Robert R. Miller Papers MS-10

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Presidio Research Center
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Title: Robert R. Miller Papers
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Abstract: Research notes, documents, printed matter, and drafts for the book A Yankee Smuggler on the Spanish California Coast: George Washington Eayrs and the ship Mercury
creator: Miller, Robert Ryal

Conditions Governing Access note
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Biographical/Historical note
Historian Robert Ryal Miller Robert received a Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley. He was professor of history at California State University Hayward from 1970-1980 and also taught at Indiana University and New Mexico State University before that. He has published 13 books and over 20 articles on Latin American history with an emphasis on Mexico and California before statehood. After retirement, he resided in Santa Barbara, California until his death in 2004.
Captain George Washington Eayrs engaged in trading voyages along the California coast between 1806 and 1813, bartering manufactured goods for otter pelts. Captured in 1813 while anchored at Refugio Cove, Eayrs and his ship were brought to Santa Barbara, where he was charged with illicit commerce and put under arrest at the Presidio. He was tried by commandante Captain Jose Dario Arguello. Eayrs was sent to San Diego and then on to Mexico where he lived until his death in 1855. For almost thirty years Eayrs wrote dozens of letters, petitions, and legal appeals, trying to get a compensation for his confiscated ship and its cargo. Finally, in 1842, a joint U.S.-Mexican Claims Commission awarded him $96,000 to be paid by the Mexican government.

Preferred Citation note
Robert R. Miller Papers, MS-10, Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara, California.

Scope and Contents note
A Yankee Smuggler on the Spanish California Coast, written by Robert Ryal Miller, was published by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation in 2001. The bulk of these papers consist of Miller's research notes, correspondence, and photocopies of articles, documents, and online materials used to write the book. Publication materials include a final camera-ready draft and two reviews of the book.
A separate file contains another article written by Miller in 1975 and a copy of a New Mexican census document that forms the basis for the article.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Cachupin, Thomas Velez
Eayrs, George Washington, 1775-1855
Mercury (Ship).
California--History--To 1846
Santa Barbara Presidio (Santa Barbara, Calif.)--History.
Smugglers--California--Santa Barbara--Biography
Smuggling--California--Santa Barbara

Box 1, Folder 1  Correspondence 1979-2001
Box 1, Folder 2  Research Notes
| Box 1, Folder 3 | **Boudinot, May Fidelia. The Case of the Mercury as Typical of Contraband Trade on the California Coast, 1790-1820 1915**  
General note  
Master's thesis UC Berkeley; photocopy |
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous articles and notes</strong></td>
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| Box 1, Folder 5 | **Translation of Acontecimientos en California**  
General note  
a photocopy of a translation of *Acontecimientos en California de que hace memoria, Don Jose de Jesus Pico* by Thomas Savage, 1878 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | **Eayrs Inquisition Hearing 15 September 1818**  
Language of Material: Spanish; Castilian  
General note  
AGNM 61, vol. 1421, Expediente 13, Fojas 94-98 |
| Box 2, Folder 7-9 | **Case File #51 George Washington Eayrs, Record Group 076 1839**  
General note  
Photocopy; Boundary and Claims Commission/Arbitration, U.S. and Mexican Claims, Board of Commissioners of 1839; Box 18 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | **Review copy of A Yankee Smuggler** |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | **Layout copy of A Yankee Smuggler** |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | **Illustrations for A Yankee Smuggler** |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | **Blueline copy and jacket of A Yankee Smuggler and publishers correspondence** |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | **Reviews of A Yankee Smuggler** |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | **Miller, Robert Ryal. New Mexico in Mid-Eighteenth Century: A Report Based on Governor Velez Capuchin’s [sic] Inspection 1752-1975**  
General note  
Reprint from Southwestern Historical Quarterly, vol. LXXIX (Oct. 1975); also includes copies of census document created by Don Thomas Velez Cachupin in 1752 and described in Miller’s article |