Dudley Wright Knox Papers

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

Prepared by John P. Butler Revised and expanded by Brian McGuire



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009197

Collection Summary

Title: Dudley Wright Knox Papers Span Dates: circa 1864-1960 Bulk Dates: (bulk 1921-1946)

ID No.: MSS50070

Creator: Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960 Extent: 6,550 items; 24 containers; 9 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval officer and historian. Correspondence, subject files, speeches, articles, book file, printed matter, newspaper clippings, and other material relating to Knox's activities as director of

the United States Office of Naval Records and Library, as secretary of the Naval Historical

Foundation, and as an author of books and articles on naval affairs.

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

Adams, J. H. (John Haslup), 1871-1927--Correspondence.

Babcock, John V. (John Vincent)--Correspondence.

Balch, Earle Henry, b. 1893--Correspondence.

Baldridge, Harry Alexander, 1880-1952--Correspondence.

Baldwin, Hanson Weightman, 1903-1991--Correspondence.

Baxter, James Phinney, 1893-1975--Correspondence.

Bittinger, Charles, 1879-1970--Correspondence.

Brown, Wilson, 1882-1957--Correspondence.

Brownson, Howard G. (Howard Gray), b. 1886--Correspondence.

Brownson, Willard H. (Willard Herbert), 1845-1935--Correspondence.

Buell, Raymond Leslie, 1896-1946--Correspondence.

Burt, Charles Perry, 1876-1949--Correspondence.

Castleman, Kenneth G. (Kenneth Galleher), 1876-1954--Correspondence.

Cerf, Bennett, 1898-1971--Correspondence.

Clark, William Bell, 1889-1968--Correspondence.

Cluverius, Wat Tyler--Correspondence.

Colvocoresses, George P. (George Partridge), 1847-1932--Correspondence.

Cox, Albert Lyman, 1883-1965--Correspondence.

Cox, Leonard M. (Leonard Martin), 1870-1943--Correspondence.

Craven, Thomas T. (Thomas Tingey), 1873-1950--Correspondence.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Davis, Ralph E.--Correspondence.

DeWeerd, Harvey A. (Harvey Arthur), 1902-1979--Correspondence.

Dillon, Philip Robert, b. 1868--Correspondence.

Earle, Ralph, 1874-1939--Correspondence.

Falk, Edwin A. (Edwin Albert), 1894---Correspondence.

Ford, Guy Stanton, 1873-1962--Correspondence.

Foss, George Edmund, 1863-1936--Correspondence.

Frothingham, Thomas Goddard, 1865-1937--Correspondence.

Furer, Julius Augustus, 1880-1963--Correspondence.

Gardiner, William Howard, 1875-1952--Correspondence.

Gosnell, Harpur Allen, b. 1890--Correspondence.

Grabhorn, Edwin E.--Correspondence.

Green, Fitzhugh, 1888-1947--Correspondence.

Greenfield, Kent Roberts, 1893-1967--Correspondence.

Griffith, F. (Frederick)--Correspondence.

Hartwig, John George--Correspondence.

Hasbrouck, Jan--Correspondence.

Helmer, N. A.--Correspondence.

Hoffman, Roy, b. 1869--Correspondence.

Hogan, James J.--Correspondence.

Hooper, Franklin Henry, 1862-1940--Correspondence.

Howe, Alfred G. (Alfred Graham), 1878-1970--Correspondence.

Johnson, Hiram, 1866-1945--Correspondence.

Kent, Ira Rich, 1876-1945--Correspondence.

Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960.

Knox, Dudley Wright, 1877-1960. History of the United States Navy (1936)

Knox, John Crawford--Correspondence.

Koehler, Warren B.--Correspondence.

Langdon, William Chauncy, 1871-1947--Correspondence.

LaPorte, Robert J. S.--Correspondence.

Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.

Moses, Stanford E. (Stanford Elwood), 1872-1950--Correspondence.

Mumm, Orson D.--Correspondence.

Pope, R. E. (Ralph Elton), 1875-1959--Correspondence.

Robinson, Charles N. (Charles Napier), 1849-1936--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1914-1988--Correspondence.

Sims, William Sowden, 1858-1936--Correspondence.

Spafford, Edward E. (Edward Elwell), 1878-1941--Correspondence.

Springer, J. D.--Correspondence.

Stark, Harold R. (Harold Raynsford), 1880-1972--Correspondence.

Strauss, Lewis L.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Naval Historical Foundation.

United States. Navy--Aviation.

