
Finding aid prepared by Julie Thomas
California State University, Sacramento Special Collections & University Archives
The Library
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**Title:** Port of Sacramento records: additions

**Identifier/Call Number:** MSS 1996/17

**Contributing Institution:** California State University, Sacramento Special Collections & University Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 5.0 Linear feet (4 record cartons)

**Date (inclusive):** 1916-2003

**Abstract:** The collection consists of files documenting the construction projects, legislative issues, convention and financial aspects of the Port of Sacramento. It also includes publications, pamphlets, and other ephemera generated by the Market Department to promote the vision and goals of the port district. Shortly after receiving the Port of Sacramento donation, a volunteer student intern began processing the collection but ended his internship before completing the project. Ms. White provided a preliminary inventory for patron use, but did not reassign the project until she was certain the next processor would complete the project. The current processor completed this project in the spring of 1996. The preparer gratefully acknowledges the help of several individuals in the completion of this inventory: Melvin Shore, who proofread the background information and appendices; Robert Watson, who supplied information about the Port of Sacramento; and Rexford Sherman, who supplied information about the AAPA.

**Language of Materials note:** English.

**creator:** Shore, Melvin

**Custodial History note**
The records were originally collected and maintained by the Sacramento-Yolo Port Authority, before being donated to the Department of Special Collections and University Archives in 1996.

**Processing Information note**
In December 2003, a student assistant and the Manuscripts Librarian created a folder listing of the additional 5 linear feet of papers donated by Melvin Shore in 1996.

**Other Finding Aids note**
See also the Port of Sacramento records, 1916-1991 (MSS 1986/02).

**Conditions Governing Use note**
Copyright is protected by the copyright law, Chapter 17 of the U.S. Code. Requests for permission to publish, quote, or reproduce from collections must be submitted in writing to the Head of the Department of Special Collections and University Archives. Permission for publication is given on the behalf of the Department of Special Collections and University Archives, Library, California State University, Sacramento as the owner of the physical item and is not intended to include permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**
Melvin Shore donated this material in August 1996 and June 2003.

**Conditions Governing Access note**
Collection is open for research. Some restrictions may apply.

**Scope and Contents note**
The records are divided into three Subgroups: the Sacramento-Yolo Port District records, the American Association of Port Authorities records, and Non-Paper records.

1. **Sacramento-Yolo Port District records:**
   - **Series 1:** Historical Records, 1916-2003. This series contains a comprehensive history of the Port of Sacramento written by Melvin Shore, a brief history written in 1963, and historical materials relating to state and federal legislation approving creation of the Port.
   - **Series 2:** Accounting Files, 1932-1986. The accounting files contain annual reports, financial statements, and budget files relating to port construction funds, wharf and pier construction, maintenance and operations. Also included are tax records, insurance coverage details, capital investment accounts, income and expenditure records, audit reports, and bond reports.
   - **Series 3:** Reports and Studies, 1925-1985. This series consists of reports, studies and analyses prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and various engineering companies that contracted with the Port of Sacramento before and after it opened. Some of the firms include A.F. Benscheidt, who performed wharf section and water system analyses, a study relating to coconut oil and tallow plant requirements and a marina site study; Swan, Wooster Engineering, who provided
studies for wood chip handling, bulk handling and storage facilities, and a bagging facility for bulk material; Bank of American who performed economic studies; and SWINC Engineering, who provided studies for additional bulk storage facilities and a pneumatic shiploader. Many of the reports and studies contain blueprints and drawings. Five Port Plans by Melvin Shore are contained in this series as well. The Port Plan provides a history and philosophies of the Port; an overview of its cargoes, operations and financial status; projections and recommendations for future development.

Series 4. Employment Files, 1962-1986. The Employment files are comprised of contracts and Memorandum of Understanding between the Port of Sacramento and various unions such as the teamsters, longshoremen, port police officers, engineers and scientists, and Laborers International Union. Other materials relating to employment include an employee handbook, directory and benefit information. Melvin Shore's Memorandum to All Employees (1965-1986) and the Port Employee Newsletter (PEN) are also contained in this series.

Series 5. Operations Files, 1961-1986. The correspondence, proposals and contracts in this series document the Port's physical plant, its clientele, and the types of material entering, leaving and being stored at the Port. Specifically, information about the numerous facilities and lease negotiations for some of those facilities are contained in the Operations Files as well as information regarding the import, export and storage of materials coming into the port, such as clay, grain, automobiles, liquids, cement, lumber, soda ash, woodchips, almonds, and other dry bulk goods. The client files contain the director's research material and correspondence with potential customers in such countries as Hong Kong, Europe, New Zealand, and other Asian countries as well as established clients.

Series 6. Marketing Files, 1962-1991. This series is comprised of announcements, flyers, brochures, clippings and other marketing material that targets clients, potential customers and the general public. The publications include copies of the Sacramento Report, Sacramento Coal Port folio, Portfolio and Seaways. Also included is promotional material about specific Port facilities and material handling; for example, dry bulk storage facilities, coal for exporting, and soda ash export.

Series 7. Port Director's Office Files, 1964-1998. The Port Director's Office files contain correspondence, operating plans, local cooperation agreements, administrative directives, policies and regulations, as well as lectures and speeches of Melvin Shore. A large portion of this series consists of Melvin Shore's Memos to the [Port] Commission where he would provide details about contract negotiations, facility developments, financial information, employment issues, public relation events, recommendations, and general updates. Also included is Commodore Advisory news briefs that address information about the commissioners and major developments at the Port. The Advisory was disseminated by the commissioners to Port Commodores, an honorary group of community members appointed by the commission. Newsletters, bulletins, reports, and a membership directory from the Permanent International Association of Navigational Congresses (PIANC) are included in this series.

