A Guide to the Nine Months in the United States by Thomas Kennet-Were

HDC0336

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

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Title: Nine Months in the United States by Thomas Kennet-Were

Date: 1869

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Creator: Unknown

Physical Description: 1 item.

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San Francisco, CA 94123

Abstract: Nine Months in the United States by Thomas Kennet-Were (SAFR 17253, HDC 336) consists of a thirty-eight page reproduction of an article titled "Nine Months in the United States" written for The Gazette in England by Thomas Kennet-Were in 1869. The article is about Were's travels around the United States and Canada beginning in 1868. He touches on many topics with anecdotes about American life and peculiarities he encounters along his travels (some topics include: U.S. streets, traffic, elections, houses, horse racing, train travel, hotels, food, Niagara Falls, Harvard, Canadian ice sports, tobacco, West Point, The Shakers, gold mining in California, Chinese in San Francisco, California's large trees and wine growing). He also writes brief histories or descriptions of the cities he visited (a few of the many cities he writes about include: New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Chicago, Washington D.C., Richmond, the U.S. South, Salt Lake City, New Orleans and San Francisco. Some of his descriptions are brief while others "e.g. New York and San Francisco" are lengthier). He also writes several pages about the Mormons he met in Utah and his interview with Brigham Young. The collection is available for research use without restriction.

Physical Location: San Francisco Maritime NHP, Historic Documents Department

Language(s): In English.

Access

This collection is open for use unless otherwise noted.

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Please cite the title and collection number in any correspondence with our staff.

Preferred Citation

[Item description], [Location within collection organization identified by Collection Number/Series Number/File Unit Number/Item Number], HDC0336 (SAFR 17253), Nine Months in the United States by Thomas Kennet-Were, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park

Acquisition Information

SAFR-00001

This collection was transferred from Golden Gate National Recreation Area to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.

Historical or Biographical Note

Thomas Kennet-Were, an English gentleman and artist, traveled across the United States and part of Canada in 1868 and 1869. He documented his trip by writing an account of his travels, which he titled "Nine Months in the United States" and by
painting many scenes in watercolor.
Kennet-Were left England in October 1868 on a boat bound for New York, arriving twelve days later. During his journey he visited a number of Eastern cities, various Civil War sites, Florida, and then New Orleans where he caught a Mississippi steamer to St. Louis. He traveled across the West—on the still-to-be-completed Union Pacific Railroad through Nebraska and Wyoming to Utah and then on the Central Pacific to Nevada and California. From San Francisco, he traveled to Panama, crossing the isthmus by train, then returned to New York and back to England, all in nine months.
Not only did Kennet-Were describe in his writings his experiences in post-Civil War America, but he also wrote social commentary. He noted the use of language by Americans, and described certain customs, such as the duel he witnessed near New Orleans, and the suggestion he carry a gun.
Excerpt from the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming Library

**Collection Scope and Content**

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**Collection Arrangement**

This is a collection of a single item.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

History
Interpretation of cultural and natural resources
Voyages and travels
Articles