Edwin B. Hoffman Collection

Finding aid prepared by Gina C Giang.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Edwin B. Hoffman collection
Inclusive Dates: 1901-1921
Bulk Dates: 1915-1921
Collection Number: mssHoffmane
Collector: Hoffman, Edwin, 1875-1964
Extent: 186 items in 1 box (0.42 linear feet)
Repository: The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
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Abstract: The Edwin B. Hoffman collection consists material related to his service in the United States Revenue Cutter Service, United States Lighthouse Service, United States Shipping Board, and his time as Master of the steamer "Eastern Leader."

Language of Material: The material is in English.

Access
The collection is open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, please go to the following web site.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item]. Edwin B. Hoffman collection. The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Acquisition Information
Purchased from Back of Beyond Books, July 2019.

Biography
Edwin Bertolet Hoffman was an American seaman and master mariner. Hoffman was born in Reading, Pennsylvania to Henry Greisemer and Emma (Ehst) Hoffman in 1875. In 1893, Edwin attended the Pennsylvania Nautical School aboard the United States Ship Saratoga. Two years later, he served on the United States Ship Bear, while working for the United States Revenue Cutter service, from 1895-1896. He was stationed on the Umatilla Reef Light Vessel Number 67 during his time with United States Lighthouse Service, from 1909-1910. His career with the United States Shipping Board spans from 1918-1921, where he served on the following ships: West Eagle, Puget Sound, Elkton, Havilah, and Eastern Leader. Hoffman passed away in December 1964.

Scope and Content
The Edwin B. Hoffman collection mostly consists of professional correspondence and records related to Hoffman's career at sea, from 1901-1921. The first series includes accounts, forms, correspondence, financial records, legal documents, photographs, and printed ephemera pertaining to his time at the United States Lighthouse Service and United States Shipping Board. Letters and telegrams detail the loss of P.J. Abler (schooner) in 1915 and the collision of Dorr (schooner) and Oklahoma (schooner) in 1916. Included is a certificate indicating Hoffman was pilot on the first torpedo flotilla aboard the United States Ship Whipple. Most of the correspondence in this series is addressed to Hoffman. The second series includes accounts, certificates, correspondence, documents, logs, manifests, and reports concerning his service as Master of Eastern Leader (steamboat) in 1921. Letters and reports detail an accident to the rudder on 1921 May 26, while undocking in Limerick, Ireland for New York. Most of the letters are typed copies retained by Hoffman addressed to colleagues and family.

Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
  Series 1: United States Lighthouse Service and United States Shipping Board, 1901-1921
Series 2: United States Shipping Board, Master of Eastern Leader, 1921

**Personal Names**

**Alternate Authors**
McNoble, E.L.
Sims, William Sowden, 1858-1936.

**Corporate Names**
United States. Lighthouse Service.
United States. Shipping Board.

**Subjects**
Collisions at sea.
Sailers.
Schooners.
Seafaring life.
Ship captains.
Ships.
Steamboats.

**Geographic Areas**
Goodnews Bay (Alaska : Bay).
Ketchikan (Alaska).
Liverpool (England).

**Genre**
Accounts.
Financial records.
Letters (correspondence).
Logs (records).
Reports.
Telegrams.

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Series 1: United States Lighthouse Service and United States Shipping Board, 1901-1921

**Box 1, Folder 1**

**Accounts, 1919**
Master's Expense Account, Steamship Elkton Voyage #1.

**Box 1, Folder 2**

**Application forms, 1909-1910**
United States Civil Service Commission. Application for the Trades and Skilled Occupations; Department of Commerce and Labor. Notice of Rating; Department of Commerce and Labor. Probationary Appointment-Prior Date; and Department of Water and Commerce. Personal Question Sheet.

**Box 1, Folder 3**

**1908 October 24 Hoffman, Edwin B. to "Dear Sir"**
Includes reply letter from Charles F. Pond, 1908 October 26.
Box 1, Folder 4 1908 October 29 Sims, William Sowden to Edwin B. Hoffman
Includes copy of a letter.

Box 1, Folder 5 1909-1910 United States. Department of Commerce and Labor to Edwin B. Hoffman
Includes Oath of Office form.
Signed: John M. Ellicott.
4 letters.

Box 1, Folder 6 1910 June 1 Baldwin, A.H. to Edwin B. Hoffman
Resignation acceptance letter.

Box 1, Folder 7 1910 November 12 Hoffman, Edwin B. to "the Honorable board of U.S. Local Inspectors of Steamboats."
2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 8 1910 November 18 Nickles, A.F. to "whom it may concern"

Box 1, Folder 9 1910 December 17 United States. Department of Commerce and Labor to Edwin B. Hoffman
Signed: Ray L. Hankinson.

Box 1, Folder 10 1912 October 21 Office of Commissioner. Kuskokwim Precinct to Edwin B. Hoffman

Box 1, Folder 11 1915 October 4 Leckey, ----- to Edwin B. Hoffman
Telegram.

Box 1, Folder 12 1915 October 9 Allisuk, Anna to Edwin B. Hoffman
With envelope.

Box 1, Folder 13 1915 October 9 ----- ----- to Edwin B. Hoffman

Box 1, Folder 14 1915 December 2 Faulkner, H.L. to Edwin B. Hoffman

Box 1, Folder 15 1915 Shields, J.E. to/from Edwin B. Hoffman
7 telegrams.

Box 1, Folder 16 1915-1916 Shields, J.E. to Edwin B. Hoffman
2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 17 1916 January 20 Hoffman, Edwin B. to "the Honorable board of Local Inspectors of Steam Vessels."

