

Los Angeles Maritime Museum Research Library
Manuscript Collections
Collection # 60 Papers of Perry G. Davis

Title: Papers of Perry G. Davis

Dates: 1886-1911 (bulk 1908-1911)

Collection #: 60

Creator: Perry Davis and Jim Cavin, great grandson of Perry Davis

Provenance: The material was in the possession of Jim Cavin when it was donated to the Museum.

Access: Prior arrangement with the Library or Museum Director for all materials.

Use restrictions: Copyright restrictions apply to this collection. Please inquire by written request of the Museum Director or Museum Archivist.

Format: photographic prints, postcards, documents, leather portfolio, published book.

Extent: 2 boxes (1 cu. Ft.)

Abstract: The Collection of Perry G. Davis contains postcards of the early 20th century in Japan and China; it also contains one book and a leather-bound portfolio used by Perry on his tour of duty on Navy ships. The postcards in his collection are unique in subject matter; their quality and preservation is good to excellent in most cases; some items are damaged (see below *).

Language of material: English and Japanese

Access: The collection is open for research. Please make an appointment with the Museum Archivist or Museum Director for access to the collection.

Publication rights: Copyright restrictions apply to this collection. Please inquire in writing. The material may not be used without permission.

Processing Information: Finding aid and inventory by Liz Ruth-Abramian, July 2012.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains unique visual material on Japan and China prior to World War I. It contains black and white and hand-colored postcards of the early 20th century in Japan and China; it also contains one book and a leather-bound portfolio used by Perry in his journeys on Navy ships. There are two professional portraits of Perry Davis: one was taken prior to joining the Navy and the other in Yokohama City, on a rickshaw. The photographs of Yokohama City depict the portside city located on Tokyo Bay, its houses and streets. When the ships of the Great White Fleet toured Japan, the crew and officers participated in sports events and were welcomed with bouquets. In China, the crew collected postcards which depicted buildings and monuments.

Biographical Note: Perry G. Davis, born 1886 in Missouri, became a sailor on ships of the Great White Fleet (see named ships in leather-bound portfolio) during its tour of the

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Orient. Dates given in his journal and seaman's papers are from 1908-1911. Otherwise the biography of this sailor/representative and goodwill ambassador of the early 20th century is not well known.

Arrangement and Description: the collection is arranged in two series: Series 1 contains postcards and photographic prints. Series 2 contains a book and a portfolio of documents.

Container / Folder Lists:
Series 1, Box # 1

Postcards of scenes in Asia:

Good condition, some excellent. Reverse side divided on all but one. Dates could be parallel with tour, or earlier.

Folder 1: 25 rural or urban scenes in China

Landscapes, buildings or monuments; Shanghai; Hong Kong
Black and white cards; 3 have varnish or plastic coating; color applied

Folder 2: 15 rural or urban scenes in Japan

Urban and garden scenes; geisha; temple gates
Color or tint added to black and white postcards

Folder 3: 1 U.S. scene depicting the winners of race of oarsmen in dory from USS
SOUTH DAKOTA

Photographic print as postcard, slight sepia tone; front inscribed with
words, "The Finish-south Dakota-California Race South Dakota
three lengths' Winner; Photoprint"

Folder 4: 1 New Zealand water and landscape scene

paint or tint applied to black and white printed card

Folder 5 & 6: 2 post card sets in mount (grey-green card stock); color applied

Great White Fleet Tour of Asia (1 set of 4; 1 set of 2)

Mounts---good condition, some scuffing; cards good to excellent.

34 photographic prints, various processes (matte surface; various processes)

Japan urban scenes; China sport events; ship's crew on parade;
(2) prints on board ship

* Many show silver deterioration to some degree; some edge damage (creases, moons, mounts have scuffs, chips broken)

Folder #1: Perry G. Davis and rickshaw man [in Yokohama city]

Mounted on card stock from photographic studio in Yokohama

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- Folder #2: busy thoroughfare in Japan, cityscape
Un-mounted print
- Folder #3: two scenes, probably China, grassy countryside with monuments
Prints mounted to heavy black paper
- Folder #4: open air scene (in park?) competition with swords, shields
Un-mounted print, bent, creased
- Folder #5: street scene with crowds around two men in competitive sport, lance
Un-mounted print
- Folder #6: Navy inspection on deck of ship; sailor's bedding
- Folder #7: man, woman at gateway to shrine or palace in rural area
- Folder #8: street scene: Japanese military orchestra dressed in whites.
- Folder #9: sailors on board at inspection; street scene with shop signs in English and Japanese; 2 prints mounted to heavy black paper
Marked no. 2 and no. 38
- Folder #10: harbor scene: white bldgs., steam-ferry, sailor's caps
- Folder #11: Great White Fleet in harbor and bay
2 prints mounted to heavy black paper
Marked no. 4 and no. 36
- Folder #12: rural scene in mountain area with waterfall; street scene, sailors, captain
2 prints mounted to heavy black paper
Marked no. 12 and no. 17
- Folder #13: street scene, sailors with bouquets; street scene w/mountain in background, Rickshaws
- Folder #14: sailors as tourists in waterfall area
Marked no. 14
- Folder #15: Presidential yacht underway; ceremony in park, sailors at backstage, speaker [is]? Roosevelt?
2 prints mounted to heavy black paper
Marked no. 21 and no. 29
- Folder #16: ceremony in park, sailors in foreground
- Folder #17: street scene, sailors carrying bouquets. Yokohama?
Marked no. 26
- Folder #18: Great White Fleet in Harbor, possibly Yokohama, Japan
Marked no. 28
- Folder #19: Yokohama rooftops
Marked no. 31
- Folder #20: street scene, parade in Japan
Marked no. 32
- Folder #21: street scene in Japan, sign for manufacturer, long staircase to structures on a hill in background
Marked no. 33
- Folder #22: city rooftops: tiled roofs, industrial buildings, Yokohama, Japan; city rooftops, tiled in residential section
2 prints mounted to heavy black paper
Marked no. 34 and no. 6

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Folder #23: tiled rooftops, harbor in distance; similar scene, mountains and harbor in background

1 print mounted to heavy black paper, 1 postcard on verso
Marked no. 35 and no number

Folder #24: street scene next to waterway or channel with moored boats, pedestrians, Carts; captain, sailor on ship's deck, flag flying

2 prints mounted to heavy black paper
Marked no. 1 and no. 39

Folder #25: partial harbor view from dock, harbor is in Far East?

Marked no. 40

Folder #26: street scene with Japanese military orchestra

Marked no. 92

Series 1 & 2, Box # 2:

Series 1: 1 carbon print of crew with pen annotation: "x", "P.G.D".

* Damage from insect or other to make holes; faded and silver deterioration evident

Series 2:

1 book: How to Speak Japanese Correctly / Seisoku Nihon Go-Gaku

* Condition: leather bound, dry, brittle, poor condition for cover; text fair

1 leatherbound portfolio with seaman's records stitched in; paper is waterproofed; date of records 1912... object is date stamped 1938 or 1935?, name is etched into leather, other annotations evident.