Series 8. U.S. Port Systems Advocates, 1949-1985. This series contains material from the U.S. Port Systems Advocates, a group comprised of Port Directors from across the nation that address federal legislation affecting ports. The records include correspondence between members as well as members of congress. Also included are meeting minutes, newsletters, lists of member ports, and Congressional Records of the proceedings and debates of the 97th Congress.


Series 1. General Files, 1969-1984 The general files include the organization's bylaws, financial records, proceedings of the annual meeting, minutes from the Board of Directors meetings and Executive Committee meetings, correspondence, memos, committee reports, draft resolutions, and an AAPA Handbook.

Series 2. U.S. Legislative Policy Council The U.S. Legislative Policy Council is a standing committee of the AAPA charged with reviewing the legislation and governmental relations program of the Association. In addition, it provides the AAPA President guidance in carrying out the policies of the Association. Records in this series include copies of Bills (H.R. 2630, 6829, 7179, S. 1182), meeting agendas and minutes, legislative summaries, and correspondence.


Series 1. Business cards. Melvin Shore collected the business cards of colleagues, business associates, contractors, vendors, clients and potential customers from around the world. Each card is dated and many have been annotated by Mr. Shore.

Series 2. Artifacts. Most of the artifacts are replica of historic California coins used as promotional items by the Port. Other promotional items include slides strips of the Port with accompanying slide viewers and a world timetable slide chart.


Biographical/Historical note
Sacramento-Yolo Port District:
In the spring of 1946, the 79th Congress approved public law No. 525 which authorized the construction of the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel Project. On 24 July 1946, President Harry Truman signed the bill into law. The same day the act became law, Roy G. Deary, president of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, appointed a port district organization committee. On 15 April 1947, voters in Sacramento County and Supervisorial District No. 1 approved the creation of the Sacramento-Yolo Port District. The Harbors and Navigation Code, Sections 6800-6963 (Chapter 2) set forth the policy-making powers of the five-member port commission, comprised of two commissioners appointed by the Sacramento Board of Supervisors, two by the Sacramento City council, and one by the Yolo county Board of Supervisors.

Prior to the opening of the port in 1963, the district actively raised revenue through bond sales. On November 1947, the district authorized the sale of a bond issuance of $3,750,000 to construct necessary port facilities. In 1961 the district authorized the sale of another general obligation bond, totaling $9,850,000, which the voters again approved. By the end of 1992, the port commission increased from five to seven members in response to demands from the city of west Sacramento, which incorporated in 1987. Appointments were as follows: The Sacramento City Council and the Sacramento Board of Supervisors appoint two port commissioners each and one jointly; West Sacramento's City Council and Yolo County's Board of Supervisors each appoint one commissioner.

American Association of Port Authorities:

In December 1912, a small circle of port managers convened in New York to promote the exchange of port information and to develop uniform methods of administration. The eleven representatives in attendance approved the proposal of one official, Calvin Tomkins, to create a permanent association of U.S. Port Authorities, thus founding the National Association of Port Authorities. During the third annual convention at Baltimore (1914), the officers changed the name of the organization to the American Association of Port Authorities. In 1930 the association incorporated. When Sacramento Port Director Melvin Shore chaired the AAPA in 1983, the association represented a total of 189 Deep Water agencies in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Through committees the AAPA has been able to advance federal legislation favorable to port management interests. A major success of the AAPA was the passage by Congress of the Foreign Trade Zone Act of 1934, which attracted foreign shippers by exempting manufacturers from duty charges and taxes until their products left the zone of United States markets. Beginning with three permanent standing committees in 1918, the number of AAPA committees had grown to over twenty by 1982.

Melvin Shore:

Melvin Shore was born in Montreal, Canada in 1924 and raised in New York City. During the Second World War he served in the U.S. Air Force, where he received training as a bombardier, navigator, and a B-29 flight engineer. He joined the Port of Sacramento as an "Engineer aide to the Port Director" in 1949, when the port was still an alfalfa field. He remained at the port, during both the construction and operational phases, for a total of 37 years before retiring in June 1986. From 1963 until 1986, Shore served as the port's director, replacing William G. Stone in October 1963.

He also represented the South Pacific Region on the Steering Committee of the U.S. Port System Advocates. He was president of at least three associations, to wit, the Sacramento section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the California Association of Port Authorities, and the Northern California Ports and Terminals Bureau (later called the Golden Gate Ports Association). In addition, he also served as a board member of various associations, programs, and businesses, including the Pacific Coast Association Port Authorities, the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference, the Sacramento Valley Bank, and the Port of Sacramento Japanese Language School, the latter that he founded for the benefit of the children of Japanese businessmen assigned to Sacramento.

Port Directors:

Stone, William G. -- 1947 to 1963
Shore, Melvin -- 1963 to 1986
Clark, Dennis G. -- 1986 to 1989
Sulpizio, John -- 1990 to 1995
(Successor: Vernon, Mike -- 1990 to 1995)
(Successor: Sulpizio, John -- 1995 to present)

Preferred Citation note

[Identification of item including date], [Folder Title], MSS 1996/17, Port of Sacramento records: additions, Department of Special Collections and University Archives, The Library, California State University, Sacramento.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Shore, Melvin
American Association of Port Authorities
Port districts--California.
Port of Sacramento (Sacramento, Calif.)

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