Box 1, Folder 18 1916 March 24 Snow, MacCormac to Edwin B. Hoffman

Box 1, Folder 19 1916 August 19 Jacobsen, Charles to Edwin B. Hoffman
With envelope.

Box 1, Folder 20 1916 September 28 United States. Department of Agriculture to John A. O'Brien
Signed: R.M. Harding.

Box 1, Folder 21 1916 December 13 Theile, Ruby Lindsay to Edwin B. Hoffman
Series 1: United States Lighthouse Service and United States Shipping Board, 1901-1921

Box 1, Folder 22  
1916 Bowlby, Laura to Edwin B. Hoffman
With envelope.
2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 23  
1916 Boyd, Bertha J. to Edwin B. Hoffman
2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 24  
1917 January 27 Sims, William Sowden to Edwin B. Hoffman

Box 1, Folder 25  
1920 August 17 Nash, Charles M. to Edwin B. Hoffman

Box 1, Folder 26  
1920-1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to James W. Elwell & Company
2 copies of letters to and from Mr. Perine and Mr. R. Joly.

Box 1, Folder 27  
Kinyon, E.B. to Edwin B. Hoffman

Box 1, Folder 28  
Crew lists, undated
Steamship West Eagle.

Box 1, Folder 29  
Empty envelopes, 1908-1909
Addressed and postmarked.

Box 1, Folder 30  
Financial records, 1909-1920
Includes estimates, receipts, and statements.

Box 1, Folder 31  
Legal documents, 1901-1911
Includes certifications, Warranty Deed, and Contract for Deed.

Box 1, Folder 32  
Manuscripts, undated
Entitled “Some of the cooks sayings.”

Box 1, Folder 33  
Notes, 1906-1918

Box 1, Folder 34  
Poems, undated
Entitled “The Amalgamated Order of Bull-Shitters.”

Box 1, Folder 35  
Photographs, 1915-1917

Box 1, Folder 36  
Printed ephemera, 1913-1920
Includes Harbour Regulations for the Port of Shanghai; Pacific Load Line Data by J.C. Rohifs; United States Department of Agriculture, Weather Bureau. Small Craft, Storm, and Hurricane Warnings; and “Code Flag” and “Answering Pennant.”

Box 1, Folder 37  
Statements, undated
2 statements beginning “WHEREAS, Captain E.B. Hoffman, was captain of...”
Signed by multiple individuals.

Series 2: United States Shipping Board, Master of Eastern Leader, 1921

Box 1, Folder 38  
Accounts, 1921
Master’s Expense Account, Voyage #51.

Box 1, Folder 39  
Certificates, 1921
Bill of Health
Circular letters, 1921 March 31
The Admiral Line Pacific Steamship Company Foreign Freight Department Circular #16.

Correspondence

1921 March 1 Hoffman, Edwin B. to A.E. Wyndham
1921 March 9 Ehst, A.B. to Edwin B. Hoffman
1921 March 21 Hoffman, Edwin B. to "U.S. Shipping Commissioner"
1921 March 31 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Anna Hoffman
1921 March 31 Hoffman, Edwin B. to W. York
1921 April 4 Hoffman, Edwin B. to ----- Bush
1921 June 2 Hoffman, Edwin B. to ----- Leahey
1921 June 6 Dinan, John A. to Edwin B. Hoffman
Includes copy of a letter.
1921 June 6 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Annie Ellis
1921 June 6 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Ben Emsley
1921 June 6 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Helga Plath
1921 June 11 Hoffman, Edwin B. to T.E. Evans
1921 June 12 Hoffman, Edwin B. to W. Wilson
1921 July 15 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Mary O'Keefe
1921 July 17 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Katie Cross
1921 July 22 Hoffman, Edwin B. to S.P. Woodin
1921 July 27 Barber Steamship Lines, Inc. to Edwin B. Hoffman
Signed: J. Barnett.
1921 August 15 Hoffman, Edwin B. to "U.S. Local Inspectors of Steamboats"
1921 November Direct mail
Includes Mitchell-Lewis & Staver Co. and Review of Reviews Company.
1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to A.B. Ehst
4 letters.
1921 March 9 letter incomplete.
1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to A.J. Storrs
2 letters.
1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to E.L. McNoble
6 letters.
Box 1, Folder 63  1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Frank J. O'Connor
3 letters.

Box 1, Folder 64  1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Richard Waters
2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 65  1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to "Sister"
3 letters.

Box 1, Folder 66  1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. to Walter Van Ruyssevelt
3 letters.

Box 1, Folder 67  1921 Hoffman, Edwin B. and W. Wilson to "Whom It May Concern"
2 letters.

Box 1, Folder 68  Empty envelope, 1921
Prescription envelope for A. Patrick.

Box 1, Folder 69  Financial records, 1921

Box 1, Folder 70  Journals, 1921
Fragment of a 1-page account beginning "Weather fine + clear."

Box 1, Folder 71  Logs, 1921
Voyage #51.
Includes 3 entries in Official Log.

Box 1, Folder 72  Manifests, 1921
Department of Commerce. Outward Foreign Manifest.

Box 1, Folder 73  Records, 1921
Miscellaneous documents and records include Department of Commerce radio service;
Times on Voyage; List of Slop supplies; United States Shipping Board Emergency Fleet
Corporation standing orders, crew list, application for officer's berth, and receipt.

Box 1, Folder 74  Reports, 1921
Includes Illness; Report of Loading and Discharge; and Voyage #51.

Box 1, Folder 75  Statements, 1921