United States. Navy--History.

United States. Office of Naval Records and Library.

Subjects

Disarmament--Congresses.

International trade.

Merchant marine.

Military readiness.

Naval aviation.

Naval history--Societies, etc.

Naval libraries.

Sea-power--Congresses.

Places

East Asia--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--East Asia.

United States--History, Naval.

Occupations

Historians.

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox, naval officer and historian, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1953 and 1981 and converted to gift in 1998.

Processing History:

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox were arranged and described in 1967. The collection was expanded and revised in 1998 and the finding aid revised in 2009.

Additional Guides:

In 1971, the Library published an earlier edition of the Knox finding aid in a publication entitled Dudley Wright Knox, A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress and a Register of the Collection of Mary Edith Powell, Naval Historical Foundation Collection.

Copyright Status:

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

Access and Restrictions:

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox 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, Dudley Wright Knox Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date 1877, June 21	Event Born, Walla Walla, Washington Territory
1896	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty on board the <i>Massachusetts</i>
1898	Commissioned ensign Duty on board the <i>Maple</i> , <i>Independence</i> , and <i>Yorktown</i>
1898-1901	Commanded the <i>Albany</i> and <i>Iris</i>
1901-1902	Inspector of ordnance, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1903-1907	Commanded the Shubrick, Wilkes, and Decatur
1907	Duty on board the Nebraska
1908	Married Lily Hazard McCalla
1908-1909	Duty at Mare Island Navy Yard, Calif.

1909-1911	Fleet ordnance officer, Atlantic Fleet and later the Pacific Fleet
1912-1913	Student, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1913-1914	Aide, staff of the commander, Atlantic Torpedo Flotilla
1914-1916	Duty in the Office of Naval Intelligence, Washington, D.C.
1916-1917	Commanded Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba
1917-1919	Aide, staff of the commander of the naval forces operating in Europe
1919-1920	Taught, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1920-1921	Commanded the <i>Brooklyn</i> and <i>Charleston</i>
1920-1923	Naval editor, Army and Navy Journal
1921	Transferred to retired list
1921-1946	Active duty, officer in charge of the Office of Naval Records and Library, Washington, D.C.
1922	Published <i>The Eclipse of American Sea Power</i> . New York: American Army & Navy Journal
1924-1929	Naval correspondent, Baltimore Sun
1926-1946	Secretary, Naval Historical Foundation
1929	Naval correspondent, New York Herald Tribune
1930-1946	Curator, Navy Department
1932	Published <i>The Naval Genius of George Washington</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1936	Published <i>A History of the United States Navy.</i> New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons
1939	Published William H. Meyers's <i>Naval Sketches of the War in California;</i> Reproducing Twenty-eight Drawings Made in 1846-1847, with text by Knox. New York: Random House
1944-1946	Deputy director of naval history
1945	Promoted to commodore
1946	Retired from active duty
1946-1959	Vice president and chairman, executive committee of the Naval Historical Foundation

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Dudley Wright Knox (1877-1960) span the period 1864-1950, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the years 1921-1946. The papers consist of seven series: Correspondence, Subject File, Speech, Article, and <a href="Book File, Printed Matter, Newspaper Clippings, Miscellany, and an Addition.

Much of the <u>Correspondence</u> series concerns Knox's duties and interests as director of the Office of Naval Records and Library, 1921-1946, and as secretary of the Naval Historical Foundation, 1926-1946. Knox held firm views on such subjects as international naval limitation conferences, naval aviation, the revival of a strong merchant marine, naval preparedness, Far Eastern affairs, foreign trade, and national defense. These views are reflected in his correspondence, speeches, articles, and other papers.

The collection is rich in material regarding naval limitations conferences, including the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armament, 1921-1922, the Geneva Conference for the Limitation of Naval Armament, 1927, and the London Naval Conference of 1930. Admiral Hilary P. Jones, the American adviser to the conferences, wrote often to Knox concerning these meetings.

The papers also contain considerable material relating to Knox's published and unpublished books. Included are typescripts of his best known work, *A History of the United States Navy*, and reviews, clippings, and letters from his publisher and readers.

Knox wrote the text for William H. Meyers's *Naval Sketches of the War in California*, which has an introduction by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Knox's association with Roosevelt is detailed in a memoir in the Miscellany series.

