



Independence Seaport Museum

Guide to the Thayer Family Collection

Creator: John (Jack) B. Thayer III, with later additions by his son, John B. Thayer IV.

Dates: 1892-1986

Quantity: 10 boxes

Call Phrase: Thayer Family Collection

Provenance: Donated by Mrs. John B. Thayer IV. ISM number: 1989.033

Processed by: Megan Hahn Fraser

Biographical note: The Thayers were a prominent Philadelphia-area family at the turn of the 20th century. John Borland Thayer, Jr. was a vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad when he died in the sinking of *Titanic* on April 15, 1912. For further information about the Thayer Family and their experiences aboard that ship, see *The Sinking of the S. S. Titanic* by John B. Thayer [III] and *A Night to Remember* by Walter Lord.

Scope and Content: The Thayer Family Collection consists of more than 700 items of ocean liner ephemera dating from 1892 to 1986, including postcards, abstracts of logs, advertisements, passenger lists, menus, deck plans, photographs, stationery and baggage tags from ships of more than 40 lines, such as Cunard, White Star, Norddeutscher Lloyd, Red Star, Hamburg-Amerika, United States, and Compagnie Generale Transatlantique (French Line). The collection also includes one of the only extant first class passenger lists from *Titanic* and other materials related to the Thayer family's experience on the ship's only voyage.

Restrictions: The *Titanic* passenger list, and other items deemed fragile, are restricted. Surrogates will be provided for researchers' use.

Container List

Box 1.

Folder 1. Allen Line

Folder 2. American: Friesland – New York
 Folder 3. American: Noordland – Westernland
 Folder 4. American Export
 Folder 5. Anchor
 Folder 6. Atlantic Transport
 Folder 7. Beaver
 Folder 8. Blue Star
 Folder 9. Booth
 Folder 10. Canadian Pacific
 Folder 11. Coastwise Cruise

Box 2.

Folder 1. Compania Genovese di Armamento
 Folder 2. Compagnie Generale Transatlantique: Bretagne – Lafayette
 Folder 3. Compagnie Generale Transatlantique: Lorraine – Touraine
 Folder 4. Cunard: Abyssinia – Ausonia
 Folder 5. Cunard: Aquitania
 Folder 6. Cunard: Berengaria
 Folder 7. Cunard: Campania – Carinthia
 Folder 8. Cunard: Carmania – Caronia

Box 3.

Folder 1. Cunard: Carpathia
 Folder 2. Cunard: Etruria – Lucania
 Folder 3. Cunard: Lusitania/Mauretania, Mauretania II
 Folder 4. Cunard: Mauretania (1 of 2)
 Folder 5. Cunard: Mauretania (2 of 2)
 Folder 6. Cunard: Media – Parthia
 Folder 7. Cunard: Queen Elizabeth

Box 4.

Folder 1. Cunard: Queen Elizabeth II (1 of 3)
 Folder 2. Cunard: Queen Elizabeth II (2 of 3)
 Folder 3. Cunard: Queen Elizabeth II (3 of 3)
 Folder 4. Cunard: Queen Mary (1 of 4)
 Folder 5. Cunard: Queen Mary (2 of 4)
 Folder 6. Cunard: Queen Mary (3 of 4)

Box 5.

Folder 1. Cunard: Queen Mary (4 of 4)
 Folder 2. Cunard: Samaria – Scotia
 Folder 3. Cunard: Scythia – Umbria
 Folder 4. Cunard: General
 Folder 5. Cunard: General
 Folder 6. Dominion
 Folder 7. Elder, Dempster

Folder 8. Fabre
 Folder 9. Guion
 Folder 10. Hamburg-Amerika: Amerika – Corcovado
 Folder 11. Hamburg-Amerika: Furst Bismarck – Steigerwald

Box 6.

Folder 1. Holland-America: Nieuw Amsterdam – Volendam
 Folder 2. Holland-America: General
 Folder 3. Home
 Folder 4. Inman
 Folder 5. Italian
 Folder 6. L and NW Railway
 Folder 7. Lamport and Holt
 Folder 8. Leyland
 Folder 9. Moore-McCormack
 Folder 10. National
 Folder 11. Nelson
 Folder 12. Netherlands-American Steam Navigation Co.
 Folder 13. Norddeutscher Lloyd: Bremen, Bremen II
 Folder 14. Norddeutscher Lloyd: Europa

Box 7.

