

Guide to the Langhorne Gibson Papers

MS 237



compiled by Ruth Gay and Carol King

March 1982

Yale University Library
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 237

CREATOR: Gibson, Langhorne, 1899-

TITLE: Langhorne Gibson papers

DATES: 1710-1957

BULK DATES: 1914-1957

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.75 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of pamphlets and other printed matter with some letters, diaries and manuscripts relating to naval affairs. The largest block of material concerns World War I, particularly the questions of the German naval mutiny of 1917, the surrender of the German fleet in November 1918, and the scuttling of its most important units at Scapa Flow in 1919. Also in the collection are circa two thousand postcards showing World War I naval scenes and photographs of American transports.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0237>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0237>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession 1992-M-004 was transferred from the Bibliography Department in 1991.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Langhorne Gibson Papers (MS 237). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Langhorne Gibson graduated from Yale College with the Class of 1922. He was apprenticed with the Crowell Publishing Company in New York City, and was author of *Death of a Fleet* and *The Riddle of Jutland*. Gibson's hobbies were hunting and yachting, and he designed and built Diana, a motor-sailer on which he and his wife lived during the first year of their marriage. He married Parthenia Ross in 1936 and they had seven children.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of pamphlets and other printed matter with some letters, diaries and manuscripts relating to naval affairs. The largest block of material concerns World War I, particularly the questions of the German naval mutiny of 1917, the surrender of the German fleet in November 1918, and the scuttling of its most important units at Scapa Flow in 1919. Also in the collection are circa two thousand postcards showing World War I naval scenes and photographs of American transports.

Arrangement

The records are arranged by accession.

Collection Contents

Original accession

Personal papers

b.1 Letters

b.1 Gibson, Langhorne
Log book of the Yacht *Diana*, from Nassau to the Solomon Islands, 1934-1935.
Specifications for the construction of the Yacht *Diana*.

Collected letters

b.1 Calendar of papers delivered by Captain L.L. Black, U.S.N., to Robert F. Metzdorf 4 January 1957.

b.1 Ammen, Daniel. Washington.
A.L.S. to General Wright. 1p. 21 Feb. 1888.
Social note, asking him to visit.

b.1 Bainbridge, William. Philadelphia.
A.L.S. to Robert Kennedy. 1p., address on p. 4. 17 Jun. 1822.
He forwards an order from the Navy Department.

b.1 Bartlett, John R. Brooklyn.
A.L.S. to G.C. Brevoort. 2p. 30 Sept. 1883.
He gives details about cataloguing the late Mr. Nurphy's library.

Belch, George. U.S.A. St. Louis.
A.L.S. to Maj. John Symington. 2p. 17 May 1835.
He orders equipment to be sent to St. Louis from the Watervilet Arsenal.
[Transferred to Beinecke, Western Americana.]

b.1 Chadwick, French E. Newport, R.I.
A.L.S. to James Grant Wilson. 1p. (double sheet) 14 Feb. 1902.
He thanks him for an article.

b.1 Chauncey, Isaac. Portsmouth.
.L.S. to Amos Binney. 1p., address on p. 4. 21 Oct. 1815.
He orders the gig sent for the *Franklin* and inquires about cabin furniture for the *Independence*.

b.1 Chauncey, Issac. New York.
A.L.S. to P.P. Blair. 1p., address on p. 4. 5 Nov. 1832.
He encloses \$5.00 for a subscription to *The Globe*.

Collected letters (continued)

- b.1 Crane, William M. Washington.
L.S. to unidentified recipient. 1p. 22 Oct. 1842.

Inquires about felt required for covering shot, in experimenting with Captain Stockton's gun.
-
- b.1 Engle, F., Capt., U.S.N. New York.
A.L.S. to A.O. Dayton. 1p. 20 Jan. 1858.

He inquires about a new pay schedule; Commodore Paulding sends regards.
-
- b.1 Farragut, David G. New York.
A.L.S. to Gideon Welles. 2p. (double sheet) 23 Jun. 1866.

He acknowledges receipt of a pending bill and a copy of the Register; he will be glad at all times to advise about naval affairs.
-
- b.1 Harwood, Andrew A.
Signature, clipped from a letter.
-
- b.1 Hobson, Richmond P. Washington.
A.L.S. to F.L. Seeley. 1p. 21 May 1926.

Letter of thanks for courtesies extended.
-
- b.1 Kimball, William W. Washington.
A.L.S. to Mr. Gallup. 1p. (double sheet) Monday morning, no year.

