

A Guide to the Mediterranean Pass for Rising Sun, 1819-1824

Mediterranean Pass for Rising Sun1819-1824
1819-1824

A Collection in theThomas Balch Library SC 0009
Thomas Balch Library
2006

Author: Rebecca K. Ottinger

History

Processed by: Rebecca K. Ottinger

Title Statement

A Guide to the Mediterranean Pass for Rising Sun, 1819-1824

Subtitle: Mediterranean Pass for Rising Sun

Collection: SC 0009

Author: Rebecca K. Ottinger

Publication Statement

Date: © 2006 By Thomas Balch Library. All rights reserved.

Publisher: Thomas Balch Library

[Conditions of Use](#)

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid derived from MS Word, created by Beth Schuster and Lisa Dezarn, 18 August 2007

Language Usage: Description is in English

Revision Description

2013-11-21 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection number

SC 0009

Language

English

Abstract

Part of a Mediterranean Pass issued to the ship *Rising Sun*

Creator

John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) and James Monroe (1758-1831)

Size

1 item

Repository

Thomas Balch Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open to research.

Use Restrictions

No physical characteristics affect use of this material.

Provenance

Loudoun County Historical Society, Loudoun County, VA

Processing Information

Processed by Rebecca K. Ottinger 14 Aug 2006. Formerly filed in NUCMC 66 with Loudoun County Historical Society's records.

Preferred Citation

Mediterranean Pass for *Rising Sun*, 1819-1924 (SC 0009), Thomas Balch Library, Leesburg, VA.

Accruals

2004.0001

Alternative Form Available

None

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Related Material

None

Bibliography

America and the Barbary Pirates: An International Battle Against an Unconventional Foe American Maritime Documents, 1776-1860, Mediterranean Passport/Sea Letter HMF 4, Mediterranean Passport, 1819, William Rotch (Ship)

Other Finding Aid

None

Historical Information

For many years prior to the time of this document, pirates based in Tunis, Tripoli, Algiers, and Morocco on the northern coast of Africa, known as the Barbary Coast, had preyed on ships in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern part of the Atlantic Ocean. European nations made payments to these countries to ensure the safety of their merchant vessels.

While the American Colonies were under British rule, they were protected by payments of the mother country and the power of the British navy. However, after the American Revolution officially ended in 1783, ships of the newly independent United States had to manage on their own. For years the Presidents and Congress debated the practice of paying tributes for safe passage for vessels, although they continued to make the payments. Twice the United States sent ships to the Mediterranean to fight the pirates, in 1801 and 1815. Following the second "war" the tribute payments ended.

In 1796 a new Federal law required the government to begin issuing Passports to ships owned by United States citizens to verify the nationality of the ship. The document, called a Mediterranean Pass, was based on the British passport. The top of the document was cut in a scalloped design and sent to the United States

consuls in the Barbary states as a method of verifying the authenticity of the pass. The top half of the form contained two engravings. Signatures of the President of the United States and the Secretary of State were in the lower right hand portion, and the seal of the United States in the lower left section. The pass was good for multiple voyages, but had to be surrendered if the ship was sold.

As the United States' power grew and shipping became safer, the Mediterranean Pass came to be regarded as less important by shipmasters. The \$10.00 fee for obtaining the document was discontinued in 1831. By 1860, the Mediterranean Pass was no longer in use.

Scope and Content

The document is part of a Mediterranean Pass issued to the ship *Rising Sun*; the left portion appears to have been cut off. It is signed by President James Monroe and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, and issued to *Rising Sun* on 9 June 1819. The writing on the back shows the pass was used as late as 1822. It was surrendered on 5 April 1824.

Contents List

Folder 1: Mediterranean Pass for Rising Sun , 1819-1824

Thomas Balch Library