



Independence Seaport Museum

J. Welles Henderson Archives and Library

Shipping and Trade from Philadelphia to the World

Prepared by Nicholas Woznyj, 2011.

The city of Philadelphia has a long, established history as being a center for world trade. The port of Philadelphia and its shipping industry have played crucial parts in achieving this designation. There exists a vast collection of historical and scholarly materials related to the theme of "Shipping and Trade from Philadelphia to the World" at the J. Welles Henderson Archives and Library in Independence Seaport Museum. The following guide introduces and briefly details the relevant thematic materials that can be found in the museum's archives and library. The function of this guide is to aid research and/or lesson planning. Through the use of this materials guide one will definitely develop an understanding and interest in the role of Philadelphia in shipping and trade with the world.

Archive Materials

- Andrew Clow & Co. receipts, 1789-1794
 - Andrew Clow and David Cay were the principal partners of Andrew Clow & Co., an importing/exporting firm based in Philadelphia. The firm owned several ships which traded goods in England, France, Spain, the Bahamas, and ports in the Eastern United States. While the main business of the firm was in trading textile goods, it also shipped other goods, including sugar and grain.
 - Receipts, 1789-1794, for services and duties related to import/export trade.
- Benjamin Etting journal, 1822-1837
 - Journal kept by Philadelphia merchant Benjamin Etting on voyages to Canton, China, 1822-25; 1831, 1835, and 1837. Entries remarking on weather, landmarks seen, length of passage. Volume includes a lengthy memorandum entitled, "Custom & manner of doing business in Canton," which offers practical advice to American merchants dealing with Chinese pilots, manufacturers, government officials, et al. Collection also includes a Pope family tree, undated.
- Benjamin Fuller business papers, 1788-1789
 - Letters to Benjamin Fuller from Abraham Tuckniss related to shipments of goods, including rum, sugar, coffee, cotton, beef, bread, yams, and fish, shipped from Cayenne (French Guiana) and Demarary (Guyana).
- Canton (Ship) records, 1791
 - Documents related to a shipment of textiles from Calcutta on the ship Canton, 1791, including a manifest and a certificate for duties on goods for one consignee, Jared Ingersoll.
- Cope family papers, 1821-1889
 - Thomas Pym Cope was already an established Philadelphia merchant in 1821 when he began the first regular packet line between Philadelphia and Liverpool. The business continued throughout most of the nineteenth century, with the company name changing as successive generations assumed responsibility. The line also developed a sizable passenger business.
 - This is a collection of records of the shipping firm Thomas P. Cope and Son. Materials include: bills of lading, manifests, and shipping articles for the ship Alexander, 1820s-1830s; bills of lading; and letters addressed to Thomas P. Cope and Son related to the first voyage of the ship Tuscarora, 1821-1822. Many of the letters are sent from Liverpool and are signed Rathbone Hodgson (cotton merchants). Correspondence includes market reports. The collection also includes a photograph of Captain Julius and his family, 1889; business cards of Theodore Julius Jr., Commission Merchant; and an unsigned letter, presumably sent to Theodore Julius.
- E C Knight & Co. receipts, 1863-1866
 - E.C. Knight & Co., established in 1836, was a firm of Philadelphia wholesale grocers owned by Edward C. Knight and Charles A. Sparks. The company was located at Chestnut and Water Streets.
 - This is a small collection of receipts and a bill of lading of E.C. Knight & Co. for groceries, especially tea, coffee and sugar, from Philadelphia merchants.
- E H Bailey & Co. certificate, 1930
 - E.H. Bailey & Co., founded in 1849, was a firm of custom house brokers that conducted business for importers and exporters and acted as a forwarding agent.