Knox expanded the holdings of the Naval Library and carried on the normal functions of the Naval Records Section despite the time devoted not only to his own speaking and writing but also to assisting others in similar activities, represented by copies of many of the speeches and articles Knox prepared for fellow naval officers. He had a lengthy correspondence with Thomas Goddard Frothingham, who sent him a draft of each chapter of his three-volume study *The Naval History of the World War*. Month after month Knox commented, criticized, or corrected the drafts and returned them to Frothingham. An appendix to this finding aid lists the titled articles, speeches, and other writings by Knox included among his papers.

Correspondents in the Knox Papers include J. H. Adams, John V. Babcock, Earle Henry Balch, Harry Alexander Baldridge, Hanson Weightman Baldwin, James Phinney Baxter, Charles Bittinger, Wilson Brown, Howard G. Brownson, Willard H. Brownson, Raymond Leslie Buell, Charles Perry Burt, Kenneth G. Castleman, Bennett Cerf, William Bell Clark, Wat Tyler Cluverius, George P. Colvocoresses, Albert Lyman Cox, Leonard M. Cox, Thomas T. Craven, Josephus Daniels, Ralph E. Davis, Howard A. DeWeerd, Philip R. Dillon, Ralph Earle, Edwin A. Falke, Guy Stanton Ford, George Edmund Foss, Julius Augustus Furer, William Howard Gardiner, Charles E. Gilpin, Harpur Allen Gosnell, Edwin Grabhorn, Fitzhugh Green, Kent Roberts Greenfield, F. Griffith, John George Hartwig, Jan Hasbrouck, N. A. Helmer, Roy Hoffman, James J. Hogan, Franklin Henry Hooper, Alfred G. Howe, Hiram Johnson, Ira Rich Kent, John Crawford Knox, Warren B. Koehler, William Chauncey Langdon, Robert J. S. LaPorte, Henry Cabot Lodge, Stanford E. Moses, Orson D. Mumm, R. E. Pope, Charles N. Robinson, William Sowden Sims, Edward E. Spafford, J. D. Springer, Harold R. Stark, and Lewis L. Strauss.

The <u>Addition</u> to the collection consists of photocopies of memoranda, correspondence, and other documents from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, New York, concerning efforts by Knox and Roosevelt to publish naval records relating to American wars.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- Correspondence, 1914-1949
- Subject File, 1919-1939
- Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950
- Printed Matter, 1900-1950
- Newspaper Clippings, 1908-1937
- Miscellany, 1864-1950
- Addition, 1934-1944

Description of Series

Container Series

BOX 1-9 <u>Correspondence</u>, 1914-1949

Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, supplemented by memoranda, reports, and printed matter. Container 9 exclusively contains Knox's correspondence with Thomas Goddard Frothingham.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 10-12 <u>Subject File, 1919-1939</u>

Blueprints, clippings, memoranda, research notes, press releases, printed and near-print matter, and reports.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 13-20 Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950

Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of speeches, articles, books, book reviews, and press releases.

Organized by type of writing. Titled speeches and articles are arranged alphabetically and listed individually under folder titles; untitled

speeches and articles are arranged chronologically.

BOX 21-22 Printed Matter, 1900-1950

Chiefly copies of articles, speeches, and writings on naval topics.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 23-24 Newspaper Clippings, 1908-1937

Clippings on naval topics. Arranged chronologically.

BOX 24 Miscellany, 1864-1950

A manuscript concerning the *Albemarle*, a memoir concerning Knox's association with Franklin D. Roosevelt, and other material.

Arranged chronologically.

BOX 24 Addition, 1934-1944

Photocopies of memoranda, correspondence, and other documents from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library relating to efforts by Knox and Roosevelt

to publish naval records of American wars.

Arranged chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
вох 1-9	Correspondence, 1914-1949
	Letters received and a few copies of letters sent, supplemented by memoranda, reports, and printed matter. Container 9 exclusively contains Knox's correspondence with Thomas Goddard Frothingham. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1914-1925
	(19 folders)
BOX 2	1926-1928
	(15 folders)
вох 3	1929-1931
50.10	(14 folders)
BOX 4	1932-1933
2011	(15 folders)
BOX 5	1934-1936
DOXO	(17 folders)
вох 6	1937-1939
DOX 0	(15 folders)
вох 7	1940-1942
DOX 1	(17 folders)
вох 8	1943-1949, undated
DOX 0	(11 folders)
вох 9	·
BOX 9	Frothingham, Thomas Goddard, 1922-1939 (21 folders)
	(&T folders)
вох 10-12	Subject File, 1919-1939
	Blueprints, clippings, memoranda, research notes, press releases, printed
	and near-print matter, and reports.
	Arranged alphabetically by subject.
вох 10	Aviation
	(10 folders)
вох 10	Bolshevism
BOX 10	Far Eastern affairs
DON 10	(2 folders)
вох 10	Foreign trade and commerce
DON 10	(2 folders)
вох 10	Merchant marine
DOX 10	(6 folders)
вох 11	Naval bases and yards
DOVII	(2 folders)
вох 11	Naval budget
BOX 11	Naval budget Naval building programs
DOV 11	rvavai building programs