Urges him to disregard Nicaraguan reports "based on dirty American dollars."
-
- b.1 MacDonough, Thomas. Messina, Sicily.
A.L.S. to Samuel L. Southard. 1p., endorsed on p. 4. 12 May 1825.

He sends (from on board *The Constitution*) a list of bills of exchange drawn against Southard (total of \$48,000).
-
- b.1 Morris, _____. Washington.
A.L.S. to Alexander Parris. 1p. 19 Dec. 1835.

He has received the accounts and will write as soon as the Auditor has given a decision.
-
- Perry, Matthew C. New York.
A.L.S. to Governor Hoppin. 2p. (double sheet) 28 Mar. 1856.

He hopes to arrange a meeting; he has sent him a copy of an article. [Missing, 12/79]
-
- b.1 Philip, John W. U.S.S. *New York*, off Tompkinsville.
A.L.S. to Willam D. Murphy. 3p (double sheet) 4 Nov., no year.

He regrets his inability to accept an invitation; he will be at sea.
-

Collected letters (continued)

- b.1 Porter, David D. Annapolis.
L.S. to Mrs. Daniel Ammen. 1p. 29 Feb. 1868.
He forwards a letter received from Captain Ammen.
-
- b.1 Preble, George H. Boston.
A.L.S. to H.B. Dawson. 4p. (double sheet) 15 Oct. 1872.
He gives details about his publications; he will argue his restoration of rank before the next session of Congress.
-
- Ringgold, Cadwalader. Baltimore.
A.L.S. to Charles Wilkes. 1p., with address on p. 4. 21 Apr. 1838.
He will await his arrival in Baltimore and discuss the refitting of the brig. [Transferred to Beinecke, Western Americana.]
-
- b.1 Seoree, Uriel. Pago-Pago, Samoa.
A.L.S. to the Rev. Mr. Lawrence F. Bower. 2p. (double sheet), undated.
He gives details of the commanding officers at the Tutuila Naval Station.

Manuscript collection

- b.1 Leahy, Lamar Richard, 1880-
T.N.S., 18 Apr. 1933, to accompany printed muster roll of the U.S.S. *Noma*, 1917-1918.
-
- b.1 Allard, G. W.
Diary, 1914-1918, on board the S.S. *Port Lincoln*.
-
- b.1 [Unidentified]
English
Notebook [apparently compiled in 1811] in two or more unidentified hands containing: 1. Renseignements sur la Mer Noire, 1809, 102 p. in French. 2. A general statement concerning the export and import trade of Russia. 3. Note on the Mediterranean trade as connected with Russia. Also five other similar essays. Bound in 1 vol.

Research material

- b.1 *Cruise of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich* by Fritz Runge
English
Typescript, 198 p. Note by Gibson says mss is badly written and padded, that he purchased it with understanding it was not to be published.

Excerpts from naval war books

- b.2 1. English translation of excerpts from *Der Grosse Krieg 1914/18*, edited by M. Schwarte, typed.
-
- b.2 2. Put out your boiler fires, a historical play by Ernst Toller, translated from the German, typed.
-
- b.2 3. Christmas eve, 1914. (Memoirs of an officer of the Imperial Russian navy.) Signed A. Loukine.

Research material > Excerpts from naval war books (continued)