Folder 1. Norddeutscher Lloyd: Hanover – Prinzregent Luitpold
 Folder 2. Norddeutscher Lloyd: Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse, Kaiser Wilhelm II
 Folder 3. Norwegian-American
 Folder 4. Orient
 Folder 5. P & O
 Folder 6. Pacific Mail Steam Ship
 Folder 7. Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
 Folder 8. Red Star
 Folder 9. Royal
 Folder 10. Royal Mail Steam Packet
 Folder 11. Royal Viking
 Folder 12. Safmarine
 Folder 13. Shaw Savill
 Folder 14. Sitmar
 Folder 15. Swedish-American
 Folder 16. Union-Castle
 Folder 17. United States
 Folder 18. United States: Manhattan

Box 8.

Folder 1. White Star: Adriatic – Britannic II
 Folder 2. White Star: Canopic – Georgic
 Folder 3. White Star: Haverford – Megantic
 Folder 4. White Star: Oceanic – Pittsburgh

- Folder 5. White Star: Republic – Teutonic
- Folder 6. Photographs
- Folder 7. Postcards: other/unidentified lines and non-ship
- Folder 8. List of Ships Memorandum, n. d.
- Folder 9. List of Ships Stateroom Plans, n.d.
- Folder 10. Clipping: Scribner's Magazine, "20 Questions About Steamships"
- Folder 11. Basset Lowke Ship Models brochure and list
- Folder 12. Roach, W.T. Pennsylvania Railroad Pass, 1932
- Folder 13. Program University of Pennsylvania, Men's Glee Club 1941
- Folder 14. First Day Covers: Maritime England Year Series, 1982
British Ships Series, 1969

Box 9.

- Folder A. Thayer, J. B. Jr. Letters received, 1894, 1903 and n.d.
- Folder B. Thayer, J. B. III. Obituaries, memorials, list of flowers for funeral, 1945
- Folder C. Thayer, J. B. IV. Letters received, 1936, 1984, 1986
- Folder D. Thayer, Marian L. Letter received, 1924
- Folder 1. *List of First Class Passengers, Royal and U. S. Mail S. S. "Titanic" from Southampton and Cherbourg to New York (via Queenstown) Wednesday, 10th April, 1912.* 22 pp. bound.
- Folder 2. Autograph note listing expenses totaling \$56.25. 1 p. 'On board R. M. S. "Titanic"' stationery.
- Folder 3. Autograph letter signed Marian [Longstreth Morris Thayer], Wednesday, [April 10,] 1912 to her sister. 3 pp. "On Board R. M. S. "Titanic"' stationery.
- Folder 4. Typescript press release of statement of J. B. Thayer III, April 20, 1912. 4 pp. on Pennsylvania Railroad stationery.
- Folder 5. Autograph memorial "In Memoriam John Borland Thayer, Titanic, Fifteen April Nineteen twelve" by Georg Reinhard, April 20, 1912. 10 p. bound
- Folder 6. Newspaper clipping, "Boy Sucked Down, Escapes" Providence, RI *Journal*, April 21, 1912.
- Folder 7. Newspaper clipping, "John B. Thayer," *Boston Evening Transcript*, April 22, 1912.
- Folder 8. Autograph letter signed W. D. Winsor, Hedgeley to Mary, April 23, 1912. 1 p.
- Folder 9. Autograph letter signed Evelyn Hamon Graeme, Ouchy-Lausanne to Mrs. Thayer, April 30, 1912. 3 pp.
- Folder 10. Black and white photograph, signed A. H. Rostron, n.d.
- Folder 11. *List of Saloon Passengers, Twin-Screw Steamship "Carpathia," From New York, Thursday, April 11, 1912, calling at Gibraltar, Genoa, Naples, Trieste and Fiume.* 16 pp. bound.
- Folder 12. Copy photograph: *Titanic* gymnasium.
- Folder 13. Copy photograph: *Titanic* at Queenstown.
- Folder 14. Copy photograph: *Titanic* lifeboats and *Carpathia* in New York.
- Folder 15. Copy photograph: *Titanic* lifeboat.
- Folder 16. Copy photograph: *Titanic* lifeboat #6.
- Folder 17. Copy photograph: *Titanic* lifeboats D and #4.
- Folder 18. Copy photograph: *Titanic* overturned collapsible lifeboat and crew of *Mackay*