Container	Contents
BOX 11	Naval conferences
	(3 folders)
BOX 11	Naval Historical Foundation, Washington, D.C.
BOX 11	Naval ordnance
BOX 11	Naval personnel
	(3 folders)
BOX 11	Naval policy
BOX 11	Naval strategy and tactics
BOX 12	Navies of the world
	(5 folders)
BOX 12	Navy League
BOX 12	Peace movements
BOX 12	Propaganda
BOX 12	Submarines
вох 13-20	Speech, Article, and Book File, 1913-1950
	Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of speeches,
	articles, books, book reviews, and press releases.
	Organized by type of writing. Titled speeches and articles are arranged
	alphabetically and listed individually under folder titles; untitled
	speeches and articles are arranged chronologically.
вох 13	Articles, reviews, miscellaneous writings, and speeches
вох 13	Bibliography
вох 13	Texts
вох 13	Titled
вох 13	A
вох 13	"The Abortive Duel on Hicacal Point," 1948
вох 13	"Accident on Scout Cruiser Trenton," undated
вох 13	"The 'Adams' Men-of-War," 1932
вох 13	"An Adequate Merchant Marine as an Auxiliary to the Navy and
	Army in Time of National Emergency," 1933
вох 13	Admiral Franklin Buchanan, Fearless Man of Action, by Charles Lee
	Lewis, book review, 1929
вох 13	"An Adventure in Diplomacy," undated
вох 13	"Air Bubbles," undated
BOX 13	"Aircraft," undated
вох 13	Aircraft and Commerce in War, by J. M. Spaight, book review, 1926
вох 13	"Aircraft Menace to Navies," undated
вох 13	"American Naval Participation in the Great War," undated
BOX 13	"American Shipping and the American Government," 1932
вох 13	"America's Economy in Armament Expenditures," undated
BOX 13	"Another Side of the 5-5-3 Argument," 1925
вох 13	"Armaments and Merchant Marine," 1926
BOX 13	"The Assistant Secretary of the Navy," 1932
BOX 13	B-E
BOX 13	"Balancing the Naval Budget," 1924
BOX 13	"Bomber Versus Battleship," 1922

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Container

BOX 13 "Brief Outline of Naval Conditions Existing Today," undated BOX 13 "Britain's Base at Singapore," 1924 BOX 13 "Column' as a Battle Formation," 1913 BOX 13 "Continuation of Supporting Data of Point 17," undated BOX 13 "Cruising Radius and Naval Bases," undated BOX 13 "The Demand for Another Naval Race," 1926, undated BOX 13 "D'Estaing's Fleet Revealed," undated BOX 13 "Development of Unification," 1950 BOX 13 "Did the United States Benefit from the Washington Conferen 1925 BOX 13 "Discussions at Geneva," 1927 BOX 13 "Discussions at Geneva," 1927 BOX 13 "The Disturbing Outlook in the Orient," 1937-1938 BOX 13 "Documents on Naval War With France," 1935 BOX 13 "Early Naval Use of Rocket Weapons," 1946 BOX 13 "Early Naval Use of Rocket Weapons," 1946 BOX 13 "Effect of Limitation of Armaments upon the United States Naval Personnel," 1921 BOX 13 "Fhe Elements of Leadership," 1920 BOX 13 "Farms and Ships," 1929 BOX 13 "Forgotten Fight in Florida," 1936 BOX 13 "The Frigate Constitution and American Seaborne Commerce," BOX 13 "Fundamental Fallacies of Anti-Navalists," 1931 BOX 13 "Georgia and the Navy," 1933 BOX 13 "Good-bye 'Albay'," undated BOX 13 "Good-bye 'Albay'," undated BOX 13 "Good-bye 'Albay'," undated BOX 13 "Henry the Navigator: The Story of a Great Prince and His Time Elaine Sanceau, book review, 1947 BOX 13 "How Large a Navy for the United States?" undated	
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