b. 2	4. The battle of the Bosphorous. (Russian pre-dreadnoughts and the "Goeben" in 1915.) Signed S. Loureine.	
b. 2	5. The submarine mine-layer <i>Crab</i> on service in the great war. (Memoirs of an officer of the Imperial Russian navy.)	
Miscellaneous concerning the surrender of the German fleet		
b. 2	1. 4 pages cut out from <i>The Wonder of the War at Sea</i> by Holt and Wheeler.	
b. 2	2. 8 pages cut out from <i>The Great War—The Triumph of Democracy</i>	
b. 2	3. 14 pages cut out from <i>Dress of the Day</i> , a novel by a British R.N. Surgeon.	
b. 2	4. Notes on the Von Meurer Conference, held on the 15th and 16th of November, 1918; accompanied by a letter from an Admiralty clerk.	1918 November
b. 2	5. <i>Blue Jackets of 1918</i> , by Willis J. Abbot, typed mss.	
b. 2	6. Notes on <i>Der Tag</i>	
b. 2	6 memoranda from Navy Department, Office of Naval Operations, Washington, concerning German vessels	1920
b. 2	8. Ex-German fleet, how disposed of. Extract from <i>Brassey's Annual</i>	1920-1921
b. 2	9. Present position of the German war ships that have been salvaged at Scapa Flow	1919 September 4
b. 2	10. Surrender of the German fleet, by Capt. Schnell, German navy (ret.) source. German officers' journal.	
b. 2	11. Copy of the order which Meurer sent via radio to the commander-in-chief after his conference with Beatty.	
b. 2	12. The German battleship <i>Baden</i> from <i>Surrendered</i> by Griff. Typewritten transcript.	
b. 2	13. "Conclusions" from <i>Merchantmen-at-Arms</i> by David Bone. Typed transcript.	
b. 2	14. U.S.S. <i>Ostfriesland</i> , at sea, enroute to N.Y. Report of the commanding officer to Navy Department, re: ex-German ships, preparation of cruise to the U.S.	1920 August 4
b. 2	15. Extract from <i>The British Submarine in Being</i> by J.A. Blackburn and Kenneth Watkins, London, Chapter XI "Fritz," Chapter X "Der Tag"	
The German naval mutiny		
b. 2	1. The trouble in the fleet (1917). Trans. from <i>Der Marxismus und das Deutsche Heer im Weltkreig</i> by Major E. O. Volkmann, Berlin.	1925
b. 2	2. Vidil, Charles: <i>Mutinies in the German Navy</i> , p. 104, typed translation	
b. 2	3. Germany—Mutinies in the navy and shipyards. Naval intelligence report.	

Research material > The German naval mutiny (continued)

b. 2	4. Germany—Disciplinary measures against mutineers. Naval intelligence report.	
b. 2	5. Mutinies and outbreaks at Kiel and Flensburg. Naval intelligence report.	
b. 2	6. Notes on 1917 mutiny.	
b. 2	7. 1917 Mutiny in the German fleet. A copy of a secret British bulletin sent to U.S. Navy at the time.	
	The German naval mutiny	1918
b. 2	1. Articles and notes.	
b. 2	2. Includes scrapbook containing clippings, photographs, typescripts and documents relating mainly to naval affairs, 1917-1936. Most of the correspondence was originally filed in this scrapbook and is now in box 1.	
b. 2	3. Miscellaneous papers removed from the scrapbook.	
b. 2	The Firth and the Scapa Flow Typescripts of articles and dispatches from the <i>London Times</i> , 8 Nov 1918- 11 Jan 1930.	
b. 3	The Firth and the Scapa Flow Typescripts of articles and dispatches from the <i>New York Times</i> , 1918 Nov-1920 May 15.	
	Additional printed matter	
b. 4, f. 33	Argentina	1948
b. 4, f. 34	Austro-Hungarian Empire	Undated
b. 4, f. 35	Canada	1944
b. 4, f. 36	Finland	1900
b. 4, f. 37	France	1939
b. 4, f. 38-41	Germany	1786, 1875, 1882-1884, 1900-1924, 1934, 1940-1944, undated
b. 4, f. 42-43	Great Britain	1710, 1740, 1773, 1796, 1841-1849
b. 5, f. 44-46	Great Britain	1867-1869, 1876, 1911-1912, 1936, 1944-1947, undated
b. 5, f. 47	Netherlands	1858, 1897, 1942, undated

Additional printed matter (continued)

b. 5, f. 48	Poland	Undated
b. 5, f. 49	Sweden	1935
b. 6, f. 50-56	United States	1840-1898, 1903-1919, 1926-1948, undated
b. 7	The Deed at Scapa	
b. 8	The Deed at Scapa	
b. 8	The Mystery at Scapa Flow	
b. 8	Scapa Flow	
b. 8	Postcards and photographs of World War I naval scenes	

Accession 1992-M-004: Additional Material, Undated

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Transferred from the Bibliography Department, Sterling Memorial Library, 1991 Jul 26

b.1	Photographs of American transport ships used during World War I	Undated
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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.

Subjects

Naval art and science
Naval battles
Shipping
Ships
World War, 1914-1918
World War, 1914-1918 -- Naval operations
World War, 1914-1918 -- Pictorial works

Geographic Names

Black Sea
Germany -- History
Russia -- Commerce

Genres / Formats

Logbooks

Names

Gibson, Langhorne, 1899-

Corporate Body

Germany. Kriegsmarine