

REGISTER
Charles S. Adams (Dates Unknown)
Papers, 1813-1814; 1902; 1925; (1927-1931); 1934; 1945; 1847;
1951; 1954; 1957; n.d.

Size: 2 Manuscript Boxes

Processed: December 1995

Accession Number: 54

By: Kate Lennon

Acquisition: Materials donated to the USS Constitution Museum by Mrs. Barbara Adams Marshman, 1973.

Access: Unrestricted

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the curatorial staff.

Preface

This inventory is the first prepared by the USS Constitution Museum in preparation for an established archives in the near future.

The mission of the USS Constitution Museum is to collect, preserve, and display objects related to the sailing frigate USS *Constitution*; to teach about her origins, her role in the early republic and her continuing story, and to explore the spirit and ideals of the emerging nation.

The necessary staff for this project was made available through an internship program in cooperation with the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, Boston, MA.

Scope and Content Note

The Charles S. Adams papers, 1813-1814; 1902; 1925; (1927-1930); 1934; 1945; 1847; 1951; 1954; 1957; n.d., mainly document the 1927-1931 restoration of USS *Constitution*. Adams served as supervising draftsman for this restoration. Therefore, the bulk dates of 1927-1931 represent materials that Adams created during his work at *Constitution*—correspondence, notes, sketches, and plans. The material dated previous to 1927 document the reference materials Adams referred to in order to maintain historical accuracy. The remaining materials in the collection are those pieces of information collected by Adams about USS *Constitution*; these materials are mostly newspaper clippings and pamphlets. A

very small portion of the collection deals with the post-restoration period represented by newspaper clippings and correspondence.

Because this collection contains materials of different media, some items were removed for proper storage. The rolled blueprints are housed in flat files according to subject type. The photographic portion of the collection was removed at an earlier time and probably absorbed into the general photographic collection. These photos were not marked as having been removed from the Charles S. Adams papers and are not readily identifiable in the general collection. In addition, three notebooks were removed for display purposes.

Since the collection was not processed according to archival principles upon its arrival at the Museum, some vital information concerning original order was lost. After browsing the collection, in consultation with an inventory compiled by Sue Kriegsman, an order could be recreated. The material came to the Museum in ten envelopes. Each of these envelopes represents an aspect of USS *Constitution's* rigging—block, deadeyes, hearts, masts, spars, sails, etc. This is a logical breakdown of the material created by Adams. Furthermore, there were separate envelopes for correspondence, newspaper clippings and pamphlets, and photographs.

Within each series the materials are arranged by general topics that apply to most of the items—notes, sketches and plans, research materials. It is important to note that Adams inventoried some of his correspondence, arranging them chronologically. The un-inventoried correspondence are arranged in the same manner. The newspaper clippings are arranged alphabetically by newspaper and chronologically within each newspaper.

Since some of the material was created on acidic paper, a portion of the collection was photocopied onto acid-free paper to maintain valuable information. The photocopies have been attached to the originals. Similarly, the newspaper clippings were photocopied onto acid-free paper and the originals discarded in keeping with the current policy of the Museum. With the exception of the newspaper clippings, no other part of the collection was discarded.

Series List

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|-------|--------------|---|
| I. | Envelope #1 | Correspondence, 1931-1939; 1951; 1954; 1957 |
| II. | Envelope #2 | Blocks, Deadeyes, Hearts, 1877; (1927-1931) |
| III. | Envelope #3 | Newspaper Clippings and Pamphlets
(Photocopies of originals)
1925-1926; 1928-1934; 1945; 1947; n.d. |
| IV. | Envelope #4 | Photographs (Housed in Photo file)
Unidentified |
| V. | Envelope #5 | Masts and Spars, 1927-1931 |
| VI. | Envelope #6 | Rigging, 1906-1907; (1927-1931) |
| VII. | Envelope #7 | Guns and Gun Carriages, 1813-1814; (1927-1931) |
| VIII. | Envelope #8 | Sails, 1927-1931 |
| IX. | Envelope #9 | Plans and Sketches, 1906; (1927-1931); n.d. |
| X. | Envelope #10 | Miscellaneous, 1882; 1902; (1927-1931); 1934;
n.d. |

Series Description

Series I.