-Bennett

- Folder 19. Telegram from *New York American* to Mrs. Thayer, re: Rostron Purse Fund, April 26, [1912]. 1 p.
- Folder 20. Typed letter signed Edward H. Butt, Liverpool, May 21, 1912 to Mrs. Thayer. 2 pp.
- Folder 21. Autograph letter signed Ernest G. F. Brown, New York, July 18, 1912 to J. B. Thayer [III]. 2 pp. 'Royal Mail Steamship "Carpathia"' stationery plus envelope.
- Folder 22. Autograph letter signed Harry Rostron, Fiume, August 9, 1912 to Mrs. Thayer. 4 pp. 'Royal Mail Steamship "Carpathia"' stationery.
- Folder 23. Typescript eulogy for John Borland Thayer by William D. Winsor, [1912]. 3 pp.
- Folder 24. Newspaper clipping, *Pictorial Supplement of the Sunday Public Ledger*, with silhouettes of John B. Thayer and A. H. Rostron, 1913.
- Folder 25. Newspaper clipping, *Pictorial Supplement of the Sunday Public Ledger*, of photograph of "Captain E. J. Smith and the Titanic's three Chief Officers."
- Folder 26. Pamphlet, *The Titanic: Our Story* by M[artha] E[ustis] S[tevenson] and E[lizabeth] M. E[ustis]. 8 pp. bound, and autograph note signed MEBD[?], "Names in last paragraph of *The Titanic: Our Story* by Martha Eustis Stevenson + Elizabeth M. Eustis." 2 pp.
- Folder 27. Memorandum book "A list of those receiving a numbered copy of *The Sinking of the Titanic* by John B. Thayer." 70 pp. bound, and copies of title page (2) and illustrations (3) from *The Sinking of the S. S. Titanic April 14-15, 1912* by John B. Thayer.
- Folder 28. Newspaper clippings, *New York Times*, May 20, 1912 and *Public Ledger*, June 20, 1912.
- Folder 29. Newspaper clipping, "White Star Profits and the Titanic," *London Times*, [1913?]
- Folder 30. Program of memorial service for John Borland Thayer, Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA, June 25, 1914. 4 pp.
- Folder 31. Photographs of memorial tablet for John Borland Thayer.
- Folder 32. Autograph letter signed A. H. Rostron, New York, Tuesday, to Jack [Thayer]. 4 pp. 'On Board the Cunard R. M. S. "Campania."' stationery.
- Folder 33. Autograph letter signed A. H. Rostron, Southampton, December 30, 1924 to Mrs. Thayer. 4 pp. 'On Board the Cunard R. M. S. "Mauretania"' stationery.
- Folder 34. Autograph letter signed A. H. Rostron, Pier 54, New York, June 22, 1925. 4 pp. 'On Board the Cunard R. M. S. "Mauretania"' stationery.
- Folder 35. Envelope marked "Letter from Capt. Rostron..." Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company stationery.
- Folder 36. Newspaper clipping, "Thayer Describes Sinking of Titanic" and "Hero of Titanic Now Helpless Invalid" *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, April 14, 1932.
- Folder 37. Newspaper clipping, "Phila. Man Tells of Titanic Wreck," *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, April 14, 1932.
- Folder 38. Newspaper clipping, "1513 Lost on Titanic 25 Years Ago," *Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger*, April 14, 1937, and newspaper clipping, "Honor Titanic Dead Where Liner Sank," [Philadelphia?] April 14, 1937.

- Folder 39. Typed letter signed Walter Lord, New York, July 10, 1957 to John Borland Thayer, [IV]. 1 p.
- Folder 40. Autograph letter signed Walter Lord, September 25 [1957?] to Mr. Thayer. 1 p.
- Folder 41. Menu Titanic Historical Society Banquet, April 17, 1982, Philadelphia, PA, autographed by John B. Thayer, John Maxtone-Graham, Ken Marschall, Don Lynch, et. al. 4 pp.
- Folder 42. Invitation from Philadelphia Maritime Museum to “A Commemorative: The Titanic after Seventy-Five Years,” Wednesday, April 15, 1987 to John B. Thayer, and invitation from Philadelphia Maritime Museum to “Pleasures and Perils: The Titanic and her Era,” members preview exhibit opening.
- Folder 43. Invitation from the Ocean Liner Museum to a “Memorial Service and Dinner Afloat Observing the 75th Anniversary of the Sinking of ... Titanic and the Rescue of... passengers and crew by... Carpathia” signed by John Maxtone-Graham. 2 pp. plus reply card and envelope.
- Folder 44. Typed letter signed John Maxtone-Graham, February 2, 1987 to John Thayer [IV]. 1 p. plus envelope
- Folder 45. Postcards

BOX 10.

Printing plate from *The Sinking of the S. S. Titanic* by J. B. Thayer, wood and copper, 9 ½ in. x 5 in.