholson, Paul C. (Paul Coe), 1888-1956--Correspondence.  
Platt, Haviland Hull, 1889- --Correspondence  
Preble, George Henry, 1816-1885--Correspondence.  
Smith, Horatio Davis, 1845-1918. Horatio Davis Smith papers.  
Snow, Albert Sydney, 1845-1932--Correspondence.  
Snow, Elliot, 1866-1939.  
Spicer, William F.--Correspondence.  
Vogel, Karl--Correspondence.  
Wilbur, Curtis Dwight, 1867-1954--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Constitution (Frigate)  
United States. Navy.  
United States. Revenue-Cutter Service.

### Subjects

Shipbuilding--United States.  
Warships.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Elliot Snow, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1949. An addition was deposited in 1963 and the collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

### Processing History

The papers of Elliot Snow were arranged and described in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

### Additional Guides

In 1969 the Library published *Elliot Snow [and] Leonard F. Cushing: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

### Copyright Status

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

### Access and Restrictions

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

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1866, June 27	Born, Salt Lake City, Utah
1883	Appointed to U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1887	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1887	Duty in USS <i>Adams</i>
1890-1893	Student at l'École d'application du génie maritime, Paris, France
1891	Transferred to Construction Corps in navy
1893	Duty in Mare Island Navy Yard, Calif.
1902	Duty in Hong Kong
1917	Duty with the Emergency Fleet Corp., Washington, D.C.
1917-1919	Superintending constructor, New York Shipbuilding Co., Camden, N.J.
1925	Published <i>Recent and Early Information about Ancient and Medieval Ships</i> . Washington, D. C.: National Capital Press

1925	Senior member, Army and Navy Munitions Board
1926	Promoted to rear admiral Retired from U.S. Navy
1932	Published <i>On the Decks of "Old Ironsides."</i> New York: Macmillan Co.
1939, Nov. 27	Died, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elliot Snow (1866-1939) span the years 1790-1942, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1920-1930. The papers relate primarily to the restoration of the USF *Constitution* in 1906 and 1926 and to the history of the USF *Constitution*. Included are a logbook and journal, correspondence, writings, newspaper clippings, printed matter, and scrapbooks. Also included are papers of Horatio Davis Smith (1845-1918), an officer in the United States Revenue Cutter Service, and a small group of papers of Josiah Fox (1763-1847), a naval constructor.

An authority on the USF *Constitution*, Snow was designated as a consultant for the film *Old Ironsides*, which Paramount Motion Pictures released in 1926. Topics of research include the frigate's steering wheel, figureheads, bell, battery, guns, sails, and rigging.

Prominent correspondents include William Alcott, Philip Andrews, George A. Bahn, James Barnes, Jouett Taylor Cannon, Henry T. Claus, William E. Foster, Letitia A. Humphreys, Constance Lathrop, Paul C. Nicholson, Haviland Hull Platt, Albert Sydney Snow, William F. Spicer, Karl Vogel, and Curtis Dwight Wilbur.

The miscellany in the collection contains the papers of Horatio Davis Smith and Josiah Fox. Smith's papers include notebooks, correspondence, and four scrapbooks. Correspondents include Francis Martin, John McGowan, George Henry Preble, and Sidney D. Shattuck. In the papers of Josiah Fox are correspondence, receipts, estimates and description of timber, estimates of materials to be used in the construction of frigates and gun boats, and contracts. Fox's correspondents include John Cassin, John Cock, Peter Gardner, William Hall, Jonathan Hopkins, and Henry L. Langdon

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

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BOX 6	Drafts of an article, "How 'Old Ironsides' Lost and Gained a Bell," 1931
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BOX 8	Spar Deck, 1819
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BOX 10	Newspaper clippings concerning the USF <i>Constitution</i> , 1834-1926
BOX 11	Printed matter
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