Charles William Paterson Papers: Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Mary L. Robertson, December 10, 2011.
The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
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Overview of the Collection
Title: Charles William Paterson Papers
Dates (inclusive): 1777-approximately 1858
Bulk dates: 1793-1798
Collection Number: mssHM 76748-76787
Extent: 43 pieces. 1 box.
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Abstract: This small collection contains papers of British Naval officer Charles William Paterson (1756-1841), who became Admiral of the White in 1837. The twin cores of this collection are six letters from Paterson in 1793-1794 to family during his naval service chiefly in the Mediterranean, and the Navy Board's various administrative letters to Paterson in 1798.
Language: English.
Access
Open to qualified researchers by prior application through the Reader Services Department. For more information, contact Reader Services.
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Preferred Citation
Provenance
Biographical Note
Charles William Paterson (1756-1841), British naval officer and ultimately Admiral of the White, began his career in North American waters serving under Admiral Lord Howe during the Revolutionary War. He was appointed to the store-ship Gorgon in 1793 and served under Lord Hood at Toulon Bay, was promoted post captain in January 1794, commanded the Ariadne and the Melpomene in the Mediterranean, and returned to England in 1795. In 1798 he was appointed to the Admiral de Vries and supervised its repair and refitting at the Chatham naval dockyard. From 1800 to 1802 Paterson commanded the Montagu and then the San Fiorenzo in the English Channel, and later in the war served at Portchester Castle and Spithead. He was promoted Vice Admiral in 1819, and Admiral of the White in 1837. Paterson married Jane Ellen Yeats in March 1801; they had at least one son, George Yeats Paterson, also an officer in the Royal Navy. Charles William Paterson died, probably at his home near Portsmouth, in March 1841.
Scope and Content
The twin cores of this small collection consist of (1) six letters from Captain Paterson to his uncle Charles William Tonyn (d. 1805, rector of Radnage in Buckinghamshire) and to his grandmother, written chiefly from the Mediterranean in 1793-1794, mentioning in passing the French Royalist uprising at Toulon in November 1793, Sir william Sidney Smith's attack on the French naval fleet and arsenal in the Inner Harbor at Toulon, and Paterson's own concerns for his family, patronage, and promotion, and (2) the Navy Board's various letters to Paterson concerning the personnel, supplies, and refitting of the ship Admiral de Vries at Chatham Yard in 1798. Other than a brief testimonial and a list of his promotions, there is virtually nothing about Paterson's earlier service in North America or his activities during the remainder of the Napoleonic Wars.
• George Grenville, Marquess of Buckingham letter to "Sir," an unidentified job printer, refusing to pay for an order placed fraudulently, 1795, November 15. (Call number: mssHM 71380)
Arrangement
The collection is arranged in chronological order.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Buckingham, George Nugent Temple Grenville, Marquess of, 1753-1813.
Paterson, Charles William, 1756-1841.
Smith, W. Sidney (William Sidney), Sir, 1764-1840.
Stockdale, John 1749-1814.
Admiral de Vries (Ship)
Chatham dockyard (Great Britain)
Gorgon (Ship)
Great Britain. Board of Ordnance.
Great Britain. Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen.
Great Britain. Navy Board.
Great Britain. Royal Navy -- History -- 18th century -- Sources.
Great Britain. Victualling Office.
Navy-yards and naval stations -- Great Britain -- History -- 18th century.
France -- History -- 1789-1815 -- Sources.
Great Britain -- History -- 19th century -- Sources.
Toulon (France)

Forms/Genres
Business letters -- Great Britain -- 18th century.
Cartes-de-visite (card photographs) -- Great Britain.
Letters (correspondence) -- Great Britain -- 18th century.
Visiting cards -- Great Britain -- 19th century.

Additional Contributors
Collier, George, Sir, 1738-1795, correspondent
Tonyn, Charles William, d. 1805, recipient.
Sheerness dockyard (Great Britain), correspondent.

Box 1  mssHM 76748-76787

1773, Feb. 19. Collier, George, Sir, 1738-1795. Certification (1 p.) to the Navy Board of Charles William Paterson's diligent service under his command on board the Flora. HM 76748
1798, Apr. 2. Great Britain. Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen. Letter (1 p.) to Charles William Paterson. HM 76752
1798, Apr. 10. Great Britain. Board of Ordnance. Letter (1 p.) to Charles William Paterson. HM 76749


1798, July 5. Great Britain. Navy Board. Letter (1 p.) to Charles William Paterson. HM 76758


[c.a. 1800]. Note of naval signal flags (1 p.) HM 76781

[c.a.1801]. Note of the sailings and arrivals of His Majesty's Ship San Fiorenzo, Charles William Paterson commanding, between March and July 1801. HM 76782

[1802?]. Paterson, Charles William (1756-1841). Pocket notebook of names and addresses, recipes, aphorisms, a list of the officers of the Montagu in 1800, etc. (29 p.) HM 76778


1811, Oct. 1. Brief list of the wines of [Irwin?]. (1 p.) HM 76783

[c.a. 1822?]. “Ariosto”: [fragment of a poem beginning “Forget thee! Ask the midnight hour...”] (2 p.). HM 76784
1826. Note of the successive naval promotions of Charles William Paterson. (1 p.)
HM 76785.

[ca.1858]. A statement of the services of the late Admiral Charles William Paterson,
father of Lieutenant George Yeats Paterson, Lieutenant in Her Majesty’s Navy. (4 p.)
HM 76786

Undated. Ephemera, 4 pieces: Visiting cards of Vice Admiral Paterson and his wife, a
carte-de-visite (card photograph) of an unidentified man by Poate & Co.,
Portsmouth, and an empty envelope addressed to C. W. Paterson, Esq., Gosport,
postmarked May 24, 1899. HM 76787