

Edmund Roberts Papers

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Washington, D.C.
2012

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm73037960>

Prepared by Nancy L. Hayden

Collection Summary

Title: Edmund Roberts Papers

Span Dates: 1803-1905

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1832-1836)

ID No.: MSS37960

Creator: Roberts, Edmund, 1784-1836

Extent: 1,000 items ; 5 containers ; 2 linear feet ; 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Summary: Merchant and diplomat. Official and family correspondence, journals, manuscript drafts of Roberts' s book *Embassy to the Eastern Courts of Cochin-China, Siam, and Muscat . . . During the Years 1832-34*, diplomatic documents, legal and financial papers, and miscellaneous material chiefly documenting his service as a special agent of the U.S. to negotiate treaties with Siam, Muscat, and Cochin China.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Dickerson, Mahlon, 1770-1853--Correspondence.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.

Livingston, Edward, 1764-1836--Correspondence.

Roberts family--Correspondence.

Roberts, Edmund, 1784-1836.

Roberts, Edmund, 1784-1836. Embassy to the eastern courts of Cochin-China, Siam, and Muscat; in the U.S. sloop-of-war

Peacock ... during the years 1832-3-4. 1837.

Vail, Eugene A.--Correspondence.

Woodbury, Levi, 1789-1851--Correspondence.

Organizations

Peacock (Sloop of war)

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Pacific Area.

Subjects

Arts--Asia.

Arts--South America.

Diplomatic and consular service, American.

Places

Asia--Description and travel.

Asia--Languages.

Asia--Religion.

Asia--Social life and customs.

Japan--Foreign relations--United States.

Muscat (Oman)--History.

Oman--Foreign relations--United States.

South America--Description and travel.

South America--Languages.

South America--Religion.

South America--Social life and customs.

Thailand--Foreign relations--United States.

United States--Foreign relations--1829-1847.

United States--Foreign relations--Japan.

United States--Foreign relations--Oman.
United States--Foreign relations--Thailand.
United States--Foreign relations--Vietnam.
Vietnam--Foreign relations--United States.

Occupations

Diplomats.
Merchants.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Edmund Roberts, merchant and diplomat, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1910 by the estate of Mrs. J. V. L. Pruyn and converted to a gift in 1914.

Processing History

The papers of Edmund Roberts were arranged and described in 1973. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edmund Roberts is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edmund Roberts are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on three reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Edmund Roberts Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1784, June 29	Born, Portsmouth, N. H.
1808	Married Katherine Langdon Whipple
1827	Sailed in ship <i>Mary Ann</i> to Zanzibar
1832	Appointed special agent of the United States to negotiate treaties with Siam, Muscat, and Cochin China Sailed on the U.S. sloop Peacock
1833	Concluded treaties of amity and commerce with Siam and Muscat

- 1836, June 12 Died, Macao, China
- 1837 Posthumous publication of *Embassy to the Eastern Courts of Cochin-China, Siam and Muscat . . . During the Years 1832-1834*. New York: Harper and Brothers

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edmund Roberts (1784-1837) span the years 1803 to 1905, with the bulk of the material between 1832 and 1836. The papers include journals, drafts of his book, *Embassy to the Eastern Courts of Cochin-China, Siam, and Muscat . . . During the Years 1832-34*, family and official correspondence, diplomatic documents, legal and financial papers, and miscellaneous items consisting of maps, drawings, and various types of printed matter. Collection material is in English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Robert's journal material and the drafts he used in writing his book describe the people, customs, languages, religions, and arts Roberts encountered in South America and Asia. Although the drafts are undated, an attempt has been made to arrange them in sequence.

Robert's correspondence with his wife and children, like his journals, is filled with commentary on his travels and personal experiences. Some official correspondence in later years reflects his difficulties in obtaining remuneration from Congress for expenses incurred during his voyages. Correspondents include Mahlon Dickerson, Edward Livingston, Eugene A. Vail, and Levi Woodbury. A file of diplomatic documents treats Roberts's service as a special agent of the United States to negotiate treaties with Siam, Muscat, and Cochin China.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material as reproduced on microfilm.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,069

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Journals
REEL 1	
BOX 1	1804, 1805
REEL 1	
BOX 1	1805
REEL 1	
BOX 1	1829-1830
REEL 1	
BOX 1	1832
REEL 1	
BOX 1	1832-1834
REEL 1	
BOX 1	Drafts of <i>Embassy to the Eastern Courts</i> , 1837
REEL 1	
BOX 1	"Passage from Rio de Janeiro" to "From Mozambique"
REEL 1	
BOX 1	"Bombay" to "Passage from Anjier"
REEL 1	
BOX 1	"Sailing from Boston" to "Sailing from Lintin"
REEL 1	
BOX 1	"Siam"
REEL 1	
BOX 2	"Passage from the Red Sea" to "Voyage from Muscat"
REEL 1	
BOX 2	Miscellany
REEL 1	
	(2 folders)
BOX 2	Family correspondence
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1803-1831
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1832
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1833
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1834
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1835-1836
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1842, undated
REEL 1	
BOX 2	Official correspondence
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1818-1831

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1832
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1833
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1834
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1835
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1836
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1837
REEL 1	
BOX 2	1869, 1904, undated
REEL 1	
BOX 3	Diplomatic documents
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Bound copy of treaties with Siam, Muscat and United States
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Presidential letters of introduction, 1832
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Papers stating objective of visit, 1833, Jan. 6
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Letter from envoy to King of Cochin China, 1833, Jan. 7
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Letter from envoy announcing his arrival, 1833, Jan. 7
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Letter from envoy to minister of commerce, 1833, Jan. 30
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Letter from envoy to superintendent general, 1833, Feb. 18
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Treaty of amity, 1833
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Mar. 5
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Mar. 10
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Mar. 15
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Mar. 20
BOX 3	Mar. (rejected copy)
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Papers relating to Muscat, 1833-1835, undated
REEL 2	
BOX 3	Miscellaneous papers
REEL 2	
BOX 3	In English, 1835-1836
REEL 2	
BOX 3	In Vietnamese, 1832, undated

Container List

Container

Contents

REEL 2	
BOX 4	Legal and financial papers relating to Roberts's voyages
BOX 4	1828-1832
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1833
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1834
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1835
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1836, undated
REEL 3	
BOX 4	Transcripts, 1804-1905
REEL 3	
BOX 4	Family correspondence
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1807-1830
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1832
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1833
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1834
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1835-1836
REEL 3	
BOX 4	Official correspondence
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1823-1828
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1832
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1833
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1834
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1835
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1836-1905
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Biographical material, undated
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Diplomatic documents, 1832-1833
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Extracts from, <i>Narrative of a Voyage Round the World During the Years 1835, 1836, and 1837</i> , by William Samuel Waithman Ruschenberger
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Journal extracts and related material, 1804-1833, undated
BOX 5	Miscellany
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Invitations, 1835-1836

Container List

Container

Contents

REEL 3	
BOX 5	Drawings
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Maps
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Christian catechism translated into Siamese
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Printed material, 1830-1837, undated
REEL 3	
BOX 5	<i>Canton Gazette</i> , 1832
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Fragments and unidentified material
REEL 3	
BOX 5	Unused notebook
REEL 3	