- Contains a Port of Philadelphia Ocean Traffic Bureau Associate membership certificate of E.H. Bailey & Company, March 5, 1930.
- Eliza (Schooner) journal, 1803
 - Journal kept by unidentified supercargo aboard the schooner Eliza from Philadelphia to Cayenne, French Guiana, March 26 - May 3, 1803. Writer describes weather, seasickness, catching sharks and dolphins, learning methods of navigation, business affairs upon arrival at Cayenne, the town and landscape, and his dinner with the Governor.
- George G. Green (Schooner) records, 1879-1891
 - This collection consists of an account book and papers related to the schooner George G. Green, and several items related to the schooner August Flower. The account book records costs for construction, fitting out and repairs, and for expenses for 62 voyages from Philadelphia to Boston, Baltimore, Nassau, Havana, Vera Cruz, Lisbon and other places, with various cargos, including coal, hemp, cotton, guano, and ice, 1879-1891. George G. Green papers include certificates of enrollment and bills of sale. August Flower materials include accounts, and bills and receipts from John A.J. Sheets, lumber commission merchant.
- Henry W. Peterson collection of Reed and Forde manuscripts, 1785-1801
 - John Reed and Standish Forde were Philadelphia merchants. The firm helped to open up trade between the United States and Spanish America, specifically in New Orleans.
 - This is a small collection of manuscripts, dating from 1785 to 1801, apparently related to the mercantile firm Reed and Forde. Materials include an index to an account book (only one page of which is present); notes about accounts; and a list of balances due. The list of balances due notes ships owned by Reed and Forde that were captured by the French (the brig Molly and the schooner Ulalia).
- John S. Whitall papers, 1774-1845
 - John Siddon Whitall was a merchant in Philadelphia. This was his second career; as a young man, he sailed as a supercargo in the West India Trade. In 1815, his business investments failed. Because of these losses, his son John Mickle Whitall (b. 1800), then 15, was obliged to leave school to be apprenticed as a ship hand on the William Savery. Beginning in 1818, he made several voyages to the Far East, including Calcutta and Canton. By 1822 he sailed as Chief Mate aboard the ship Dorothea. In 1824, Whitall was contracted by Whitton Evans to oversee the construction of a new sailing ship, the New Jersey, the largest "Indiaman" yet constructed in Philadelphia, and was given command as captain. Between 1824 and 1829, he made several voyages to Canton.
 - This is a collection of the papers of John M. Whitall and John S. Whitall. The collection focuses primarily on four voyages to Canton (1824, 1826, 1827, and 1828) made by Captain John M. Whitall aboard the ship New Jersey. Materials include business and personal letters from John M. Whitall to his father and other family members, and business letters related to the ship New Jersey; charts covering the route to Canton, the first stop being Liverpool (where Whitton Evans lived); bills of lading, invoices, receipts, promissory notes, and custom house bonds; an account of crew wages; log books (1824-1827) for New Jersey; a journal with "Observations on Thermometer and Barometer" made during two of the voyages to Canton (1827-1829); and journal containing coastal drawings of islands in the South China Sea and algebra exercises. Other items in the collection include: an oversized manifest of cargo and insurance certificate; a reproduction photograph of Captain John M. Whitall; and several samples of silk from China. In addition to papers related to New Jersey, the collection contains some records of other ships, including William Savery (log books, 1817-1820), Mary Lord, and Nancy.

- Ogden and Cuthbert family papers, 1750-1906
 - Joseph Ogden (d. 1805) worked at various times as a merchant, a tavern keeper, and a ferryman in Philadelphia. In the 1750s-1760s he had a shop on Chestnut Street, between Strawberry Alley and Second Street, and imported dry goods from Great Britain and the West Indies. From 1767-1771 he managed the One Tun Tavern at Third and Chestnut Streets (account books for this time period are held at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania). He later owned the Middle Ferry on the Schuylkill River. His daughter Mary married Anthony Cuthbert, mast and spar maker.
 - The Ogden and Cuthbert family papers consist largely of financial records (receipt, invoice, and account books) of Joseph Ogden, his son George, and his son-in-law Anthony Cuthbert. Also included in the collection are account books of Anthony's father Thomas, brother Samuel, and sons Joseph and Allen Cuthbert; letters, insurance policies, and property maps pertaining to descendants of Anthony Cuthbert, a diary kept by Joseph Cuthbert's son, Henry C. Cuthbert, and several bills and receipts from the early 1900s.

- Red D Line records, 1861-1936
 - The Red D Line was the main transportation link between the United States and Venezuela from 1820 to 1936. The line took its trade name from the red D on its white flag, which stood for the line's founder, John Dallett, a Philadelphia merchant. Dallett travelled to Venezuela in 1823, where he went into business with the influential Venezuelan merchant, John Boulton. Dallett returned to Philadelphia and set up a business shipping cargoes to Boulton, and in 1838 began chartering sailing vessels to carry his merchandise.
 - This collection houses a sampling of business and financial records of the Red D Line from 1861 to 1936. There are twelve volumes.

