

# John Forsyth Meigs Papers

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

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson



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  
Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011192>

## Collection Summary

Title: John Forsyth Meigs Papers

Span Dates: 1914-1940

ID No.: MSS52886

Creator: Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924

Extent: 1,500 items; 6 containers; 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer. Correspondence and research notes for Meigs's book *The Story of the Seaman*, together with research notes of Meigs's cousin, William Ledyard Rodgers, who wrote the preface to the book.

## 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

Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924.

Meigs, John Forsyth, 1848-1924. Story of the seaman; being an account of the ways and appliances of seafarers and of ships from the earliest time until now. 1924.

Rodgers, William Ledyard, 1860-1944.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1953 and converted to a gift in 1998.

### Processing History

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs were arranged and described in 1978. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Forsyth Meigs is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs 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, John Forsyth Meigs Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Event</i>                                                                                                                   |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1848, Oct. 3  | Born, Philadelphia, Pa.                                                                                                        |
| 1867          | Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.                                                                                  |
| 1868-1869     | Duty in USS <i>Picataque</i> , Asiatic Squadron                                                                                |
| 1871          | Duty in USS <i>Guerrière</i>                                                                                                   |
| 1872          | Duty at U.S. Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.                                                                                      |
| 1874-1876     | Duty in USS <i>Omaha</i>                                                                                                       |
| 1877          | Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.                                                                                     |
| 1878-1880     | Duty at U.S. Navy Yard, Pensacola, Fla.                                                                                        |
| 1881          | Married Jane Perry Rodgers<br>Duty at Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.                                                           |
| 1882          | Duty in USF <i>Constellation</i>                                                                                               |
| 1886          | Duty at U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.                                                                                     |
| 1887          | Published with R. R. Ingersoll <i>Text-Book of Ordnance and Gunnery</i> , [Baltimore: Press of I. Friedenwald], second edition |
| 1887-1889     | Duty in USS <i>Richmond</i> , North Atlantic Fleet                                                                             |
| 1890          | Duty in Bureau of Navigation                                                                                                   |
| 1891          | Resigned from the U.S. Navy                                                                                                    |
| 1892-1910     | Employed by Bethlehem Steel Works                                                                                              |
| 1924, Apr. 16 | Died, New York, N.Y.                                                                                                           |
| 1924          | Posthumous publication of <i>The Story of the Seaman</i> , Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott                                      |

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Forsyth Meigs (1848-1924) span the years 1914-1940, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1918-1924. The collection consists of correspondence and research notes for Meigs's posthumously published book, *The Story of the Seaman*. It also includes research notes of his cousin, William Ledyard Rodgers, who wrote the preface to the book.

# Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

# Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i>                                                                                                            |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOX 1            | Correspondence                                                                                                             |
| BOX 1            | George R. Wood to Admiral Rodgers, 1917, Jan. 10                                                                           |
| BOX 1            | John A. Rodgers to William Ledyard Rodgers, 1924, Jan. 4, [1925]                                                           |
| BOX 1            | Alexander Macomb to Freda Rodgers Giles, 1926, Jan. 22                                                                     |
| BOX 1            | Writings, 1914-1919, undated                                                                                               |
| BOX 1            | Notebooks containing research notes, 1919-1922<br>(5 vols.)                                                                |
| BOX 2            | <i>The Story of the Seaman</i>                                                                                             |
| BOX 2            | Carbon copy draft of chapter 1, 1920                                                                                       |
| BOX 2            | Holograph draft                                                                                                            |
| BOX 2            | Pages 1-692<br>(10 folders)                                                                                                |
| BOX 3            | Pages 693-827<br>(2 folders)                                                                                               |
| BOX 3            | Pencil holograph draft of chapter 6                                                                                        |
| BOX 3            | "Extracts from Arrian's History of Alexander the Great"                                                                    |
| BOX 3            | "Extracts from Diodorus the Sicilian"                                                                                      |
| BOX 3            | "Extracts from Herodotus"                                                                                                  |
| BOX 3            | "Hesiod"                                                                                                                   |
| BOX 3            | "Extracts from the Histories of Polybius"                                                                                  |
| BOX 3            | "Facts Drawn from the Iliad and Odyssey"                                                                                   |
| BOX 3            | "Extracts from Thudydides"                                                                                                 |
| BOX 3            | "Extracts from Xenophon"                                                                                                   |
| BOX 4            | Research notes                                                                                                             |
| BOX 4            | Pages 1-500<br>(23 folders)                                                                                                |
| BOX 5            | Pages 501-1398<br>(22 folders)                                                                                             |
| BOX 5            | Miscellaneous research notes, 1914, undated                                                                                |
| BOX 6            | Miscellany, William Ledyard Rodgers's note cards containing research notes<br>for speeches, articles, and books, 1928-1940 |