

# Robert Wilden Neeser collection

MS 366



July 2008

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 366

**CREATOR:** Neeser, Robert Wilden, 1884-

**TITLE:** Robert Wilden Neeser collection

**DATES:** 1798-1909

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 20 linear feet (16 boxes, 1 folio)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The major part of this collection is made up of 58 volumes of logbooks for fifty-one British warships (1808-1840). The remainder of the collection consists of research material for his study of the history of the United States Navy (published 1909). Included are a list of vessels (1775-1907), a list of logbooks (1800-1907) and copies of letters from the archives of the United States Navy (1798-1842). Also included is a volume of records kept ca. 1870 by Horace A. Blanchard concerning the United States frigate Sabine.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0366>

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## 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.0366>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Robert W. Neeser.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown, though much of the material in this collection is likely in the public domain. 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Robert Wilden Neeser Collection (MS 366). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Born July 16, 1884, Seabright, NJ; missing since September 30, 1940, Lyons, France (later presumed dead).

Father, John Caspar Neeser, partner Isehn, Neeser & Company, dry goods, New York City, son of Hans Caspar and Anna (Ruf) Neeser Mother, Josephine Clementine (Wilden) Neeser; daughter of Jean Frederic Joseph and Marie Ursole Louise (Proutier) Wilden.

The Browning School Second dispute appointment Junior year, first dispute appointment, George Washington Egleston Historical Prize, and John Addison Porter Prize Senior year; Freshman Crew, member The Pundits.

Studied government archives on naval history Washington, DC, 1906-7; with Charles Scribner's Sons, New York City, 1907-8, M A. Yale 1909, studied American and foreign naval history and accompanied United States naval forces on cruises 1909- 14, American representative "Oeuvre Mon Soldat 1915" (society to aid correspondence with French soldiers at the front 1915-18; awarded Medaille de la Reconnaissance Franchise 1918) and editor. *Lettres de Mon Soldat* (1916), volunteer assistant American naval attache, Pans, 1917-18; commissioned First Lieutenant, U.S Infantry, June 15, 1918; attached to Intelligence Section, Services of Supply, American Expeditionary Forces, and served as assistant to Chief of Operations, Second Section, General Staff, France, until discharge May 12, 1919; liaison officer historical section American naval attache, Pans, 1919-21; manager Western Union Telegraph Company, Paris, 1921-23; with National City Bank of New York, Paris, 1923-40, awarded French Academic palms 1919 and chevalier of Legion of Honor 1927; did research work at Bibhotheque Nationale, Pans; author: *Statistical and Chronological History of the United States Navy*; *A Landsman's Log*; *Our Navy and the Next War*; *Our Many- Sided Navy*, *Ship Names of the United States Navy*, translator: Rostand's *Chantecler*, Claudel Paul's *Ute D'or*, and *The City*; editor: *American Naval Songs and Ballads*, member Squadron A, New York National Guard, secretary-treasurer Naval History Society 1909-16, secretary Yale Alumni Association in France 1932-36; associate member Academie de Marine, member U S. Naval Institute (Annapolis), American Historical Association, and Navy committee of National Security League, and Roman Catholic church.

Married May 15, 1919, in Paris, Susanne, daughter of General Emile Eugene Belin. Children: Jean Stanislas (deceased); Odilc Elvine de Borde; Beatrice; Robert Martial (grad ecole Navale), and Marie-Jose (deceased).

Presumed dead after being missing since September 30, 1940. Survived by wife, two daughters, one son, and two sisters, Miss Elvme Louise Neeser of New York City, and Madame Charles Lestelle of Paris.

Source: *Yale Obituary Record*, 1948-1949, pages 176-177.

## **Scope and Contents**

The major part of this collection is made up of 58 volumes of logbooks for fifty-one British warships (1808-1840). The remainder of the collection consists of research material for his study of the history of the United States Navy (published 1909). Included are a list of vessels (1775-1907), a list of logbooks (1800-1907) and copies of letters from the archives of the United States Navy (1798-1842). Also included is a volume of records kept ca. 1870 by Horace A. Blanchard concerning the United States frigate Sabine.

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## **Arrangement**

Logbooks arranged alphabetically by ship.