- Reed and Forde business papers, 1735-1907
 - John Reed and Standish Forde were Philadelphia merchants who traded directly to numerous European ports in Spain, France, Holland, Portugal, and foreign West Indies.
 - This is a collection of business papers of Reed and Forde, papers related to the estates of John Reed and Standish Forde, and a small number of papers of John Claghorn, who was administrator of the estate of John Reed. Materials include: correspondence (1792-1907), including a number of letters from Daniel Clark Jr., clerk, addressed to Reed and Ford and to Mr. Daniel W. Coxe; correspondence related to the French spoliation claim of Reed and Forde for the schooner Ulalia; a 1905 financial statement of award in the French spoliation case; printed documents of Court of Claims in the case of Ulalia; and news clippings, 1886-1891 related to the French Spoliation settlements. The collection also includes cemetery records of John Claghorn and John Reed and a copy of the will of Standish Forde; a 1886 certificate assigning John W. Claghorn as administrator of the estate of John Reed; a 1735 deed for a lot in Mulberry Street; and a manifest of the brig Molly from 1794.

- Robert Hardie account book and wastebook, 1758-1796
 - Account and letterbook (1758-1761) and account book (1774-1800) of Robert Hardie, recording expenses relating to shipping interests in Philadelphia, Canada and the West Indies. The earlier volume also includes letters to his wife, Elizabeth, written from the West Indies (1758) and Quebec (1761) regarding sales and insurance of cargoes. The latter volume includes accounts with the Committee of Safety, Dr. Benjamin Rush, the United States of America Loan Office, and Hardie's business partner, Margaret Duncan, owner of a half share of the ship "Patty and Peggy."

- Ryan Cooper collection of Philadelphia Custom House records, 1821-1889
 - The United States Customs Service (1789-1927) processed paperwork for the import and export of goods into and out of the country. Customs officials also assessed and collected customs fees and penalties. Past functions of the Customs Service included

- administration of navigation aids and lighthouses, and functions relating to the protection of seamen, and to revenue cutters. In 1927 the Customs Service became the Bureau of Customs.
- This is a collection of papers of the United States Customs Service of the Port of Philadelphia, from 1821 to 1926, with the major concentration of materials falling between the 1830s and the 1890s. The records illustrate commercial and shipping interests, as well as foreign trade relations, of the United States.
- Samuel Archer papers, 1826-1838
 - Samuel Archer was born in Burlington County, New Jersey in 1771. In 1800, he opened a retail dry goods business in Philadelphia, eventually becoming one of the largest importers and shipping merchants in the city. His firm, Samuel Archer & Co., and later Archer & Bispham, imported extensively from China and India, dealing notably in the trade of fabrics. Archer died in 1839 at the age of sixty-eight.
 - This collection consists of eighteen letters written by Samuel Archer of Philadelphia to his nephew Franklin Jones, also of Philadelphia, between 1826 and 1838. The letters were written while Archer served as a supercargo on board ships sailing out of Philadelphia, bound for ports in Asia or South America, such as Canton, Calcutta, or Valparaiso. Most letters are written as journal entries, detailing day-by-day Archer's experiences and thoughts while aboard ship or in ports of call.
 - Samuel Massey business papers, 1755-1763
 - Philadelphia merchant Samuel Massey (1734-1793) began his business career in the store of Jonathan Mifflin in Philadelphia in 1751. From approximately 1756 to 1760, Massey was in business with his father, Wight Massey (1703-1761). In 1760, Samuel Massey formed a partnership with Benjamin Mifflin (1718-1787), also a Philadelphia merchant. This firm operated under the name of Mifflin & Massey, and dealt primarily in teas, coffee, sugar, and flour.
 - This collection consists of account and waste books of the Philadelphia merchant Samuel Massey. Mifflin and Massey waste book (1761-1763) and Wight and Samuel Massey waste book (1759-1760), document daily transactions in sugar, coffee, wine, tea, oranges, spirits, and other merchandise. Two notebooks of accounts (1755-1756) of Samuel Massey document transactions in corn, chocolate, limes, boards, rum, pork, and other merchandise; one volume includes several copies of business letters.
 - Thomas Ryan journal, 1832-1839
 - Thomas Ryan was a Philadelphia merchant involved in India trade.
 - Journal kept by Thomas Ryan on six voyages between Philadelphia and India, between 1832 and 1839, consisting mainly of notes on the weather, but also including lists of names of passengers and crew aboard ship, mentions of other vessels seen at sea, types of birds and animals observed, lists of names of other American ships at the port of Calcutta, poetry, and a hand-drawn map of the routes of the six voyages.
 - Walsh Family papers, 1847-1855
 - The early letters in the collection are from Thomas Walsh to his father, who was living in Stuyvesant Falls apart from the family in New York, perhaps seeking employment. Thomas' letters initially discuss family news and finances, his work at Cary & Company in New York, some news from Europe and his social activities.
 - William Cummings and Son records, 1853-1879
 - William Cummings and Son were shipping merchants in Philadelphia. William Cummings (b. 1806) went into business with his uncle (also named William Cummings) in 1826. In 1830 he went into business for himself.
 - This collection consists of a receipt book and a logbook. The receipt book, of the firm of William Cummings and Son, shipping merchants of Philadelphia, lists amounts paid for

