

Sailing Diary

Sailing Diary
1857-1872



Title Statement

Sailing DiarySailing Diary, 1857-1872 Ms.1988.109

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Revision Description

2020-08-26 Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags

2021-04-22 LM Rozema added subjects and missing notes for an unprocessed collection, added FA title and filing titles, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1988.109

Unit Date

1857-1872

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

Accounts of two sailing trips taken by an unknown man, one from New York City to Liverpool via Newfoundland in 1857 and the other down the east coast of the United States, into the Gulf of Mexico, bound for New Orleans in 1872.

Extent

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Sailing Diary was purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1988.

Processing Information

The processing and description of the Sailing Diary commenced and was completed in May, 2021.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Sailing Diary, Ms1988-109, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Scope and Content

The Sailing Diary contains accounts of two voyages made by an unidentified man in the nineteenth century. The description of the first trip begins with the writer's arrival in New York on July 15 [1857]. The writer departs New York on July 21, aboard the steamship *Webster*, bound for Liverpool via Newfoundland. He describes daily life aboard the ship, including shipboard operations, provides weather conditions and mentions any noteworthy events, especially encounters with sea life (porpoises, whales, and birds) and other ships. He often mentions his family at home and the tedium of being shipboard for an extended time, likening it to a prison, and often plays euchre with other passengers and the captain. The diary continues through the ship's landing at Liverpool on August 17, with the writer describing the city before departing for London shortly thereafter. The account ends with the writer anticipating his upcoming trip to Rotterdam.

The second account commences on February 10, 1872, with the writer aboard the steamship "Yasoo" (almost certainly the *Yazoo*), being assisted out of an unidentified port (possibly Philadelphia) by an iceboat and tugs. Through the course of the voyage, he recounts weather conditions, his seasickness, onboard accidents, and encounters with other vessels, as the ship continues down the east coast. The writer is given permission to go ashore in an unidentified city (possibly Havana, Cuba), which he describes. The account ends abruptly on February 19, with the writer anticipating his arrival in New Orleans.

Keywords

Diaries

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Description of Subordinate Components

Diary

Unit Date 1857, 1872

folder 1