## Collection Contents

### Original accession

	Log Books of British war ships	1808-1840
b. 1, f. 75	Alacrity	1808-1810
b. 1	Alceste	1809-1812
b. 1	Argus	1809-1810
b. 1	Barracout	1810
b. 1	Barfleur	1812-1813
b. 2	Beaver	1812-1815
b. 2	Centinel	1810-1811
b. 2	Chiffonne	1808-1811
b. 2	Conflict	1818-1809
b. 2	Constant	1808-1811
b. 2	Constant	1810-1811
b. 3	Cornwallis	1808-1837
b. 3	Crane	1813-1814
b. 3	Cruizer	1809-1812
b. 3	Eclipse	1836
b. 3	Edgar	1807-1816
b. 4	Edgar	1809-1810
b. 4	Hermes	1832
b. 4	Imperieus	1809-1812
b. 4	Iphigenia	1820-1821
b. 5	Iphigenia	1818-1822
b. 5	Lightning	1827-1828
b. 5	Lion	1823-1824
b. 5	Liverpool	1818-1822
b. 5	Madagascar	1832

## Log Books of British war ships (continued)

b. 5, f. 6	Maidstone	1829-1831
	A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	
b. 5	Medina	1824-1825
b. 6, f. 1	MOnkey	1827-1830
b. 6	Nimrod	1824-1833
b. 6	Phoebe	1808-1813
b. 7	Pickle	1827-1828
b. 7	Piedmontaise	1811-1812
b. 7	Prospera	1809-1813
b. 7	Prospero	1809-1811
b. 7	Raleigh	1808-1814
b. 8	Raleigh	1830-1834
b. 8	Ranger	1808-1813
b. 8	Rhadamanthus	1833-1840
b. 8, f. 4	Rodney	1810-1811
b. 9	Rover	1808-1809
b. 9	Rover	1832-1838
b. 9	San Josef	1832-835
b. 10	San Josef	1809-1813
b. 10	Sapphire	1813-1836
b. 10	Sea Horse	1807-1814
b. 11	Snake	1808-1836
b. 11	Standard	1809-1812
b. 11	Talavera	1824-1831
b. 12	Tarter	1818-1823
b. 12	Tribune	1834-1839
b. 12	Tyrian	1826-1828
b. 13	Unicorn	1809-1814
b. 13	Vengeance	1808-1809

## Log Books of British war ships (continued)

b. 13	Vengeur	1810-1815
b. 13	Volage	1812
b. 14	Warrior	1815
b. 14	Zealous	1808-1814
b. 14	Zenobia	1809-1814
Other Volumes		
b. 1	Complete list of the log books on file in the Bureau of Navigation, Dept. of the Navy, Washington, D. C., 1800-1907 Typescript	1907
b. 1	Complete list of the vessels of the u.s. Navy, 1775-1907, Typescript (bound with above).	1907
b. 16	List of Unofficial Publications consulted and referred to in the compilation of a statistical and chronological history of the U.S. Navy. Typescript	1907
b. 17	A Statistical and Chronological History of the United States Navy, from the Commencement to the present day. Compiled from the most reliable sources [ <del>crossed out and written above: Manuscript and official sources</del> ] by Robert Hilden Neeser, 1904-1906. With items, laid in Published by Macmillan, New York	1909
	The Trent Affair, by "Nauphilos." Typescript, 1906. 193p. John Addison Porter prize in American-history, Yale University, 1906 [see RU 331, ACCN 19ND-A-381, Box 8, Folder 69]	
b. 16	Watch, quarter & station bill, U.S. Frigate "Sabine." Horace A. Blanchard, Midn. U.S.N. 1 vol	1870?
b. 15	U.S. Navy Dept. Archives . Executive letters ... 1798-1842, typewritten for R. W. Neeser. Washington, 3v.	1900



## **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.

### **Geographic Names**

Europe  
Great Britain

### **Genres / Formats**

Logbooks

### **Names**

Blanchard, Horace A., d. 1876  
Neeser, Robert Wilden, 1884-

### **Corporate Bodies**

Great Britain. Royal Navy -- History  
United States. Navy (History)