

# Guide to the Asa Fish Papers

MS 963



compiled by Susan Grigg

September 1982

Yale University Library  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	3
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	3
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	6

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 963

**CREATOR:** Fish, Asa, 1790-1861

**TITLE:** Asa Fish papers

**DATES:** 1810-1855

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Letters from family, friends, and business associates of Asa Fish chiefly relating to ocean going trade, whaling, and sealing around the Cape of Good Hope and marine insurance. Also some material on politics in Connecticut.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0963>

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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.0963>.

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

Purchased, 1956.

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Asa Fish Papers (MS 963). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Asa Fish was born in Stonington, Connecticut, on July 17, 1790. He was the son of Sands Fish and Bridget Gallup. He was a merchant, insurance agent, bank and railroad director, selectman, probate judge, state legislator, and political and civic leader of Stonington. He was married to Prudence Brown Dean on September 30, 1818. Fish died in Mystic, Connecticut, on April 20, 1861.

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## Scope and Contents

The Asa Fish Papers consist of letters, printed notices, and commercial papers that Fish received from relatives, friends, and associates in business and public life. The letters touch on all his interests but are mainly concerned with ocean-going trade (mainly between American ports), marine insurance, whaling and sealing around the Cape of Good Hope, banking in New London County, minor business of the probate court, and Republican-Whig politics in Connecticut. The coverage is fragmentary.

## Collection Contents

Correspondence	
b. 1, f. 1	1810-1823
b. 1, f. 2	1824-1828
b. 1, f. 3	1829-1830
b. 1, f. 4	1831-1833
b. 1, f. 5	1834-1838
b. 1, f. 6	1839-1843
b. 1, f. 7	1844-1847
b. 1, f. 8	1848 English
b. 1, f. 9	1849 Feb-Aug
b. 1, f. 10	1849 Sep-Dec
b. 1, f. 11	1850 Jan-Mar
b. 1, f. 12	1850 Apr-Jun
b. 1, f. 13	1850 Jul-Aug
b. 1, f. 14	1850 Sep-Dec
b. 1, f. 15	1851 Jan-Feb
b. 1, f. 16	1851 Mar-May
b. 1, f. 16	1855 English
b. 1, f. 17	n.d.

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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

Business  
Merchants  
Sealing  
Shipping  
Whaling

### Geographic Names

Connecticut -- Commerce  
Connecticut -- Politics and government --  
1775-1865  
Stonington (Conn.)  
United States -- Politics and government

### Occupations

Politicians

### Names

Fish, Asa, 1790-1861  
Fish, James Deane, b. 1819  
Fish, Silas, b. 1825  
Perkins, Thomas Clap, 1798-1870