

Series: Alumni Papers

INVENTORY/REGISTER

to the
Miscellaneous Papers of
Alexander Paul '01

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Deposited at the:
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Introduction

Alexander Paul (August 1883 - December 1956), a native of Philadelphia, attended the New York Nautical School aboard the ST. MARY'S and graduated in 1901. After graduation he worked on board various vessels of the Ward Line for several months. For about two years, 1902-1903, he joined his mother in a theatrical troupe and acted with her, and after this brief stint he joined the S.S. ST. LOUIS as quartermaster. Paul worked on several ships after this, these being primarily barges hauling coal, freight and other cargo to points around the world. He also took examinations for brakeman aboard the Seaboard Lines, and worked on trains for some two years. Additionally, he served in the capacity of Chief Mate, and took examinations to become Inspector of Marine Vessels, and in this capacity again travelled overseas. In December of 1952, after suffering a bad fall while on duty, Captain Paul was discharged from active service.

Description

The Alexander Paul Collection measures only one cubic foot, is stored in two document cases, and consists of Miscellaneous Documents and Miscellaneous Volumes. Specifically the following items are found, the last one described being stored in Box 2, while all the others are stored in Box 1.

- a) Photocopies of 18 documents titled "Certificates of Discharge" dated principally in the 1930s which record Paul's service on various ships; letters, dated in the 1920s and 1930s from various steam ship lines certifying to services performed by Paul on their ships; one letter of recommendation, dated 1902, attesting that Paul graduated from the Schoolship ST. MARY'S, and a four-page document written by Paul outlining his various jobs while in the employ of the United States Navy between 1903 and 1905, and sworn to before a notary on July 24, 1947.
- b) An eight page letter (envelope included) written by Paul to his mother, Mrs. Celia Clay, in New York City from the SS PLEIADES at Sea, dated May 26, 1906; a nine page letter (envelope included) written by Paul to his mother from the SS PLEIADES docked at Vladivostock, dated June 1, 1906; Christmas Card from his mother to Paul, und.
- c) small composition book (ca. 6"x8") containing a six page "Account of examination by British Authorities at Kirkwall Scotland" while serving as Master aboard the SS CORNING in world war I. The volume was also used as a Cash Book, no

doubt during the same approximate period, but aside from these several pages, the rest of the volume was unused.

d) Three manuals titled Pilot Rules For the rivers whose waters flow into the Gulf of Mexico... (1924); The significance of aids to marine navigation (1947); and Manual for lifeboatman and able seamen, outfitted members of engine department and tankmen (1950).

e) Volume labelled "Private Log of Alexander Paul beginning October 14, 1901". This is a rather full volume of about four hundred pages, the vast majority of which were utilized. It served as a kind of scrapbook in the sense that it contains besides diary entries, some newspaper clippings and small photographs as well. The log entries are written in ink and are very brief usually consisting of one sentence or statement. For example - "January 23 - Left New York for Boston towing barge SO Co. No. 81". "January 24 - Arrived with barge at Boston". Entries terminate in 1955. Original clippings, because of their deteriorated condition have now been photocopied.

ca. 8"x14"

f) Photographs depicting (with one exception) ships on which Paul served. More specifically these are photographs of the training ship ST. MARY'S (a color tint); the sailing ship HORNET which made the New York to San Francisco run in one hundred and five days (color tint and the FLYING CLOUD can also be seen in the distance); the SS COLDWATER; the Standard Oil Tanker PRINCETON; the HENRY S. GROVE; and the BENJAMIN BREWSTER off Autofagasta, Chile. In addition, there is a photograph depicting 22 crew members of the PRINCETON on deck.; two photographs of Captain Paul both as a young sailor and an older man; a photo identification card issued October 7, 1942 by the United States Coast guard Merchant Marine Inspection Office; and two photograph post cards depicting the harbor of Stugsund, Fran Mariehill, Sweden. Photographs are of varying sizes but essentially ca. 3"x6" to ca. 5"x9", and total 12 in quantity.

- g) Volume titled Narrative Of the expedition of an American squadron to the China Seas and Japan performed in the years 1852, 1853 And 1854 Under The Command Of Commodore M.C. Perry, United States Navy ..., by Francis L. Hawkins. Pub 1856 in Washington, D.C. by Order of the United States Congress. This book is volume 1 of a 3 volume set, and was among Paul's book collection. It is in poor condition.