Envelope #1 Correspondence, 1931-1939; 1951; 1954; 1957

Box 1, Folders 1-5

The bulk of the correspondence was inventoried by Mr. Adams and is correspondence received from Commander Louis J. Gulliver relating to the National Cruise (1931-1934) that took place at the conclusion of the restoration. The other inventoried correspondence ranges from letters to family members to Christmas cards received. The correspondence not inventoried by Adams are of several subjects including: letters to a publishing company and correspondence relating to information about USS *Constitution's* restoration to Tufts University, Medford, MA. The university received one of *Constitution's* 1906 cannons. This series also contains notes and newspaper clippings about cannons, probably relating to the letters written to the trustees of Tufts University.

Series II.

Envelope #2 Blocks, Deadeyes, Hearts, 1877; (1927-1931)

Box 1, Folders 6-12

This series contains materials Adams used to assist him in obtaining the appropriate measurements for rigging elements: blocks, deadeyes, and hearts. These reference materials come from secondary sources, as well as measurements for similar ships. The bulk of the material are the actual sketches, drawings, and postcards drawn by Adams. Many of these sketches and plans are annotated.

Series III.

Envelope #3 Newspaper Clippings and Pamphlets, 1925-1926;
1928-1934; 1945; 1947; n.d.

Box 1, Folders 13-22 (Photocopies of originals)

The newspaper clippings in this series are from several Boston and Boston area newspapers. The clippings are all pictures, mostly of USS *Constitution* at different stages of repair, including President Hoover's visit in 1931. There are several clippings, which no evidence of source or date could be determined. The collection of pamphlets are similar in nature to the newspaper clippings. They include magazines and newsletters that either mention or show pictures of USS *Constitution*. One of the more interesting pamphlets is one dedicated to the "Save Old Ironsides" campaign, a fund raising effort prior to the restoration. As with the newspaper clippings, some of the pamphlets could not be dated.

Series IV.

Envelope #4 Photographs (Filed in general photograph collection.)

Box 1, Folder 23

Photographs belonging to this collection were not identified as such when placed in the general photograph collection, and therefore cannot be located within the file.

Series V.

Envelope #5 Masts and Spars, 1927-1931

Box 1, Folders 24-28

This series contains information on the materials used in assembling the masts and spars, including the appropriate specifications. Also included are Adams' notes relating to masts and spars. The sketches and blueprints were annotated by Adams. As with other parts of the ship, Adams consulted

secondary sources, and in some cases primary material to maintain historical accuracy. These materials can be found in this series.

Series VI.

Envelope #6 Rigging, 1906-1907; (1927-1931)

Box 1, Folders 29-32

This series consists of an arrangement of notes and references concerning rigging. The material includes information such as weights and measurements of ropes as well as materials that govern the rules of rigging. Adams apparently used the plans from the 1906-1907 restoration to guide his designs. Several sketches appear in this series relating to rigging and in some instances contain Adams' annotations.

Series VII.

Envelope #7 Guns and Gun Carriages, 1813-1814; (1927-1931)

Box 2, Folders 1-5

This series contains samples of cannon similar to the original guns found aboard USS *Constitution*. Among notes written by Adams are sketches of guns from several periods. These materials not only reveal the dimensions for the cannons, but also their location and the correct positioning of the gun crew. The references take two forms—written description and visual diagram.

Series VIII.

Envelope #8 Sails, 1927-1931

Box 2, Folders 6-8

The bulk of the material in this series relates to the fabric and dimensions for sails of ship similar to USS *Constitution*. The material ranges from secondary work on practices in sail making to sail dimensions for British frigates and USS *United States*. Also included are Adams' notes on dimensions for sails.

Series IX.

Envelope #9 Plans and Sketches, 1906; (1927-1931); n.d.