crew wages, pilotage, wharfage, labor and supplies. The ships William Cummings and Ann Elizabeth are mentioned frequently. The logbook is a record of a voyage of the ship William Cummings from Callao, Peru to Calcutta, India to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Most entries list winds, weather, courses, and remarks on unusual occurrences, such as punishments of crew. Also includes harbor logs while in Callao and Calcutta, and a list of stores received at Calcutta. The volume was later (1872) used by Helen Norris Cummings as a "scrap book" with original stories and sketches.

- William McCoy papers, 1893-1986
 - William (Bill) McCoy, born 1877, graduated from the Pennsylvania Nautical School in 1895. After graduation, he and his brother, Ben, moved to Holly Hill, Florida to establish a boatbuilding and passenger service. During the Prohibition era, Bill McCoy became a national legend. He went to Nassau, Bahamas and bought a 130' schooner named Arethusa. He made frequent trips to rendezvous with rum runners in international waters 12 miles off the coast of New York. Between 1921 and 1926, Arethusa had landed 170,000 cases of whiskey to rum runners.
 - The collection consists primarily of three scrapbooks about Bill and Ben McCoy. There are also several published volumes: *The Real McCoy* by Frederic Van de Water; *The Bahama Queen* by Gertrude "Cleo" Lythgoe; and *Home is the Sailor*, by Commodore Herbert Hartley. The volumes include photographs, letters, and clippings.

Library Materials

- Baker, G. W. *A Review of the Relative Commercial Progress of the Cities of New-York & Philadelphia: Tracing the Decline of the Latter to State Development, and Showing the Necessity of Trans-Atlantic Steamship Communication to Re-Establish Foreign Trade*. Philadelphia: Jackson, printer, 1859.
- Carse, Robert. *Ports of Call*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1967.
- Goldstein, Jonathan. *Philadelphia and the China Trade, 1682-1846: Commercial, Cultural, and Attitudinal Effects*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1978.
- Goldstein, Jonathan. *The Ethics of Tribute and the Profits of Trade: Stephen Girard's China Trade (1787-1824)*. S.l: s.n, 1969.
- Hornsby, Thomas, and Fred C. Peters. *History of the First Year of U.S. Customs in the Port of Philadelphia, 1789*. Bala-Cynwyd, Pa: Printed by Valley Press, 1969.
- Jensen, Arthur Louis. *The Maritime Commerce of Colonial Philadelphia*. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin for the Dept. of History, University of Wisconsin, 1963.
- Lindstrom, Diane. *Economic Development in the Philadelphia Region, 1810-1850*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1978.
- Pike, James. *The Philadelphia Shipping Manual; or, Shipper's Vade-Mecum: Being a Careful Synopsis of All the Laws, Rules and Regulations, Governing the Shipping Trade of the Port of Philadelphia*. C.T. Baker, 1880.

- Shepherd, James F., and Gary M. Walton. *Shipping, Maritime Trade, and the Economic Development of Colonial North America*. Cambridge [Eng.]: University Press, 1972.
- Tavernier, Bruno. *Great Maritime Routes; An Illustrated History*. New York: Viking Press, 1972.
- Van de Water, Frederic Franklyn. *The Real McCoy*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, Doran and Co, 1931.
- Van Dyke, Paul Arthur. *The Canton Trade: Life and Enterprise on the China Coast, 1700-1845*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2005.
- Weigley, Russell Frank, Nicholas B. Wainwright, and Edwin Wolf. *Philadelphia: A 300 Year History*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1982.
- Wilson, George. *Stephen Girard: America's First Tycoon*. Conshohocken, Pa: Combined Books, 1995.