Box 2, Folders 9-15

This series contains sketches and plans from not only the 1927-1931 restoration, but also from the 1906-1907 restoration. This series contains plans and sketches Adams drew that include some areas already mentioned such as: spars, masts, and sails. Some of the more interesting sketches and plans include designs for furniture and other decorations such as doors and lockers.

There is also a reference to the coppering of the keel. As with other series, there are extensive references relating to similar ships or instructions for rigging dimensions. Additional plans and sketches can be obtained from the blueprint file.

Series X.

Envelope #10 Miscellaneous, 1882; 1902; (1927-1931); 1934; n.d.

Box 2, Folders 16-23

The miscellaneous series can be broken down into several subseries—notes, research materials, post-restoration materials, Boston Navy Yard, Navy documents, pamphlets and newspaper clippings, and USS *Constitution* stationary. Even though these materials are broader in scope than the other series, all items deal with either USS *Constitution* or the 1927-1931 restoration. The post-restoration documents include newspaper clippings.

Container List

Box	Folder	
		Series I.
		Envelope #1: Correspondence
1	1	Inventoried, 1931-1939
	2	Inventoried, 1931-1939
	3	Uninventoried, 1931; 1951, 1954; 1957
	4	Notes relating to guns, 1957
	5	Newspaper clippings, 1957
		Series II.
		Envelope #2; Blocks, Deadeyes, Hearts
	6	Blocks—Block list, 1927-1931
	7	Blocks—Notes, 1927-1931
	8	Blocks—Research materials, 1927-1931
	9	Deadeyes—Notes, 1927-1931
	10	Deadeyes—Sketches, 1927-1931
	11	Rigging guide, 1877
	12	Sketches and plans, 1927-1931
		Series III.
		Envelope #3: Newspaper clippings and pamphlets (Photo-copies of originals; originals discarded)
	13	<u>Boston Evening Post</u> , 1930-1931
	14	<u>Boston Globe</u> , 1930

15 Boston Herald, 1931-1934
 16 Boston Post, 1934; 1947
 17 Boston Record, 1933
 18 Boston Traveler, 1930
 19 Quincy Patriot Ledger, 1945
 20 Newspaper clippings—Sources and dates
 unknown

Box	Folder	
1	21	Pamphlets, 1925-1926; 1928-1930; 1945; 1947
	22	Pamphlets, n.d.
		Series IV. Envelope #4: Photographs (See Photo. File)
	23	Notes relating to photographs, 1963; n.d.
		Series V. Envelope #5: Masts and spars
		See plans in blueprint file
	24	Masts—Notes and sketches, 1927-1931
	25	Yards—Notes and sketches, 1927-1931
	26	Materials and specifications, 1927-1931
	27	Blueprints and sketches, 1927-1931
	28	Research materials, 1927-1931
		Series VI. Envelope #6: Rigging
29	Rules, 1927-1931	
30	Measurements, 1927-1931	
31	Notes—Hanks, messenger, bolts, 1927-1931	
32	References, 1927-1931	

Box	Folder	
		Series VII. Envelope #7 Guns and gun carriages
2	1	Notes, 1927-1931
	2	Sketches, 1927-1931
	3	Research materials, 1813
	4	Research materials, 1813
	5	Research materials, 1814
		Series VIII. Envelope #8: Sails
	6	Notes, 1927-1931
	7	Dimensions, 1927-1931
	8	Research materials, 1930
		Series IX. Envelope #9: Plans and sketches
	9	Restoration, 1906
	10	Plans—Restoration, 1906; 1963
	11	Plans—Restoration, 1927
	12	Sketches, 1927-1931
	13	Sketches, 1927-1931
	14	Research materials, 1927-1931
	15	Correspondence, n.d.
		Series X. Envelope #10: Miscellaneous
	16	Notes, n.d.
	17	Research materials, 1902; n.d.
	18	Post-restoration materials, 1931
	19	Boston Navy Yard, 1882
	20	Navy documents, 1930; n.d.
	21	Pamphlets, 1929-1930; n.d.
	22	Newspaper clippings, 1929; 1934
	23	Blank USS <i>Constitution</i> stationary, 1929